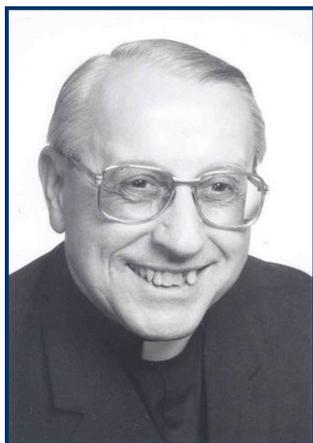


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December 19, 2012

**Death Notice No. 31 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Region of Austria-Germany, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **HARALD RAPPERSBERGER**, priest of the Wien/Vienna Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 4, 2012 in Wien/Vienna, Austria, at the age of 87 with 65 years of religious profession.

Harald was born December 20, 1924, in Freistadt (Upper Austria), the second of the six children of Julius and Aloisia Rappersberger. His father was a government employee, his mother a housewife. Harald was baptized January 1, 1925, in the parish church. He was confirmed on June 9, 1935, in Salzburg. Beginning in 1930, he was a pupil in our school in Freistadt. In 1937 he transferred to the public high school. At that time, Harald wanted already to become a Marianist and a priest. But he was too young for admission to the novitiate, and when he had reached the appropriate age there was no longer a novitiate, because of the Nazi regime. Harald finished high school October 14, 1942. A week later, he was already drafted into the German army. Fortunately he never had to fight since he was first a learner and then an instructor at an anti-aircraft unit. At Schongau, Bavaria, where he was stationed, Harald was made a prisoner of war by American troops on April 29, 1945. Later he and tens of thousands of others were handed over to the French, where their situation worsened considerably. When he finally was dismissed, he was allowed to return to his family in Freistadt; it was his 21th birthday.

After a short period of physical recovery, Harald was finally able to follow the wish of his heart – to become a Marianist. He was admitted as a candidate in January 1946. And when the novitiate at Greisinghof was reopened after the Nazi years, on October 11, 1946, Harald was one of four novices. The novice master was Fr. Joachim Schollmeyer. One of the novices – Alfred Krolik – died during the novitiate from the results of his captivity as a P.O.W.

On October 12, 1947, Harald took his first vows in the Society of Mary. For four years, he was a prefect at the Marianum Teachers' Training College in Vienna; at the same time he studied at the Theological Faculty of the University of Vienna. On July 22, 1951, he professed his perpetual vows, and was allowed by the provincial to join the seminary community in Fribourg. On April 12, 1953, he was ordained a priest at Fribourg und celebrated his first solemn mass at Freistadt on July 5. He returned to the Marianum in Vienna and was again a prefect of the students; at the same time he studied Latin and History at the University. In the summer of 1956, he became Master of Scholastics, and in May 1957 he was sent to Salzburg, to take care "temporarily" of the student boarding house, the Vinzentinum, in Salzburg.

This temporary directorship turned out to be Fr. Harald's lifelong apostolate. From 1957 to 1998, except for the years 1967-1970, he was in charge of the Vinzentinum, director of a small community and a group of 60 to 70 boys. From 1973 on he was also the treasurer of the house. Crucial importance was given to studying, to discipline, to order, even to austerity. Sports were also very important in the house, and the director himself was the best example for it. He kept close contact with his former boys by editing a periodical newsletter about the house. Many Marianists from abroad came to know Fr. Harald when staying overnight at the house.

The archdiocese of Salzburg as well as the regional government bestowed on Fr. Harald their decorations. When Fr. Harald was approaching his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the community of Salzburg and the boarding house were closed on July 1, 1999. Fr. Harald then became a member of the Vienna community. But his energy and his physical forces were failing, and in 2011 it became necessary to move him to a nursing home right next to the community where the brothers visited him almost every day. In the early morning hours of December 5, Fr. Harald rendered his soul to his Creator.

R.I.P.