



BRO. JOSEPH KAMIS

50 years of profession

The celebration of this golden jubilee causes me to pause and reflect back in thankfulness on the many blessings I have received in the past 50 years. I am most grateful for our loving God and his mother Mary for weaving themselves in and out of my life in good times as well as not-so-good times. Yet, God's merciful loving kindness is always present.

I was so very blessed to have loving parents, Henry and Irene Kamis, who brought me up in the Catholic environment of our home and parish in Cleveland, Ohio. Throughout my life, my siblings, Tom, Pete, Mary and Helen, along with their spouses, Peggy, Billie and Frank, provided the support and encouragement in God's call for me to my religious vocation.

Cathedral Latin School was the first place I met the Marianists, and the brothers there had a profound impact on bringing out the talent and skills I never knew I had. I spent 14 years at the school, four as a student and the rest serving in the ministry of education and administration. Being principal when the school closed was a very difficult time, but our good Lord had other plans.

Ireland opened up a whole new world for me and extended my realm of knowledge beyond the insular perceptions of growing up in a Midwestern city. The greatest learning there was that people are most important — they come first, and then the institution. Memories of living religious life in Dublin will remain with me always.

Following a sabbatical at Sangre de Cristo in New Mexico, where God taught me the wonders of nature and meeting religious from many congregations, I returned to ministry of administration at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, and Moeller High School in Cincinnati. Being around young students and dedicated faculty, I saw how the Characteristics of Marianist Education could further our mission as a religious congregation. The collaborative efforts from the Province, the teachers and the brothers was the hallmark of Catholic Marianist education; community and ministry came together in sharing our Marianist charism.

My service for seven years as superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati helped me to see the bigger picture of Catholic education in an archdiocese and beyond. This ministry brought me in touch with the National Catholic Education Association which strengthened my love for Catholic education.

I've spent seventeen of the past 25 years as assistant provincial and provincial of the Cincinnati Province, and now as assistant provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States. I have been blessed to work with many dedicated men who were committed not only to the Society of Mary, but to the wider Church as well.

As I look back over the past 50 years, it is kind of scary, as it went by so fast; yet I feel so blessed, and I am so thankful for the graces given. Mostly, I am thankful for family, friends and for the brotherhood experienced with so many good men and women in the Marianist family.