

21 July 2012

Ohio go-zai-mas

That is the way Bro. Joe would greet me each morning. (That is supposed to be a Japanese greeting for “good morning.”) For those who do not know me I am Bro. Stan Zubek and I lived with Bro Joe three different times over the past 46 years. It all began in 1966 when we taught together for a year at CL, then he went off to Japan for his second tour overseas. 30 years later, in 1997 we were together again for 5 years in Cleveland, at the Marcella community; then this past year.

We come together this morning to pray for and remember our brother, Joseph Anthony Scheible who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin, after 63 years of religious life, on July 11, 2012 (six hours after his 82nd birthday).

Let me share with you some events in chronological order. In 1930 Bro. Joe was born to Frank and Josephine Scheible in Cleveland, Ohio. His parents and his brother Albert, preceded him in death. He is survived by 7 nephews and nieces and 16 great nieces and nephew and we are grateful to have some with us today.

In 1944 Bro. Joe first met the Marianists at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland and decided to join us. In 1946 he entered the postulate, here at Mount St. John. In 1947 entered the novitiate in Beacon, New York, and in 1948 professed first vows.

In 1951 he earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Dayton. He then spent five years on the East Coast where he taught English and Religion. He taught in Philadelphia (at St. John the Baptist grade school), in Brooklyn, New York (Trinity High School), and Pittsburgh (North Catholic High School).

In 1954 he made final vows.

In 1956 he volunteered to teach in Yokohama.

In the mid-1960s Bro. Joe returned to Cleveland to be near mother who was diagnosed with cancer. It was at Cathedral Latin that I first met Bro. Joe. We taught together at our alma mater, Cathedral Latin. After his mother passed away, Bro. Joe returned to Japan. He was asked to make a brief stopover in Australia and spend a few days visiting our school in Altona North. This was supposed to be a stopover. He stayed 2 years there teaching in St. Paul’s College before continuing on to Yokohama, Japan where he served for 30 more years.

In 1997, when the school in Japan closed, he returned to Cleveland and I was with him again for 5 years. I went off to Africa in 2002 for a 2 year stint and returned in 2011. Thus began my 3rd time to live with Bro. Joe. We were together until a month ago until illness forced him to Mercy Siena.

BRO. JOE THE TEACHER

Bro. Joe was a teacher all his life. He said that in Japan many of the students who attended the school became Catholic in spirit and some were even baptized. Bro. Joe had written "Serving as a missionary in Japan was my most rewarding experience in the Society of Mary."

Proof of his effectiveness as a teacher came this past week when we received several emails from former students in Yokohama. One of his students, John Lo class of 1960, wrote: "I remember Bro. Scheible when he first appeared on campus in 1956 and became our homeroom teacher in high school. He was very young then, 26, and made quite an impression on us as a gentle American."

Another wrote, "He was one of my favorite teachers. I was in the cub scouts, boy scouts, and senior scout. He taught me a lot about scouting. ChoBoon Oyama (66') Finally, Kunio D. KIKUCHI wrote, "Now that I think of it, thanks to his definition of mortal sin, I missed out on a lot fun in my high school and college years!"

When he returned to Cleveland in 1997 he tutored students in the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP). (The program aims to help high-potential but at-risk students graduate from high school.) Many in this program are at-risk students. Sr. Martha Mooney, former MUSP director said "He was so patient and kind with the students he tutored" ... "I can think of at least three students who would not have graduated without his help. They could always count on Bro. Joe."

Bro. David Murphy, former director of our community remembered him as "... sensitive to the different needs and backgrounds of each student and Scout." Perhaps when you see Fr. Tedesco, you can ask him for more stories about Bro. Joe since he had him for freshman religion at CL in '66.

BOY SCOUTS (IN JAPAN & CLEVELAND)

While in Japan, Bro. Joe was involved with the Boy Scouts and served as Cubmaster and then Scoutmaster of the school's International Boy Scout troop # 1. In 1997, when he returned to Cleveland, he not only served at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School as a tutor, he was an integral part of the scout program at St. Aloysius Parish. On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the IBS troop #1 in 2004, Bro. Joe wrote (I will read this from the red notebook I found on his desk.)

"Dear Scouts & Leaders...Best wishes and congratulations to IBS Troop One on your anniversary....I served many happy years as scoutmaster of IBS Troop One. Scouting is fun but you also learn many things – outdoor skills, den and patrol spirit, leadership skills, citizenship etc. I have seen scouts grow into responsible young men who think of others, are loyal to their families & country...Have a happy and blessed celebration."
Signed, Bro. Joseph Scheible

Bro. Joe was recognized by many people & groups for his contributions to the Boys Scout Movement. In 2010, Bro Joe was awarded the Boy Scout Silver Beaver award for distinguished service to youth. This is the highest award an adult can receive from a local Boy Scout Council. He also received the Whitney M. Young award for his work with Boy Scouts in disadvantaged areas.

Speaking of working with the disadvantaged, I lived in community in Cleveland with this man and I marveled at his dedication to the Boy Scout troop at St. Aloysius. He would go by bus to their meetings on Saturday morning, dressed from top to toe in his Boy Scouts Uniform. One year, he had a troop of only five boys. But that did not daunt him. He gave everything he had to make sure they had a good Scouting experience.

BRO. JOE AND COMMUNITY

He always was a joy to be within the community. He did many chores around the house in a quiet, unassuming way, like taking care of the plants, emptying the trash, paying community bills by check, making the morning coffee or coordinating the prayer leaders for each month. He enjoyed community fun nights where we did table games and he always encouraged them especially chess and rumicube.

He was an avid reader and cyclist and delighted in spending extra days before or after the annual retreat so we could take in a little of the special things in the locale. He loved

cooking & specialized in Japanese food. He got real excited about making Soba and curry and chili. One brother was quoted as saying "Bro. Joe made a mean chili."

BRO. JOE MAN OF PRAYER

Most importantly, Bro Joe was a man of deep prayer and faith with a solid devotion to Mary. Whenever we had homilies he brought something to share. On the occasion of his Golden Jubilee in 1998, Bro. Joe wrote "During all these years, I worked with many Marianists and made many friends, and tried to do what the Lord wanted of me."

Again let me quote from that little red notebook:

Dec. 15, 2004 9 a.m. review

Jesus loves us unconditionally...Jesus & Mary have something important for me... I am unique / my combination of characteristic, my faults & virtues all have a place in his plans...God has given me the gift of one-on-one relationships."

Whether he was in Asia, Australia or North America, through the Boy Scouts and in his calling as a Marianist educator, Bro. Joe cared for God's children, including many who had difficult starts in life.

We give thanks for Bro Joe's life as a Marianist, for his response to Mary's words to "Do whatever He tells you" to God's call in his life.

We thank those who cared for Bro Joe ... Members of the Marcella Road Community, especially Bro Will Halloway, the director, the caring and professional staff of Mercy Siena...and the Mercy Siena Support Community. We thank Judy Moehl, our medical coordinator and Kimberle Evans, her associate for their care our brother Joe. We also thank the Scheible family for the gift of your uncle, brother, son to the SM and for your support of him during his life.

I thank all of you for your presence with us today.

"Ohio go-zai-mas."

May he rest in peace.