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April 24, 2015

**Death Notice No. 12 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **KENNETH JUNG**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 14, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 92 with 72 years of religious profession.

Bro. Ken was a tireless working brother who was respected for his skills as a cook, baker, gardener and beekeeper. He also wrote poetry and was deeply dedicated to prayer.

Kenneth Cletus Jung was born October 18, 1922, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the eldest of six children in the family of Mary (Eccardt) and Cletus Jung. Bro. Ken attended William Cullen McBride High School, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary. He joined the postulate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, at age 17.

Bro. Ken entered the Marynook novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin, in 1941, and professed first vows there on August 15, 1942. He began his working career the next day as a cook at the novitiate. His only training had come from his mother at home. He later commented that the first meals he prepared on the novitiate's wood-fired stove turned out to be scriptural in the sense of "whole burnt offerings."

In his early years as a Marianist, Bro. Ken learned on the job the skills he would perfect over a lifetime – cooking, baking, canning and gardening. At the novitiate, he also taught himself beekeeping, even though he was allergic to stings.

Bro. Ken professed perpetual vows on July 1, 1946, in Galesville. He continued to work at the novitiate for another two years, at which time he was assigned to Institut Ste. Marie in St. Anselme, Quebec. With characteristic good nature, he adjusted to learning French, wearing a required cassock, and taking on maintenance duties in addition to cooking for nearly 70 postulants and brothers.

In 1951, Bro. Ken was called to set up a kitchen for the new Charles Francis Hall Scholasticate in San Antonio, Texas. He then served again in Galesville for two years, and for another two at the Marycliff novitiate in Glencoe, Missouri, before returning to the Galesville novitiate in 1956. He rekindled his association with the novitiate apiary (bee operation) and built it up to 60 colonies, producing 5,000 pounds of honey per year.

Bro. Ken returned to the Maryhurst novitiate outside St. Louis in 1960, at the peak of Marianist recruiting efforts. With one untrained helper, Bro. Ken cooked for 130 postulants and brothers three meals per day, seven days per week. This demanding assignment lasted 18 months, at which time Bro. Ken returned to San Antonio to serve in the kitchen he set up at the Charles Francis Hall Scholasticate.

“Working brother was an apt title for Bro. Ken,” said Bro. James Eppy. “During his long life, Ken did the work of three people. He developed a strong spirituality around his work, seeing everything he did as service to the community. His work was meticulous: his large vegetable gardens were always well-weeded; his beehives were well-maintained; all his cooking, bread-making and cake decorating showed much time and care.”

When the Marianist Apostolic Center (now the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center) in Glencoe, Missouri, opened in 1968, Bro. Ken was called to run the center’s kitchen. For the next 14 years, he served admirably in this capacity, while also taking on new responsibilities. He began the Marianist Enrichment Group for men and women religious – mostly sisters – whose ministry, like his, was focused on serving within their orders. In time, the group grew to include members from more than a dozen congregations. “I knew Brother Ken as a very prayerful man, with a wonderful devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary,” said Fr. Al McMenemy, who assisted with Bro. Ken’s work with the Marianist Enrichment Group. “Ken helped the group’s members grow more deeply in their spirituality and understanding of Scripture.”

Bro. Ken also gained recognition among student and adult retreat groups for his “Hands Meditation,” which focused on God’s gift of hands – their abilities, creativity and sensitivity. Decades later, a woman who had attended a retreat as a high school student told Bro. Ken that her career as a physical therapist grew from the deep impression made by his Hands Meditation.

Throughout his long ministry, Bro. Ken expressed his creativity through his baking, cake decorating, painting and poetry. He wrote many poems over the decades and could recite lengthy ones from memory well into his 80s.

In 1982, Bro. Ken was appointed director of a new community for elderly and disabled brothers in San Antonio. For the next six years, Bro. Ken served at the St. Joseph’s Community, managing its finances and ministering to the needs of its residents. He also established a new apiary nearby. He returned to the former novitiate, now a retreat house, in Galesville in 1989. He was again a cook, beekeeper and maintenance worker, but his main focus was contemplative prayer, a calling he had long desired to pursue.

Following a year’s sabbatical that began in mid-1990, Bro. Ken returned to San Antonio to serve as a groundskeeper at St. Mary’s University. Then, in 1993, he returned to his hometown of St. Louis, living at Chaminade College Preparatory School and continuing his ministry as a cook and baker. He was able to transport a number of beehives from Galesville to an area orchard and continued to produce more than 2,000 pounds of honey most years. He also was active with a local Marianist Affiliate group, as he had been in Galesville for many years. He formed additional prayer groups for Chaminade teachers, meeting weekly before school.

Bro. Ken moved to the Curé of Ars Community at St. John Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 2009. He was a familiar figure in his “habit” of black suit, white shirt and black tie, walking campus roads, rosary in hand. Although he was in his late 80s, he continued to cook for the community and tend the flower beds.

He offered this prayer at a student Mass at Vianney: “Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep; that awake we may keep watch with Christ and asleep, rest in peace. I believe, O Blessed Mary my mother, that at the last hour you will be near me as you were once close to the dying Jesus; to calm fears, dispel doubt and soothe agony.”

May he rest in peace.