

December 31, 2007

**Death Notice No. 40 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **BERNARD FOSTER**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 14, 2007, in Cupertino, California, in the 89<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 69<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Bro. Barney was born in Pittsburgh on August 11, 1919, to Charles and Catherine (Lehmeier) Foster. He attended St. George grade school and high school in Pittsburgh, where he was taught by Franciscan sisters. Encouragement from the sisters and Bro. August Kemme, SM, who regularly visited his school, motivated Bro. Barney to enter the postulate of the Society of Mary at Mount Saint John in Dayton in 1937.

He professed first vows in 1939 and final vows in 1943 at Mount Saint John in Dayton. While in formation, Bro. Barney attended the University of Dayton and in 1942 earned a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in English.

As a young adult, Bro. Barney was always curious and interested in learning. These qualities drew him to teaching. In 1942, he began a nearly 30-year teaching career, with his first assignment at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, where he taught Latin and moderated sodality groups. From 1945 to 1958, Bro. Barney taught at several schools in Hawaii, including Cathedral Elementary and Saint Louis School in Honolulu and St. Anthony's in Wailuku.

Known as a devoted teacher, who was well-liked by students, Bro. Barney returned to the mainland in 1958. He taught Latin and religion at Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco for the next 12 years. "The Riordan graduates remember Barney with great fondness," said Bro. Thomas Jalbert, who ministers at Archbishop Riordan. "He was a good, strict teacher who had a great influence on their lives. The students affectionately referred to him as 'Lightbulb Foster.'"

In 1970, Bro. Barney retired from full-time teaching. He spent the next decade serving in a number of capacities, including assistant registrar at Chaminade College (now Chaminade University) in Honolulu, bookstore sales at Archbishop Riordan and as an assistant at Holy Family Parish in Honolulu, the Provincialate in Cupertino and in the treasurer's office at Archbishop Riordan. While in Honolulu, he tutored adults in English as a second language.

Bro. Barney spent the last 30 years in retirement, first in Hawaii and then in Cupertino, where he moved in 2005. He enjoyed community life and spending time with his fellow brothers. He had a genuine interest in their lives and was known for his abiding presence and willingness to help others. He delivered mail to brothers unable to access their mailboxes and assisted those who could not see. "He was very quick to help in little ways that are very important. He was a very good man," said Fr. Lawrence Mann.

Fr. Bill O'Connell appreciated his volunteer spirit and eye for detail. "He helped out a lot. We called him the 'I.G.' (inspector general) because he loved to inspect things." At the same time, Bro. Barney was a prayerful man who had a real love for Mary and prayed the rosary daily.

In his spare time, Bro. Barney loved to walk. He was grateful for the climate and beautiful surroundings of Cupertino, where he enjoyed long walks and outdoor meditation. He also was an avid stamp collector and recently gave his collection to a fellow brother and stamp collector who lives in Poland.

Bro. Barney was an inspiring example of faithfulness to little things which reflected in his faithfulness to the big things in life. His gift was the power of the "widow's mite."

May he rest in peace.