

Fr. Lawrence Anthony Mann

80 years of profession

Born in Cleveland in August 1916, Fr. Larry grew up in a home with four siblings knowing a wealth of activity from the culture of the arts to the excitement of sports. Playing ice hockey and baseball were among his favorite outside activities while the Metropolitan Opera and the symphony were his indoor attractions. His older brother, Leonard, professed vows as a Marianist the same year, 1933, then went onto a career of teaching physics at the University of Dayton.

Fr. Larry has many years ministerial experience through his 80 years of Marianist life. He began a long career of teaching at Purcell High School in Cincinnati and concluded his active life at Chaminade Preparatory School in West Hills, Calif. First as a brother and then as a priest, his high school ministry included teaching English and Latin, religion and church history; he was a moderator speech and debate teams. Fr. Larry also served as chaplain to the students and his fellow Brothers.

Because of World War II, Fr. Larry did his seminary studies at St. Meinrad's in Indiana instead of the Marianist International Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained in 1945. He recalls the setting as especially spiritual.

Fr. Larry spent several years in Honolulu in a dual ministry as parish priest and college professor. From 1958 to 1985, he was assigned to Holy Family Parish near Pearl Harbor and was adjunct professor of theology at Chaminade University of Honolulu. This blend of preaching and teaching kept him reading and thinking, writing and praying.

At the age of 85, after many, many years in active ministry, Fr. Larry moved to the Marianist Health Care Community in Cupertino and continued his priestly ministry to his brothers in community. Reflecting on his many years, Fr. Larry shares, "Old age brings Calvary and Stabat Mater. Yet old age tells us to dismiss all anxiety from our minds. I am grateful for the years living as a Marianist with wonderful men in the community, living in our marvelous world, beautiful in its smallest and its most vast expanses. Aquinas died at 49, Socrates at 70, and here I am at 96! In faith and hope I offer my 'widow's mite' of service to our compassionate Lord, who 'writes straight with crooked lines'. Gracias. Come Lord Jesus!"