

February 27, 2008

Death Notice No. 5 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **MAURICE (MAX) BEYER** who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 23, 2008 in Dayton, in the 94th year of his age and the 71st year of his religious profession.

Bro. Max was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on September 5, 1914, to Frank and Amelia (Herrlich) Beyer. He attended St. George Elementary School on Pittsburgh's south side and in 1933 was a member of the first class to graduate from the parish's new St. George High School. After graduation, Bro. Max worked for three years as a secretary for the owner of a maintenance company.

In 1936, he discerned a call to religious life and entered the novitiate of the Society of Mary at Mount St. John in Dayton. As a novice he was described by fellow brothers as "pleasant, accommodating and devoted" – a description used throughout his life.

Bro. Max professed first vows in 1937 at Mount St. John. In approving Bro. Max as a candidate for perpetual vows, one religious wrote: "They do not come any better. He is one of the finest young men I have ever met." Bro. Max professed perpetual vows in 1941 at the University of Dayton, one year after earning a bachelor's degree from UD in education. He earned a master's degree in business education in 1947 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Bro. Max's career spanned almost 60 years. He served in a number of roles: teacher, secretary, nursing aide and editor. He taught many subjects, including English, history, religion, typing and civics, at schools in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico. Marianist Provincial Stephen Glodek was grateful to have had Bro. Max as an English teacher at St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania. "I think I learned most of what I know about English grammar from Bro. Max," said Bro. Stephen. "Underneath the stern and relentless exercises in grammar was that elfin smile and hearty laugh." Bro. Stephen recalled the challenge Bro. Max faced in casting roles for plays at an all boys' school. "To Bro. Max I owe my dramatic debut as Calpurnia, wife of Julius Caesar, in the play by the same name."

Bro. Jim Abel, also a former student, remembers how Bro. Max welcomed him to the postulate and novitiate. "Max was always with us," said Bro. Jim. "He was a brother to us - not above us - and part of the gang."

For 35 years of his career, Bro. Max was a secretary. His assignments included serving under provincials in the former Cincinnati and New York Marianist provinces. He also served as a secretary at St. James High School, Colegio San José in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Marianist Press in Dayton.

The patience, care and concern Bro. Max displayed as a teacher served him well in the new role he undertook in 1976 as director of the Marianist Health Center in Baltimore. As a caregiver for aged and infirm brothers, Bro. Max furthered his skills by receiving accreditation as a nurse's aide from the Maryland Training Center in 1980. He also took courses at the Red Cross. In 1983, he published an article in *Nursing Assistant Magazine* titled "Don't Be 'Just' a Nurses Aide."

In 1981, when the health center in Baltimore closed, Bro. Max continued as a nurses aide at the UD Health Center. His career path changed again in 1984 when he was assigned to the Marianist Press as a secretary and editor of *Family*, the newsletter of the former Marianist Province of Cincinnati.

In 1995 Bro. Max's ministry focused on serving the Alumni Hall Marianist community in Dayton with his joyful presence and positive outlook. "He was a solid religious, a faithful Marianist who spent a lot of time in chapel," said Fr. John Putka, director of the Alumni Hall community. "Bro. Max was a perfect example of how to grow old with grace, humor and dignity."

Fellow community members Fr. Joe Tedesco and Fr. Bert Buby spoke at Bro. Max's 70th Jubilee celebration in 2007. Fr. Joe remembered Bro. Max as a faithful servant and gentle man who was popular on the UD campus and loved the Flyers. "As a former novice master it was my task to discern those who had a brother's heart. This man had a brother's heart," said Fr. Joe.

Fr. Bert remembers Bro. Max lighting up the community with his energy and singing. One time he caught Bro. Max eating a piece of candy during Lent and told him it might hurt his campaign for canonization. Bro. Max replied, "I'll take my chances."

May he rest in peace!