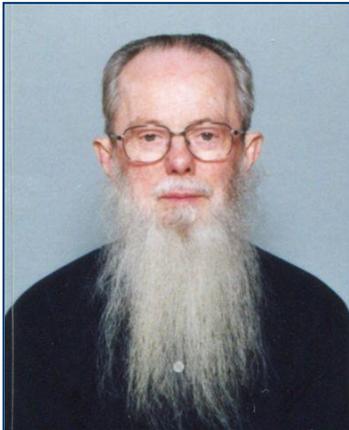


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November 27, 2014

Death Notice No. 31 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Region of Japan recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JIMMI JAMES MASUURA**, of the Chaminade Community of Tokyo, Japan, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 14, 2014 in Tokyo, Japan, at the age of 89 with 70 years of religious profession.

Born October 4, 1925, in the West End district of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the fourth of eight children in the family of Frank T. Masur and May L. (McKenna) Masur, Jim was baptized a week later at St. James Parish Church, as James Neely Masur. Jim had attended St. James Parish School for just one year when the family moved to the Brookline district where, with his brothers and sisters, he then attended

Resurrection Parish School.

Jim entered North Catholic High School in the fall of 1940. As a diocesan school staffed by Marianists, North Catholic had opened just one year before. There he was invited to join the Society of Mary by his freshman homeroom teacher, a Marianist Brother. In August, 1941, he entered the Postulate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, where he completed his high school education in a study program speeded up because of the beginning of the Second World War. Entering the Novitiate at Beacon, New York, in August 1943, Jim made his first profession of vows on August 20, 1944. Through two years of Scholasticate — 1944-45 at Maryhurst in St. Louis, 1945-46 at the University of Dayton — followed by six months "practice teaching" at Saint James Parish Elementary School in Baltimore, he graduated from the University of Dayton on August 3, 1947. Already before his graduation, Bro. Jim had been transferred from Baltimore to St. John's Home, then located in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he served as assistant prefect and teacher until December 1947. From January 1948 until June 1953, he taught at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, while attending evening and summer classes at the graduate school of Western Reserve University where he earned the degree of Master of Arts on June 10, 1953.

A big turning point in Bro. Jim's life came in the form of a postcard from the Provincial received while working with the crew of Marianist Working Brothers pouring concrete for the foundations of the chapel at Marcy, New York. The postcard told him that he had permission for a week's visit with his family in Pittsburgh before proceeding to Dayton to apply for a passport and visa in preparation for going to Japan. After a train trip across the United States and a wait in San Francisco for the necessary documents, he boarded the steamship President Cleveland for the voyage across the Pacific Ocean to Japan, arriving at Yokohama on October 6, 1953, two days after his 28th birthday.

At St. Joseph College in Yokohama, he taught in the high school, served as Prefect of the boarding department, and as Scoutmaster for the International Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the school. Experience with the Scout Movement as a valuable means of informal education made such a lasting impression on Bro. Jim that from then on he considered his service to youth through Scouting as his "vocation within his Vocation as a Marianist religious." This first assignment in

Japan, at St. Joseph College, lasted until December 1962, when he returned to the United States and again taught at Cathedral Latin School, and served as Scoutmaster with two Troops of Boy Scouts in Cleveland. In 1966, he agreed to accept re-assignment to Japan, but requested an opportunity to study the Japanese language since he had had no opportunity to do so during his almost-ten-year stay in Yokohama. His request was granted, and he was assigned to Gyosei School in Tokyo where he taught English, while taking evening classes in Japanese three times a week. The language lessons were interrupted, however, when he was asked to return to St. Joseph College for the 1968-69 and 1969-70 school years.

From April 1971 till March 1976, he was again assigned to Tokyo, living at Chaminade Shudoin, Marianist Provincial Headquarters, while teaching at Gyosei School next door, and again studying Japanese three evenings a week. It was during this time that he asked to be officially transferred from the Cincinnati Province to the Province of Japan, and then applied for Japanese citizenship, which was granted on May 8, 1974, officially changing his name to Jimmi Masuura.

In April 1976 was assigned to teach English at Kosei School in Sapporo Hokkaido, and appointed Director of the Marianist Community there serving several terms as Director. In April 1988 he was asked to serve as Assistant Provincial for the Province of Japan and filled this post until March 1993 commuting from Sapporo for Council meetings. From April 1993 till near the end of the following year, he was again in Yokohama as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph International School.

He returned once more to Sapporo, as a part-time teacher of English at Kosei School, while serving as Religious Awards Instructor for Sapporo 26 Scout Group. In the summer of 2006, he served on the headquarters staff of the 14th National Scout Jamboree. After the Jamboree, he went to the Trappist Monastery in Hakodate for Retreat, but fell ill while there and had to return to Sapporo where he was hospitalized for a month recovering from pneumonia. A few days before Christmas 2006, Bro. Jim ended his more than thirty years in Sapporo and moved to Chaminade in Tokyo for recuperation.

While living in "retirement" at Chaminade Shudoin in Tokyo. Bro. Jim remained active in the Scout Movement, commuting to near-by Yokohama on weekends to serve as Cubmaster for the International Boy Scout Troop, and going to Sapporo for a week or so each spring to direct Retreats, adapted to the ages of the youngsters, for the three sections of Sapporo 26 Scout Group. Early on, he was also asked to hold similar Retreats each year for the Sunday School youngsters at the Cathedral Church in Sapporo.

Hearing difficulties proved a cross for him in his final years. He spent many, many hours at meetings, both religious community meetings and Scout meetings, where he couldn't always hear clearly what was being discussed or able to participate as fully as he would have liked.

According to his community Director at Chaminade, Bro. Jim "made prayer the foundation of his life, followed the *Rule of Life* faithfully, and carried out his assigned tasks with precision." He was always the first one in chapel in the morning and the last one to be seen in the chapel each night. He prayed "Daytime Prayer" in chapel by himself daily and never failed to make a post-lunch visit to the Blessed Sacrament. He was marked by a spirit of service and, until a few months before he died when the pain of cancer made it impossible, he did the dishes along with the younger members of the community and distributed daily the community newspapers. He was also a wonderful model of obedience to Superiors and respect for them.

May he rest in peace.