



The Marianists

BRO. KEN THOMPSON

60 years of profession

I was born in 1937 in Detroit, Michigan. I attended St. Francis de Sales for eight years of grade school and was taught by the IHM nuns. In 1951, while I was in the eighth grade, I was recruited by Bros. Charlie Opferman and Leonard Kuntz to attend the Marianist Postulate in Beacon, New York.

After attending high school at the postulate, I went to the novitiate in Marcy, New York, where I professed my first vows on Sept. 8, 1956. I immediately went to Dayton, Ohio, for the scholasticate at Mount Saint John and attended the University of Dayton, where I earned a bachelor's degree in education.

After one year at St. John's Home for Boys in Rockaway, New York, I was assigned to teach Latin, English and religion at Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio. After three years at Chaminade, I went to Covington Catholic High School in Covington, Kentucky. After five years at CCHS, I volunteered for the African missions. I served in the missions in Kenya, Yokohama, Zambia and Malawi for 30 years, from 1967 to 1995.

My happiest years were spent teaching at Mang'u High School in Kenya. Four of the future leaders of Kenya were taught by the Marianists at Mang'u High School. I appreciate the African culture and learned a lot about what's important in life during my years in the missions.

I returned to the U.S. from the missions in 1995. My experience with the way Africans value their elderly inspired me to get certification in gerontology. In 1995, I attended an intensive, four-month live-in course in gerontology at St. Mary of the Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana. The college is administered by the Sisters of Providence.

Since 1995, I have been working at St. Leonard's, the residence in San Antonio, Texas, and Mercy Siena Woods in Dayton, Ohio, assisting our elderly Marianist brothers. I have learned tremendously from these elderly brothers, especially how to grow old gracefully and get ready for the final journey to heaven.

I feel very blessed by God that I have persevered for 60 years in the Society of Mary.