

BRO. JOHN HABJAN

50 years of profession

I am from Cleveland, Ohio, where I grew up in the Slovenian enclave located in the area of E. 64th and St. Clair Ave. I attended St. Vitus Elementary School, singing in the Slovenian grade school choir. *Sveta Marija je nas vodnik*. After graduation from St. Vitus, I attended Cathedral Latin School.

It was at Cathedral Latin School that I first met members of the Society of Mary. The Marianists enjoyed their life. They witnessed a life of prayer, living a community life of sharing and laughter, a commitment to the ministry of education, and they tended to play practical jokes on each other.

I entered the novitiate in Marcy, N.Y., on July 8, 1963. On Aug. 15, 1964, I professed my first vows in the Society of Mary. I professed perpetual vows on Aug. 25, 1968. At the time of first profession, we were asked to choose a line from scripture that would remind of us our commitment. I chose a line from psalm 100, "Serve the Lord with gladness."

This line from psalm 100 has been a guide for me. I know at times, I have forgotten the quote and its meaning. It is during these last years that "Serve the Lord with gladness" has taken a new meaning in my life.

My Marianist ministry has been primarily in secondary education at Moeller High School, where I moderated the band and karate club, and Chaminade-Julienne High School. I served the school community as teacher and administrator. In the late 1990s I served on a national committee to help school personnel understand and implement the Characteristics of Marianist Education. It was working with this group of dedicated and creative individuals that I grew in my understanding and appreciation of Marianist education. I have come to understand the contribution that Marianist education can make in the lives of students and faculty, to the Church, and to society at large.

I served six years as assistant director of education for the Marianist Province of the United States. This was another growth filled experience for me. It was a unique opportunity to collaborate with Marianist educators in developing new and creative ways to deepen and enliven the Marianist Characteristics of Education. We are blessed with committed educators to our charism in our educational communities.

I am currently in ministry in the Marianist Archives presently located at the Roesch Library at the University of Dayton. It is a rewarding ministry to help others learn about

our Marianist history and contributions to the Church. For three years, I have taught VCLFF on line Marianist courses through NACMS.

My life continues to evolve and deepen. I am especially grateful to my brothers and my friends who have always been supportive of me. Their patience has never wavered. I can never adequately express my gratitude. I ask for your prayers and support as I continue to "Serve the Lord with gladness."