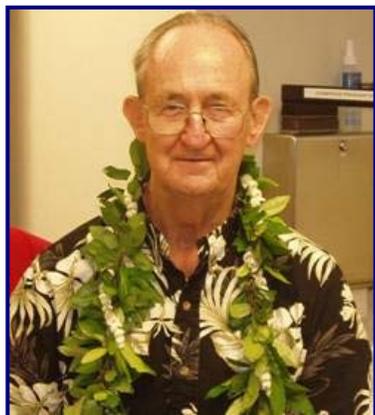


September 25, 2008

Death Notice No. 22 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ELMER DUNSKY**, of the Cupertino Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 20, 2008 in Cupertino, California, in the 91st year of his age and the 73rd year of his religious profession.

Bro. Elmer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 1917, to John and Anna (Schnoes) Dunsky. His father was a salesman and baseball manager, and his mother was a housewife who loved cooking and creating home remedies. Elmer, who was named after pitching great Elmer Knetzer of the Pittsburgh Pirates, was one of five children in a tightknit Catholic family.

He was taught by Marianist brothers at St. Michael's grade school in Pittsburgh. His fifth grade teacher, Bro. Francis McCulken, SM, was his hero and role model. At age 13, Elmer made his decision to enter the Society of Mary.

He attended the postulate at Mount St. John in Dayton and professed first vows in 1935 and perpetual vows in 1939 in Dayton. Bro. Elmer earned a bachelor's degree in education and mathematics with a minor in science in 1938 from the University of Dayton.

Like his role model Bro. Francis, Elmer wanted to teach and began his career as an elementary school teacher in 1937 at St. John's Home for Boys in Rockaway Park, New York. In 1938, he moved to Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, where he taught religion, math and science. His life changed dramatically in 1939 when he was assigned to teach and serve as principal at Colegio San José in Puerto Rico. "It was a big decision in my life," said Bro. Elmer. "I had to go to a foreign land and learn a new language. It was difficult, but I would never want to exchange those years."

In 1943, Bro. Elmer returned to the States and earned a master's degree in Spanish from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He resumed his teaching duties in 1944 and taught and was an administrator at several high schools for the next three decades. Schools he served included Hamilton Catholic in Ohio and, a number of schools in California: St. Monica in Santa Monica, St. Joseph in Alameda, Junipero Serra in Gardena, Archbishop Riordan in San Francisco and Chaminade College Preparatory in Canoga Park.

"Elmer demanded a lot, but in fairness, he worked just as hard or harder than us," said Bro. Stanley Murakami, who was a teacher at St. Joseph High School, when Bro. Elmer was principal. "He was very challenging, but at the same time encouraging and professional."

Bro. Elmer helped found St. Monica (1946) and Junipero Serra (1950) high schools. He was athletic director at both schools. While at Chaminade College Preparatory, he used his knowledge of Spanish to become active in the "Sister Cities Program," a cultural exchange program between Canoga Park and Taxco, Mexico.

In addition to athletics, Bro. Elmer was a moderator for several other high school activities, including band, sodality, choir, father's club and musicals. In 1972, he earned a doctorate in education from the University of California in Los Angeles. That same year, he made another major move in his life, this time to Hawai'i, where he was appointed chairman of the Education Department at Chaminade University of Honolulu. He was the first Marianist to hold this position.

Bro. Elmer's career at Chaminade University spanned 33 years, and he was recognized for many achievements at the school and in other areas of education in Hawai'i. He initiated the professional diploma program, which helped education students meet state requirements to earn a Professional Teacher's Certificate.

He also made significant contributions to Chaminade's Early Childhood Education Program and helped integrate Montessori education with the school's curriculum. Bro. Elmer played a vital role in launching the first successful early education program on the island of Maui, with courses offered through Chaminade.

A resolution presented to Bro. Elmer by Chaminade University in 2005 stated, "Bro. Elmer tirelessly endeavored to implement the Marianist vision of a values-centered education and succeeded in creating a better educational environment for Chaminade students."

In his ministry at Chaminade, Bro. Elmer interacted regularly with the State Department of Education in Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i, and many public and private schools in Hawai'i. During his tenure at Chaminade, Bro. Elmer spent a year at St. Joseph College in Yokohama, Japan, to research Japan's teacher education programs. In 1992, Chaminade named him professor emeritus. An endowed scholarship was established by Bro. Elmer at Chaminade University.

Bro. Elmer was a member of many professional organizations, including the National Society for the Study of Education, Marianist Writer's Guild, Association for Curriculum development, National Education Association and the World Education Fellowship, where he served as vice president from 1973 to 1975. He also organized curriculum committees for science and mathematics for the Diocese of Los Angeles from 1951 to 1956. As a member of the Marianist Provincial Administration, Bro. Elmer worked energetically to support the foundation of the Marianists in Korea.

Fr. Bill O'Connell, who lived with Bro. Elmer in Honolulu, remembers him as a person who never gave up and always stuck to his convictions. "The Education Department at Chaminade really developed under his leadership. Even in his retirement years he always found work to do. I used to say there wasn't a lazy bone in his body." Fr. Bill said Bro. Elmer had many friends, evidenced by his extremely long Christmas card list.

Bro. Elmer left Honolulu in 2005 and joined the Marianist community in Cupertino, California. In his spare time, he enjoyed watching baseball, collecting photographs, singing, reading, writing and his community of brothers. "The Society of Mary has meant everything to me, and I am grateful to all my brothers who have helped and supported me over the years," he said.

His other great love was his students, and he told them, "If you want to be successful, think positive and dare to do! Parents and teachers have a lot to do with it, talent is important, and so is prayer. Trust in God!"

Gregory Van Cantfort, a former student of Bro. Elmer's who now teaches, remembers some great advice Bro. Elmer once gave him: "If you don't go home tired at the end of the school day, you didn't do your job." May he rest in peace.