

Fr. Norbert Burns **70 years of profession**

This year, I am celebrating 70 years as a Marianist, 62 in the classroom, 60 as a priest, and 50 as professor at the University of Dayton.

I am living at the Sawmill Road Marianist community. I hold the position of Professor Emeritus at UD, where I have served since 1958. My work has been my great expression of my love for Mary. Who I am and my convictions have been manifested through my apostolate.

I joined the Society of Mary with two predominant convictions. First, I wanted to dedicate my life to Mary. I had been given the gift of a deep love for Mary through my mother's attachment to her and through my living with the Marianist community at Cathedral Latin High School. To spend every moment of my life in her honor and for her glory was the course of life that made the most sense to me. Her presence to me was my way to Jesus. My lifetime of belonging to her has reached its climax in these final years as every day I visit Mount St. John and spend time at her shrine, the Lourdes Grotto talking to her, praying. A thank you over and over again is my gratitude for the wonderful life I have enjoyed.

Second, I joined the Society of Mary because I wanted to spend my life in the classroom, which I considered the incarnation of Chaminade's vision, charism, and the sodality. From the sodality community of Cathedral Latin, I wanted to spend my life living and fostering this vision. Through Mary's guidance I chose the motto *Quod Deus Vult, Maria Duce* that has led me to 62 years in the classroom, 50 of those at UD. I have specialized personally and academically in the art of human relationship. On the web under "Norbert Burns" some 10 pages can be found of my convictions and work through the classroom, counseling, talks, and videos. Over 22,000 UD students along with countless Dayton residents have shared Chaminade's charism with me. Humbly with Mary's guidance (Maria Duce) I shout my gratitude for these 70 years.