



## **BRO. RICHARD THOMPSON**

*50 years of profession*

In my 50 years of Marianist religious life, I have had the opportunity to experience many facets of our Marianist educational ministry. I have had 10 different “assignments,” and each has presented challenges to my personal and religious growth, and brought great joys. I have served as principal, president, dean of discipline and academics, a classroom teacher, guidance counselor and coach in our schools. As a director of resident students at Chaminade College Prep, I regarded myself as a surrogate parent for the young men in the dorm. I have served as a youth retreat team member at the Marianist Retreat & Conference Center (MRCC) and helped staff family retreats at Cape May, Top Sail, Maine and Tecaboca. I am presently experiencing the challenges and satisfactions of parish ministry at Holy Rosary and serving as director of the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP) in San Antonio.

Each of these ministries has proven to be challenging, enjoyable and life-giving. I have seen each of these “assignments” as blessings and opportunities to develop lasting friendships with students, parents and my coworkers. My Marianist life has provided me with the opportunity to positively influence, in some small way, the lives of many and, in turn, I have been enriched in so many ways by their presence in my life. At times, I have seen myself as a jack-of-all-trades, but master of none. As I look back on my 50 years of religious life, however, I am convinced that variety has been the spice of (my) life. My life as a person and as a religious has been immeasurably enriched by those with whom and for whom I have ministered. I have indeed been greatly blessed, I am eternally grateful for the presence of so many wonderful people in my life.