

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ADOLF WINDISCH**, priest of the Marianist Residence community (San Antonio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 26, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 83 with 62 years of religious profession.

Adolph (Ade) Michael Windisch was born on October 31, 1927, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Anthony and Mary (Gruendler) Windisch. Adolph had one brother. Less than a year after Adolph's birth, his father died of tuberculosis. The boys were welcomed into the German St. Vincent Home, operated by the Sisters of Christian Charity and the Passionist order. He attended two St. Louis Marianist high schools, McBride and Chaminade. Adolph was a resident student at the latter after earning a scholarship. While at Chaminade, Adolph was involved in Sodality, speech and drama, the school newspaper, football, soccer, boxing, and cheerleading.

After high school, Ade enlisted in the United States Army and served stateside during World War II. Ade then worked for the U.S. Treasury Department and attended night classes at Saint Louis University. During this time he reflected on his life and felt God's call to religious life. Ade entered the novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, and professed first vows on August 15, 1949.

Ade earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1952 and began his long career as a Catholic educator at McBride High School in his hometown of St. Louis. He professed perpetual vows on July 19, 1953, in Galesville, Wisconsin. In 1954, Ade was assigned to Provencher Collegiate in St. Boniface, Manitoba, Canada.

In 1956, he began seminary training at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Fr. Ade was ordained on July 17, 1960, and remained at the university until 1963 to earn his doctorate in social philosophy and the history of philosophy. His doctoral dissertation was titled, *The Marianist Social System According to the Writings of William Joseph Chaminade*. It's one of the classic texts used for Marianist studies.

Fr. Joe Uvietta studied at the seminary with Fr. Ade. He recalled that although they never lived in the same community after leaving Switzerland, Fr. Ade made sure they remained in touch.

"Fr. Ade was full of life," Fr. Joe said. "He was very interested in others. It was a constant in his life. Everyone knew him."

Between 1963 and 1982, Fr. Ade served at three different ministries in San Antonio: Central Catholic High School, the Scholasticate and St. Mary's University. At Central Catholic, he oversaw acquisitions for the school's campus and directed a capital campaign that was vital to Central Catholic's future.

Fr. Ade returned to St. Louis in 1982 and served as the vocation coordinator for the former St. Louis Province. In 1986, he became the first president of St. John Vianney High School.

"My nine years among the 'Golden Griffins' was a memorable and grace-filled experience," Fr. Ade said.

After leaving Vianney in 1995, Fr. Ade took a six-month sabbatical to Europe, visiting Austria, Hungary and Romania, the lands of his ancestors. The highlight of his trip was a hundred-mile pilgrimage by foot to visit a Marian shrine in Hungary.

Fr. Ade began a new ministry at the North American Center for Marianist Studies in Dayton, Ohio, in 1996. He loved his time at NACMS and served there until his retirement.

Carol Ramey, director of NACMS, remembers Fr. Ade as a pastoral man who was passionate about the roots of the Marianist Family. She said he advocated for a “comprehensive” Marianist Family and understood Chaminade’s trust and empowerment of the laity.

“He was always looking for new ways to document Chaminade’s genius, but also wanted to make sure everyone knew the roles of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous,” Carol said.

“What a joy it is now to be able to devote the major portion of my time and energies to delving into our heritage and finding new calls for sharing it,” Fr. Ade said while serving at NACMS.

Carol said Fr. Ade lived simply and would often give gifts he received to others. NACMS celebrated birthdays by hanging a banner near the birthday person’s office and letting him or her use a special coffee mug. At the end of the day, the celebrant would return the banner and mug to be used for the next birthday celebration. However, Fr. Ade did not realize this, and after his first birthday celebration at NACMS he took the banner and mug home and, of course, gave it away.

Fr. Ade retired to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio where he met Steve Daknis, who served as professor of military science at St. Mary’s University. Steve said Fr. Ade was a kind man who prayed with him after hearing of Steve’s mother’s cancer diagnosis. Steve also said he held up Fr. Ade as the model of a Marianist educator, despite the fact he did not know Fr. Ade as a teacher.

“His passion for students and his passion for the university community were apparent after spending only a few minutes with him,” Steve said.

Reflecting on his life in 1999, Fr. Ade recalled how as a young man he envisioned himself as a husband, father and corporate lawyer. Still, he said, he was not able to ignore God’s call.

“Life as a Marianist has been extremely grace-filled,” Fr. Ade said. “I thank God, Mary, my birth family and my Marianist Family and so many individuals along the way who have made it so fulfilling.”

May he rest in peace.