

March 1, 2007

Death Notice No. 7 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **FRANCIS MULLAN**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 21, 2007, in Dayton, Ohio, in the 79th year of his age and the 59th year of his religious profession.

Bro. Francis was born on March 11, 1928, in Brooklyn, New York, to William and Anna (McNichol) Mullan. He attended elementary school at St. Clement's in South Ozone Park, New York, where he was taught by Dominican sisters. Upon graduation, Bro. Francis was urged by his pastor to attend Cathedral High School in Brooklyn and prepare for entry into the seminary. Bro. Francis had other ideas. Guided by his passion for math and science, he chose to attend Brooklyn Technical High School. Thoughts of a religious vocation, however, never escaped him. After graduating from Brooklyn Technical and becoming acquainted with Bro. Kevin O'Reilly and Fr. Louis Wiesner of the Society of Mary, Bro. Francis entered the novitiate at Beacon, New York, in 1947. He professed first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1952.

Bro. Francis received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1951 and a master's degree in mathematics from St. John's University in Jamaica, New York, in 1960.

In 1951, he began a teaching career that spanned over 50 years. His first assignment was at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, where he taught religion, mathematics, Latin, English and economics for almost 10 years. For the next decade, Bro. Francis ministered in Africa. He taught religion, mathematics and language at Mangu High School in Kenya, Nkata Bay Secondary School in Malawi and Matero Boys Secondary School in Zambia. Provincial James Darby described Bro. Francis as "quiet but genuine and very generous. He has great respect for the students he teaches." During his time in Africa, Bro. Francis also was business manager for the schools and his community. In his spare time, he enjoyed landscaping and gardening.

Of his time in Africa, Bro. Francis once wrote of the many outages of water and electricity his community experienced. "It was a chance to live an aspect of poverty and measure our reaction to it. It was a training ground for patience," he said.

In 1970, Bro. Francis returned to Chaminade High School in Mineola to teach mathematics for a year and then returned to Matero Boys School in Zambia where he taught, served as business manager and coached basketball and tennis until 1977.

After a sabbatical year in 1978 at Sangre de Cristo in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Bro. Francis spent the next quarter century of his ministry teaching, tutoring, and supervising extracurricular activities at St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania, Matero Boys School and Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, Maryland.

Bro. Charles Johnson, who lived in community with Bro. Francis, remembers him as a very caring man with a great sense of humor, love of politics and fascination with computers. “He was a very simple and gentle man who was satisfied with what he had,” said Bro. Charles.

Bro. Francis had a mind for numbers. “He was an extremely fine math teacher and seemed to get through to the students with less ability in math,” said Fr. George Cerniglia, who was in Bro. Francis’ homeroom at Chaminade High School. He also loved word puzzles called “wordles” and created his own book of them.

In the late 1990s, Bro. Francis retired to The Franciscan at St. Leonard care center in Centerville, Ohio. In 2003, he moved to Mercy Siena healthcare center in Dayton where he spent his final years.

May he rest in peace.