

BRO. ARTHUR CHERRIER

Celebrating 70 years of profession

I left home after eighth grade in 1938 for the Marianist postulate. I loved it, the life and the studies. The novitiate was different: the “old-time” way. It was especially so for me because I had been chosen to be organist, but I’m really not a musician. Everything worked out okay, though.

First vows in 1942. The scholasticate at Maryhurst and then at Dayton was study, study, study; in two years we had to complete four so we could enter the “work force.” I was in a new community each year for my first four years then settled down when I arrived at DeAndreis High School in St. Louis. I went to various summer schools to obtain additional credits. I have asked for only one change of community and that was at McBride. The principal I had worked with as registrar for six years was changed and I realized that the new principal would need a good school man to help him. I did not consider myself as such and so asked for the change. I was sent to teach math at Maryhurst.

Then the big turning point in my life--work in Africa with the French Province. My beginning year in Paris to learn French I loved but I was very homesick at first. Then the second big turning point in 1965--the Congolese government took our school and we were asked to leave. My American superiors allowed me to stay in the French Province and after a year of studying French again, I went to Ivory Coast, to the big city of Abidjan.

During my first 11 years, I taught English. In 1977, a treasurer was needed for the school and I volunteered. Twenty years of service as the “money-man.” I loved it. In 1997, I was supposed to leave Abidjan at the end of October but four days before, I had a very serious attack of malaria--the first and only one in all my years in Africa. Ten days in the clinic and my stay prolonged three months to be sure of no further attack. Return to the States and life at Maryland Avenue, where again I was able to be of service to the community. Health concerns brought me to the Marianist Residence. Someday, I’ll have my small plot in the cemetery outside our chapel. May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary!