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Death Notice No. 22 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **LOUIS ERNST**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 23, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 81 with 64 years of religious profession.

Brother Louis was a much-loved teacher and tutor. He will also be remembered as a stalwart sports fan at the high schools where he served, as well as at St. Mary's University in his later years.

Louis August Ernst was born on October 2, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents, Louis and Lucille (Jorn) Ernst, had three sons and three daughters. Young Lou attended St. Catherine of Alexandria School and De Andreis High School in his hometown.

It was at De Andreis that he first met Marianist brothers and priests.

Lou entered the Maryhurst postulate in Kirkwood, Missouri, at age 15. Two years later, he entered the Marynook novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin. He professed first vows at Marynook on August 15, 1953.

Brother Lou earned a bachelor's degree in history from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1956 and began teaching that autumn at St. Joseph School in Victoria, Texas. He remained at St. Joseph's for three years. He professed perpetual vows on July 19, 1959.

In the autumn of 1959, Brother Lou returned to his hometown of St. Louis and began a 29-year tenure at Chaminade College Preparatory. He ministered as a teacher, guidance counselor and in administration. By taking coursework during the summer months, he earned a master's degree in education from Saint Louis University in 1965.

In 1988, Brother Lou was called to serve at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas. His teaching skills and caring demeanor were put to good use as a full-time tutor. "Brother Lou would be in the library from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. every school day, helping students with whatever they needed," said Father Oscar Vasquez, who also served at Nolan during these years. "What was impressive was that he could help with any level of math – from seventh grade up to calculus."

In a 2012 article in Marianist *ALIVE* magazine, student Alexandra Wood had this to say about Brother Lou: "He's taught me that it's okay to ask for help. He's very good at explaining things in ways I can understand. He's also kind and willing to help no matter what ... With his help, I'm getting As and Bs."

Another student, Makenzie Boydston, wrote this in a letter to Brother Lou: “I am so grateful I have cultivated a relationship with you. You are truly one of the kindest and humblest men I have ever met. Your absolute dedication and love for helping every struggling student at Nolan is amazing.”

Yet Brother Lou provided more than academic support. He was also a dedicated follower of student activities, from fine arts to athletics, and he made a special effort to attend events that would draw smaller crowds, such as cross country meets. This earned him great appreciation from students and their parents.

Brother Lou was a consistent, encouraging presence for Nolan students and a fixture of the school community for 23 years.

In 2011, at age 76, Brother Lou moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. His first few months in the new setting were a bit difficult, but he soon made a place for himself on the St. Mary’s University campus, where the Residence is located.

He drew on his love of history as a volunteer at the Marianist Archives. In addition, he was a popular barber for his fellow Marianists, a skill he picked up many years earlier from his father. He also soon became a favorite among students at St. Mary’s.

“When I visited San Antonio, Lou and I would take a walk around campus every morning,” said his cousin and fellow Marianist Brother Delmar Jorn. “Lou would say good morning to everyone we passed, even those not looking our way. Everyone got a smile.” Brother Delmar also recounted his cousin’s fondness for the women’s softball program. “He had a special seat next to the home team dugout for the softball games,” said Brother Delmar. Student athletes knew Brother Lou as a friend and devoted fan.

St. Mary’s University Facebook page included this note: “He was a light in our community and was the St. Mary’s Rattlers’ (sports teams) biggest fan. He will be dearly missed.”

Brother Lou died of cancer one week shy of his 82nd birthday. St. Mary’s athletes served as pallbearers at his funeral.

May he rest in peace.