



## The Marianists

### **Bro. David Murphy**

*50 years of profession*

I met the brothers at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland. On my senior retreat, I thought about religious life, but I dismissed it. I had planned to go into some type of business or sales career.

After a few months in college, a career in business and sales no longer held my interest; I felt a void in my life. Turning to God and the Blessed Mother, I prayed for guidance. It was during that time I began to think seriously about entering religious life. Eventually, I entered the novitiate.

After finishing college, my first assignment was Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where I taught religion, English and reading. We took students on many retreats. I still fondly remember the cold winter nights in Michigan when we led those student retreats. I then studied for a master's degree in school counseling. With that degree and several years of experience, I was able to work closely with parents to help their children be responsible adults and good Christians.

Over the next 40 years, I continued to be called to the ministry of education, first, in Memphis, Tennessee, then, back to Cleveland, Honolulu and now, Los Angeles. I never lost an interest in sales, but did not realize how richly it would be fulfilled in religious life, which blessed me with the privilege to do that in a more meaningful way than I ever could have imagined. I witnessed to and, in my own way, sold the love of God and His Blessed Mother to everyone I encountered. God and his Blessed Mother blessed me with a more deeply satisfying life and ministry than I ever deserved.

On this special occasion, I want to thank my family members for all the support they have given me over the years. I would like to thank the brothers in the Society of Mary — both living and deceased — who, over the last 50 years, shared their lives with me and allowed me to share mine with them. I ask all of you to join me in thanking God and the Blessed Mother for these rich, creative and joyful 50 years of religious life.