

PAUL J. MERLAND

Welcome to everyone!!!!

Joan Chittister in her most recent book, “The Gift of Years” writes: “What we are inclined to forget is that each of us leaves a legacy, whether we mean to, whether we want to or not. Our legacies are the quality of the lives we leave behind. What we have been will be stamped on the hearts of those who survive us for years to come.”

And so we attempt to begin to identify at least superficially and in an outline form the legacy of Paul Joseph Merland – a Marianist for more than 56 years.

He was born May 23, 1931, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late August F. and Catherine Merland. And we are fortunate to have with us this morning Paul’s sisters - all from the Cincinnati area.....Patricia Merland, Lois Jakobi and Jeanne and George Poedtke and numerous nieces and nephews.

Thank you all for coming.....thank you for the gift of Paul. And your support of him over the years.

Paul graduated from Purcell High School in 1950.....in his notes he mentions that the following Marianists influenced him at Purcell....Frs. Leonard Fee and George Barrett, Bros. Larry Eveslage, Robert Geary, Michael Moakler, John Harrington, John Wise, Elmer Moore and Frank Deibel and especially Frank Deibel who he describes as a “vital contact in my first entering Marianist formation.”

Certainly we have several excellent examples of legacies among those Marianists.

Paul professed first vows on September 5, 1952, at Marcy, N.Y., and perpetual vows on August 15, 1957, at the University of Dayton. He began his teaching career in 1955 at Chaminade High School here in Dayton.

He also taught at Hamilton Catholic high school as well as Cincinnati Moeller. His teaching subjects were business courses and driver’s education.....at both Hamilton and Moeller he was also business manager of the school and community.

From 1967 to 1971 he was the first business manager of the brand new Bergamo Conference Center here at Mt. St. John. He was the editor of the first accounting

manual for Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati which was published in 1969.

In 1971 he became the director of special services in the school of business administration at the University of Dayton. Later he founded its first internship program which eventually led to him founding the first cooperative education program at the University of Dayton.

After leaving the University of Dayton Paul had a sabbatical and special leave. Based on his notes for his jubilee statement his struggle and focus of growth seemed to have been an acceptance of the truth that quote “god loves me unconditionally.”

He also states in those same notes for the jubilee that “I have come to the realization that I am quote ‘not perfect,’ but forgiven.”

No doubt therein lies a valuable legacy for us all. After the leave he held various positions at Mitty High School, our Marianist high school in San Jose, Calif., before returning to Cincinnati.

Paul had a lifelong interest in rail transit and public transportation and from 1992 to 1998 he was employed in the finance and membership department of the Cincinnati Museum Center– the former historic union terminal. It is also interesting to note that in his jubilee statement he traces his love of rail transit and his “preference to use public conveyances” to his days as a youngster during the depression when he loved to ride the trolley or bus.

In 2007, illness and surgery brought him to Mercy Siena in Dayton, and we are very grateful for the yeoman work done by the Cincinnati Desales community in facilitating that move for Paul, especially Bob Jones. We are grateful for the professional and loving care of Paul by the Mercy Siena staff over the last year and a half.

We especially thank the Marianist community at Mercy Siena for their loving care – especially Judy Moehl, Kim and Carter Evans, as well as Bro. Ken Thompson who were prayerfully present with Paul when he passed away peacefully on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

May Paul and all the souls of the faithful departed trusting in the forgiveness and compassion of our loving God rest in peace.

