

February 14, 2008

Death Notice No. 3 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ART DOFING**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 10, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas, in the 75th year of his age and the 57th year of his religious profession.

Bro. Art was born in St. Louis on May 4, 1933, to George and Alma (Kamber) Dofing. He attended Our Lady of Sorrows grade school and McBride High School in St. Louis. At McBride, Bro. Art became interested in the work of the Marianist brothers who were his teachers. One of the brothers invited Art to join the order and, at age 17, he entered the postulate at Maryhurst in St. Louis. Bro. Art professed first vows in 1951 and final vows in 1955 in Galesville, Wisconsin.

Bro. Art attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio and in 1954 earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. His interest was in teaching. In 1954, he received his first teaching assignment at St. Joseph's High School in Victoria, Texas. Bro. Art returned to the St. Louis area in 1957 to teach at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois, and Belleville High School in Illinois. He taught religion, English and speech and moderated speech, yearbook, football, basketball, debate, sodality, newspaper and dramatics.

In 1960, Bro. Art began nearly a decade of service at St. Mary's High School in St. Louis, teaching drama and directing the school's theatrical productions. At the same time, he was studying at Saint Louis University and earned a master's degree in 1964 in speech and drama. By 1969, he was producing and directing six, three-act plays a year for St. Mary's. The plays were very popular with the students. "More students tried out for those productions than for football," said Bro. Jerry Bommer, a colleague at St. Mary's.

Later that year, Bro. Art's career shifted from teacher to director of the Marianist postulate at Maryhurst in St. Louis. The assignment was temporary, however, as the property was sold in 1969 and the postulate closed. He worked for the next year assisting with high school and adult retreats at the Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka, Missouri.

In 1971, Fr. David Fleming requested Bro. Art's help at the Marianist scholasticate at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He found his three years in San Antonio enriching. "Every month at the scholasticate was an event," said Bro. Art. According to Fr. Fleming, Bro. Art was always very concerned and considerate of others and was a champion for the underdog. "He would spend endless hours listening to people in a caring way. His sense of humor enabled him to see the lighter side of things," Fr. Fleming said.

Bro. Art returned to teaching in 1973 at Thomas More High School in Milwaukee. He also was the director of a small Marianist community there. In 1976, Fr. John Ross, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio, asked Bro. Art to assist him with family counseling and education.

Bro. Art developed a successful program called “The Family Cluster Model of Religious Education,” in which parish families provided religious training to other families. During this time, Bro. Art earned a master’s degree in family therapy from St. Mary’s University. In 1982, he partnered with Sr. Mary Ann Pechacek, M.A., in a marriage and family counseling practice, where he served until 1995. The center provided counseling to individuals, groups, families and parishes in San Antonio. Bro. Art enjoyed interacting with adult lay people, whether they were Marianist Family members, parishioners or clients.

“Many people will miss his empathy, the time he generously gave and his booming laugh,” said Fr. Fleming.

In 1996, Bro. Art was assigned to the Curé of Ars community on the campus of St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis, where he continued his counseling ministry at the school. He also was involved in mentoring lay Marianist groups at St. Mary’s High School. For the last few years, Bro. Art battled stomach and pancreatic cancer. In 2007, he was transferred to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio for further care.

May he rest in peace.