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Death Notice No. 33 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CHARLES ROGGEMANN**, of the Mercy Siena Woods Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 10, 2011 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 88 with 68 years of religious profession.

Charles was born on September 17, 1923, in New York, New York, to Peter and Theodora (Burke) Roggemann. Charles was one of 10 children and followed his older brothers at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, where he first met the Marianist brothers. Charles said, "After three semesters at Chaminade, I was sure I wanted to share my life with these religious, who in so many ways were examples of purposeful, happy and holy lives."

Charles entered the novitiate on August 21, 1942, and professed first vows a year later. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton, Bro. Charles began his long career as a Catholic educator. His first teaching assignment was at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he served in the mid-1940s. After professing perpetual vows on August 25, 1946, Bro. Charles spent two years at the Marianist seminary in Switzerland but decided to remain a brother.

From 1952 until 1972, Bro. Charles taught English classes at Holy Trinity High School in Brooklyn, New York, with the exception of one year at Colegio San José in Puerto Rico and two years at the Marianist seminary in Switzerland. Bro. Charles earned a master's degree in English from Duquesne University in 1967.

Bro. Charles taught Fr. Bill Meyer at Holy Trinity in the 1960s and was his Sodality moderator. Fr. Bill said Bro. Charles was one of his more memorable teachers.

"He was a wonderful educator. He made education exciting," Fr. Bill said. "He could be demanding, but he created an atmosphere where people felt good about themselves."

In 1972, Bro. Charles moved to Chaminade College Preparatory, now Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, in Hollywood, Florida, serving there until 2002. At a founder's dinner in 1995, Bro. Charles was honored as a man who "lives his life with a generosity in spirit ... His

greatest gift as a teacher is that he cares deeply for the ‘little and lost ones’ among his students, those who often get no notice or caring.” Students affectionately called him “Bro. Chuck.”

Fr. Bill lived with Bro. Charles in Florida. “He was very prayerful and considerate of everyone in the house.”

Fr. Christopher Conlon also lived with Bro. Charles in Florida. He recalls how Bro. Charles tended the community’s garden and organized the Christmas decorations. “He brought life into the house in many ways,” Fr. Chris said.

Bro. Kevin Whelan lived with Bro. Charles in Brooklyn and in Florida. He remembers him as a cultured man who loved the opera, classical music and theatrical performances.

“Bro. Charles was cultured to his fingertips,” Fr. Norbert Burns said. “He carried it into the classroom. With everyone he met, there was a sense of refinement, of being a gentleman through and through.”

Bro. Charles was voted into the Catholic Education Foundation’s Hall of Fame in 2003, which honors “great religious educators of our time and times past. Nothing epitomizes the value of a Catholic secondary education more than the relationship between a student and a Christ-like mentor/educator who builds a nurturing relationship with that student.” According to the foundation, he reached more than 10,000 students in his service as a Catholic educator.

Bro. Charles retired from teaching in 1995 but worked in the school’s library until 2002, when he moved to the Mercy Siena Marianist Community in Dayton, Ohio. Fr. Chris visited him at Mercy Siena. “He had a dry sense of humor,” Fr. Chris said. “He was a delightful person.”

May he rest in peace.