

THOMAS ANTON SCHOEN, THE ONLY CHILD OF ANTON AND MARIE NICHOLS SCHOEN, WAS BORN ON JUNE 13, 1932, IN SIOUX CITY, IOWA. BEING THE ONLY CHILD, TOM IS NOT SURVIVED BY MANY CLOSE RELATIVES – ONLY A 92-YEAR-OLD COUSIN, CONSTANCE SCHOEN, LIVING NEAR CHICAGO – WHO WAS UNABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH.....

ALTHOUGH NO IMMEDIATE FAMILY ARE PRESENT – TOM IS CERTAINLY REPRESENTED WELL BY HIS TWO OTHER FAMILIES, I.E. HIS MARIANIST FAMILY, PARTICULARLY AT UD AND HIS ST. LUKE FAMILY. WE WANT TO ESPECIALLY RECOGNIZE HIS ST. LUKE FAMILY – WELCOME THEM AND THANK THEM FOR COMING.....NOTABLY, THE PASTOR OF ST. LUKE FR. TERRANCE SCHNEIDER AND DEACON GERRY DUPREE AS WELL AS FR. BILL KRAMER, PRESENTLY THE PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF VISITATION IN CINCINNATI AND THE PREVIOUS PASTOR OF ST LUKE – WHEN TOM FIRST BEGAN SAYING MASS ON THE WEEKEND FOR ST. LUKE FOR MORE THAN 17 YEARS.

KNOW THAT YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO TOM....SO MUCH SO THAT HE EXPLICITLY STATED IN HIS FILES THAT HE WANTED THE FUNERAL HERE AT QUEEN OF APOSTLES IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. LUKE TO ATTEND.....

ANOTHER WISH THAT TOM MADE EXPLICIT WAS:

I WISH THE UNDERTAKERS COULD MAKE MY COUNTENANCE HAVE AT LEAST A HINT OF A SMILE. GRANTED THAT DEATH IS A SERIOUS EVENT, BUT IT SHOULD BE A HAPPY SERIOUS EVENT.

NOT SURPRISINGLY TOM ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE HOMILY BE SHORT AND NON-EULOGY - BUT WE PROBABLY WON'T HONOR THAT REQUEST....

HE ALSO REQUESTED TWO HYMNS THAT ALWAYS MADE HIM CHOKE UP:

“HOW GREAT THOU ART”, WHICH WAS EVIDENTLY A FAVORITE HYMN OF HIS FATHER, WHO HAD A SUPERB TENOR VOICE AND WAS IN THE CHOIR OF THE CATHEDRAL PARISH OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA, FROM 1945 TO 1970...

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE” WAS THE SECOND REQUEST WITH THE REFRAIN “I WILL RAISE YOU UP ON THE LAST DAY” WHICH HE REMEMBERS AT BROTHER DICK LIEBLER’S FUNERAL IN 1983.

I BELIEVE THAT TOM IS THE LAST MARIANIST WHO ATTENDED TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL IN SIOUX CITY, IOWA. IN 1949 AFTER TWENTY YEARS, THE MARIANISTS WITHDREW FROM TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL - AND TOM WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED HIS JUNIOR YEAR DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE MARIANISTS, AND HE CAME HERE TO MT. ST. JOHN TO FINISH HIS LAST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL AT THE POSTULATE.....

HE MADE FIRST VOWS IN MARCY, N.Y., ON SEPT. 8, 1951 – I BELIEVE THE SECOND CLASS TO MAKE VOWS AT THE NEWLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. HE RETURNED HERE TO MOUNT SAINT JOHN FOR HIS SCHOLASTICATE AND ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS IN 1954. HE THEN TAUGHT MATH AND

PHYSICS AT CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL HERE IN DAYTON FOR THREE YEARS.

ON AUGUST 15, 1957, HE PROFESSED PERPETUAL VOWS AT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHAPEL ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON BEFORE THEN ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI FOR TWO YEARS – RECEIVING HIS MASTERS DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS IN 1959 –

AFTER WHICH HE BEGAN A TEACHING CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON THAT SPANNED NEARLY A HALF CENTURY - IN MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE – INCLUDING 17 YEARS AS THE CHAIR OF THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN DEVELOPING THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT UD....ONE OF THE 10 OLDEST IN THE COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH TOM WAS UNABLE TO PURSUE THE PATH TO ORDINATION AS A YOUNG MAN, HE REVISITED THE ISSUE OF ORDINATION AS PART OF HIS MIDLIFE TRANSITION IN HIS LATE 40s..... HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO SEEK ORDINATION AT THE AGE OF 52 IN 1984.....

I SUPPOSE FOR NONE OF US, LIFE IS EVER A STRAIGHT LINE – WE OFTEN HAVE OBSTACLES AND DETOURS. TOM DEALT WITH THIS DETOUR IN HIS

YOUNGER YEARS, AS WELL AS OTHER OBSTACLES AND DETOURS IN HIS LIFE, WITH AN OBVIOUS RESILIENCY AND FAITH AND TRUST IN THE SOCIETY OF MARY AND THE WILL OF HIS CREATOR FOR HIS LIFE.....

IN 1987 AT THE AGE OF 55 HE RECIEIVED HIS MASTER OF DIVINITY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO IN TORONTO, CANADA, AND WAS ORDAINED ON MAY 9, 1987, AT THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON BY THE BISHOP LAWRENCE D. SOENS OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA, – AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ONLY MARIANIST ORDAINED AT THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

(RECOLLECTION OF BRO. LOUIE PINCKERT)

IT WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS LATER THAT HE BEGAN HIS LOVE AFFAIR WITH ST. LUKE PARISH WHICH HE CONTINUED UNTIL HIS FINAL DAYS....

A FEW THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT FR. TOM..... HE WAS A SINGLE ENGINE PILOT FOR A FEW YEARS IN THE 1960s....

HE DEVoured MYSTERY NOVELS AND WAS A DEDICATED BRIDGE PLAYER – APPROPRIATE FOR A MATHEMATICIAN, I SUPPOSE....

ILLNESS BROUGHT HIM TO MERCY SIENA IN 2007, BUT IT DID NOT KEEP HIM FROM SAYING MASS DURING THE WEEK FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERCY SIENA AND ON THE WEEKEND FOR THE PARISHIONERS OF ST.

LUKE UNTIL HIS LAST DAYS....

IN 2009 FR. TOM WAS NAMED PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT UD AND
PRESENTED WITH A CITATION DESCRIBING THE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE
HE PLAYED IN BRINGING UD INTO THE COMPUTER AGE

IT TAKES NOT ONLY A VILLAGE TO HELP US GROW AS A CHILD BUT ALSO
WHEN WE ARE AGING AND DYING.....SO... WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO
VISITED TOM DURING HIS LAST DAYS AT GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
AND MERCY SIENA....

WE THANK ALEX TUSS AND THE SAWMILL COMMUNITY FOR THEIR
ONGOING SUPPORT OF TOM

WE THANK THE EXCELLENT AND CARING STAFF AT MERCY SIENA FOR
THEIR CARE OF TOM

WE THANK THE MARIANIST COMMUNITY AT MERCY SIENA FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF TOM ALSO, INCLUDING KIM EVANS AND JUDY MOEHL

MAY HE REST IN THE PEACE AND JOY OF THE RISEN CHRIST

