

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

April 29, 2013

Death Notice No. 10 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Region of Canada, recommend to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RICHARD JOYAL**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 25, 2013 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, at the age of 62 with 42 years of religious profession.

Richard was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, Canada, on February 5, 1951. He was the only child of Étienne Joyal, an engineer working for a railroad company, and of Marie-Antoinette Gauthier.

He did his eight years of primary grades at the École Provencher in St. Boniface, at that time directed by the Marianists, and then his high school at the Collège Louis Riel, also directed by the Marianists. It was there that he got to know them well and “was influenced by their way of living.”

Without going through the postulate, he entered the Novitiate of Marynook (Galesville, Wisconsin, USA) on July 10, 1969, and made his first vows on August 15, 1970. Having the desire to commit himself permanently in the Society of Mary, he wanted to make a private vow of stability before his perpetual profession. In June 1972 he wrote about it: “I have decided to make a private vow of stability for one year as a confirmation of my desire to give my life to God and as a witness to his love....” He renewed this private vow until his perpetual profession on September 12, 1975, in St. Boniface. On that occasion, a local newspaper published a short article in which Archbishop Maurice Baudoux made “a comparison between Mary’s ‘*Fiat*’ at the moment of the Annunciation and the ‘Yes’ pronounced by the religious on the day of his commitment and prolonged each day through acceptance of the will of the Lord in all its demands.”

In a local paper another article appeared, on the World Day of Vocations, a small insert entitled *The Credo of a Religious*. It was signed by Richard Joyal, SM. It includes ten lines beginning with “I believe....” The first: “I believe in God who created me, who made me a human being and who wishes that I live my humanity fully”; the last: “I believe in the community celebration of our daily life, which turns us towards the Lord.”

From August 30, 1970, to June 30, 1972, he pursued his studies in the Scholasticate of San Antonio, Texas (USA). Upon his return to Manitoba, he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in psychology at the University of Winnipeg (Manitoba) in 1973, a professional teaching certificate from the University of Manitoba in 1974 and a Master’s in Religious Studies at the University of St. Michael in Toronto in 1978.

He earned all these Canadian degrees while teaching. From 1974 to 1976 he taught at Holy Cross, Winnipeg; from 1978 to 1979 at St. Charles Academy, Winnipeg, and from 1979 to 1985 at St. Boniface Diocesan High School, Winnipeg.

Then, in 1985, there began for Richard a completely new life that made him into a great traveler. He spent the next seventeen years in India. At first, from 1985 to 1992, he acted as Director of Vocations in Delhi and Bangalore, as well as being Unit Coordinator for India from 1986 to 1992. During that same period, he worked also as executive director for REDS (Ragpickers Educational & Development Scheme): a work in the slums with street children.

From 1992 to 1999 he took on the role of Master of Novices in Ranchi; and from 1999 to 2002 he was appointed Regional Superior of India, Master of Scholastics and, again, director of REDS.

It was during that long stay in India that he made an acquaintance that marked him, that of Mother Theresa and her daughters. He was impressed by the humble and love-filled work of those women and spoke of them with real emotion.

During 2003-2004 he took a sabbatical year which he spent in Oakland, California, USA, at the School of Applied Theology. From 2004 to 2008, in Davao City, Philippines, he was the Executive Director of Balay Pasilungan. During the year of 2008-2009, he was sent to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to be with Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM, whose health was deteriorating.

Finally, he came to Quebec and, for four years at the Centre d'éducation de la foi de Saint-Henri, he spread his *joie de vivre*, his contagious enthusiasm, his spirit of cooperation and constant devotedness.

In December 2012, following the tragic events of the 29th August of that year, he went to spend some months in Haiti in order to take the necessary steps for closing the two houses that the Marianists owned in that country. It was possibly in order to pay the workers working in one of those houses that he went to the bank to withdraw a substantial sum of money. He was supposed to return to Canada at the beginning of May. On April 25, 2013, he was shot with three bullets in the back.

The Region of Canada has lost a good man, a *bon vivant*, an enthusiastic person who was always ready to offer his help and who said in his *Credo*: "I believe that we must give thanks for those who help us to see the light and to say: 'Yes, I want to walk towards the Lord.'" Now you have arrived, Richard.

Rest in peace.