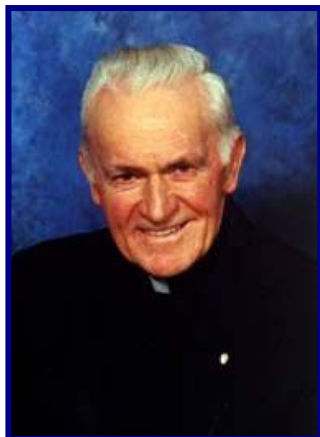


September 19, 2008

Death Notice No. 21 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOHN (JACK) RIELLY**, priest of the Cupertino Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 14, 2008 in Cupertino, California, in the 84th year of his age and the 66th year of his religious profession.

Fr. Jack was born in San Francisco, California, on December 12, 1924, one of seven children of Thomas and Mary Ellen (Neary) Rielly. In his large, Irish Catholic family, half of his siblings were called to religious life. His brothers, Tom and Frank, became diocesan priests, and his sister, Patricia, joined the Dominican order. Jack first met the Marianists as a fourth grade student at St. James Grade School in San Francisco. The Marianist Brothers had taken over for the Dominican Sisters at the school. Impressed with the Marianists' commitment and family spirit, as a sixth grader he knew he wanted to join in their mission.

Fr. Jack went on to St. James High School, and in his junior year entered the postulate of the Society of Mary at Beacon, New York. He professed first vows in 1943 at Beacon and perpetual vows in 1946 in Dayton. In 1945, Fr. Jack earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Dayton. He later earned a master's degree in Latin in 1965 from Catholic University of America. Following in the footsteps of his brothers, Jack discerned a call to the priesthood. He attended the Marianist seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, and was ordained in 1953.

During his 65-year career, Fr. Jack served the Marianists as a teacher, chaplain, novice director, recruiter, pastor, vocation director, campus minister and mentor and spiritual advisor to Lay Marianist Affiliates. He began his career in 1945 as a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Alameda, California, where he taught religion, English and Latin for three years.

Beginning in 1954, Fr. Jack served for seven years as a teacher and chaplain at high schools in the former Marianist Province of the Pacific. He ministered at Archbishop Riordan in San Francisco, St. Anthony in Maui, and Junipero Serra in Gardena, California. He served at Chaminade College (now Chaminade University) in Honolulu from 1964 to 1967.

In 1968, Fr. Jack was named novice director for the former Province of the Pacific. Two years later, he returned to his duties as a teacher and chaplain and served until 1974 at St. Anthony and Archbishop Riordan.

Fr. Jack was named vocation director in 1975 and described the ministry as one of his most rewarding jobs as a Marianist. "It is very soul satisfying to see others take up the challenge of religious life in our Marianist Family," he said. During this time he also served as pastor (1981-1982) of St. Anthony parish in Maui.

After a decade in vocation ministry, in 1985 Fr. Jack became a pioneer member of a Marianist community in East San Jose, California, that worked with the poor. He returned to Honolulu in 1988 and served for four years in campus ministry at Saint Louis School.

For the last 15 years of his career, Fr. Jack was a spiritual advisor to Lay Marianist Affiliates on the West Coast and Hawaiian islands. He presided at Masses for over 20 years at Queen of Apostles church in San Jose and served one year (1995-1996) as the church's parochial vicar. Lay Marianist Kathy Fanger said Fr. Jack frequently brought lay and religious Marianists together for celebrations. "He had a distinctive way of beginning each liturgy by inviting us to focus on one theme word which he would speak of later in his homily," she said. "He had a deep love of Our Blessed Mother and continually reminded us to look to her as a model of a perfect disciple."

Bro. Jack Ventura, national liaison for Marianist Affiliates, described Fr. Jack's ministry to Affiliates as a labor of love. "He was a true missionary bringing Jesus to them and continuing Mary's mission," said Bro. Jack. "Fr. Jack had great wisdom and insight about the Lay Marianist movement and loved the Lay branch of the Marianist Family in a special way." Earlier this month, Bro. Jack visited Fr. Jack in Cupertino to make a special presentation in honor of his many contributions to the Lay Marianist movement.

According to friend Bro. Joe Nu'uanu, Fr. Jack was known for his welcoming spirit and hospitality, especially to Lay Marianists visiting the community. "Food was important to Jack when it concerned the Marianist Family. He always prepared for meetings with food and refreshments for the members. He was very gracious."

Fr. Jack's community members in Cupertino remembered him as the "smiling talker who never stopped." Friend Bro. Bill Farrell described him as a loyal son of the Church who never failed when called upon to serve. "He was kind and constant, determined and sincere," said Bro. Bill. "His humor and twinkling eyes revealed a heart that was Marian in every fiber. He knew another world was possible and that we all have a role in building the reign of God. Like Mary, he was always in the background working to move things forward."

May he rest in peace.