

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

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Death Notice No. 29 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Marianist Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT JOHNS**, of the Siena Woods Community (Dayton, Ohio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 2, 2015, in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 84 with 66 years of religious profession.

Brother Bob ministered as a “working brother,” serving the Society of Mary and the Church in maintenance roles. He spent nearly 20 years with a nonprofit organization providing home repair services to low-income residents of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Robert Joseph Johns was born December 11, 1930, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was one of four sons and two daughters in the family of Leo and Alice (Lynch) Johns. He attended Corpus Christi

School in his hometown, and joined the postulate at Beacon, New York, at age 14. Brother Bob entered the novitiate in 1948, and professed first vows on August 23, 1949, in Beacon.

For his first assignment, Brother Bob shouldered construction and farm work at the Marianist Scholasticate at Mount Saint John in Dayton from the fall of 1949 through most of 1952. He then returned to New York, where he did general maintenance and construction at Beacon and at the novitiate, Chaminade Preparatory, in Marcy until mid-1959. He was a farm worker at Mount Saint John the following year.

Brother Bob made a second novitiate at Marycliff in Glencoe, Missouri, from 1960 – 1961. For the next three years, he served in Dayton at Chaminade High School (now Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School) and at the University of Dayton.

In January 1964, Brother Bob returned to Pittsburgh and began working at North Catholic High School (now Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic). He was a maintenance worker there for 15 years.

Brother Bob spent a year (1979 – 1980) on sabbatical in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Following this, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and began work at a nonprofit organization established by Lay Marianists. The organization, called People Working Cooperatively, provides home repair and maintenance services to low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. Brother Bob remained with the organization through 1998.

“Bob was serious about prayer and about fun. He had a pun for just about every occasion,” said Father Charles Stander. “He was always interested in meeting and talking to new people.”

Beginning in 1999, Brother Bob worked in maintenance and plumbing at the University of Dayton. He moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 2006 and was part of the Waldron Community at Chaminade College Preparatory. In 2008, at age 77, he moved to Siena Woods, an assisted living facility in Dayton.

“In his prime, Brother Bob Johns was an excellent and gifted working brother. He was good with his hands, generous and hard working,” said Father Tom Schroer, who lived in community with Brother Bob. “In his later years Brother Bob suffered with significant health issues, but never complained and always lived with a joyful spirit as well as a simple and genuine faith. He was a grateful man and was committed to the Marianist Family.”

May he rest in peace.