

## **BRO. ED LONGBOTTOM**

*Celebrating 50 years of profession*

I'm the fourth of eight children of Lawrence and Rosalia. Lawrence's mom was an Irish Catholic and his dad the son of protestant farmers from Kentucky who moved to Cincinnati for work. Rosalia's mother and father both descended from German families. Both parents were children of what today we call the "working poor." Family habits and values were frugality, to appreciate the simple, go to church, chip in, share family meals and celebrations. We shared everything. With 15 aunts and uncles who grew up as neighbors, "together" was the norm. My generation was the first to be able to go to both high school and college. I thank my parents and all my family for all their love and countless sacrifices.

My formal and spiritual education began in public school in the farm town of Owensville, Ohio, and in St. Louis parish where I had my first communion. Later in Cincinnati I experienced the parish school environment at St. John Vianney parish, the good Sisters of Charity and the Catholic culture of the parish. Serving the 6 a.m. Mass, choir, feast days, and knowing a good parish priest, Fr. Hoben, were all part of my formation. At Purcell High School I met the "Brothers of Mary." Their dedication, friendliness and discipline inspired me. Retreats, confession available after school, meeting and speaking with the visiting Marianist Superior General Fr. Hoffer (from France!), and many more such events in this Catholic culture made "vocational thoughts" easy to come by. In my senior year I joined a few other students who were discerning a Marianist vocation. In little time I made my decision that I would apply to the Marianist novitiate and this was the greatest decision of my life and one never regretted. I was so very blessed that the Marianists accepted me.