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Death Notice No. 36 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Marianist Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSEPH MARY MARSHALL**, priest, of the Marianist Residence (San Antonio, Texas), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 28, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 61 with 30 years of religious profession.

Father Joseph Mary served in parish ministry and was beloved by parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Community in Eldersburg, Maryland, and St. Mary Magdalen Parish in San Antonio, Texas.

Joseph Mary Marshall was born on December 22, 1954, in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of nine children in the family of Peter and Josephine (Taffare) Marshall. Father Joseph Mary attended Xavier High School in Middletown, Connecticut. He went to Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, graduating in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in English.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Father Joseph Mary worked at various jobs in the business world while participating in prayer groups and volunteering with parish ministries. He first encountered the Marianists in an unusual way in early 1983. He sat next to Father Ted Cassidy on an airplane, and as a result of his conversation with Father Ted, he attended a Marianist vocations retreat. He became an aspirant in the fall of 1983 and entered the novitiate in Dayton, Ohio, a year later. He professed first vows on August 10, 1985, in Marriottsville, Maryland.

“Joe was the second oldest of the eight novices and displayed clearer focus and assurance than the rest of us,” said Fr. Neville O’Donohue. “Joe’s spirituality was both charismatic and traditional. He was deeply Catholic and participated in a number of devotions,” Father Neville said, adding that Father Joseph Mary was a man with “a direct manner and clear ideas.”

Father Joseph Mary served as a pastoral associate at St. Jerome Parish in Baltimore, Maryland, until 1986, when he assumed a similar role at St. Joseph Catholic Community in Eldersburg, Maryland. He remained at St. Joseph until 1989, and during this time he earned a second bachelor’s degree – this one in pastoral counseling from Loyola College in Baltimore.

He professed perpetual vows on October 8, 1989, in Eldersburg. He entered the seminary at the University of St. Michael’s College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, that same autumn. Father Joseph Mary was ordained on May 29, 1993, in Eldersburg.

From 1993 – 1997, Father Joseph Mary ministered in Cambridge and Allston, Massachusetts, including time as a campus minister at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts. Fr. Dave McGuigan lived with Fr. Joseph Mary during this time. “Joe could be great fun!” said Fr. Dave. “He had a good sense of humor, and a down-to-earth way of enjoying many things from a walk, to a movie, a play, a concert, or lecture. In community Joe was transparent about God’s presence in his

life and I know he had a deep experience of himself as a son of Mary in union with Christ,” said Fr. Dave.

In late 1997, Fr. Joseph Mary traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, and spent six months serving at the Marianist formation house.

Returning to the United States in 1998, Father Joseph Mary resumed ministry at St. Joseph in Eldersburg, where he was associate pastor.

By the turn of the new century, Father Joseph Mary was searching for a different approach to community and Marian spirituality. In 2002, he moved to San Antonio to be part of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, which was a Marianist-inspired and Marianist-initiated charismatic community. Although he considered himself a member of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, he remained a Marianist and a member of the Province of the United States.

He served as parochial vicar at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in San Antonio beginning in 2002 and was appointed pastor in 2006.

Father Joseph Mary was diagnosed with bone cancer in late 2011. Throughout his treatment, he continued serving at St. Mary Magdalen, buoyed by the concern and prayers of the parishioners who loved him.

Father Dave McGuigan spent time with Fr. Joseph Mary toward the end of his life. “Joe shared his experience of living with cancer, his hope for healing and how he found deeper faith and union with Christ in his suffering. He desired to continue to serve God’s people as long as he could,” said Father Dave. “The physical toll of his illness was obvious. Joe had been my height if not slightly taller, but now he was shorter than I and wearing a brace to support his spine. Joe’s connection to God in all of this was obvious, too.”

“My greatest memory of Joe will always be his laugh,” said Brother Jesse O’Neill, who was an aspirant and novice with Father Joe. “He had a Magnificat-joyful laugh. Joe loved life and brought the best out in all who knew him. He will be missed by many. I picture him laughing joyfully with our God in heaven now that his suffering has ended.”

May he rest in peace.