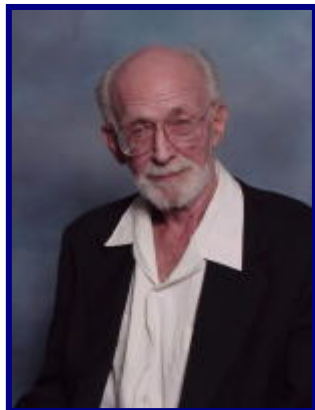


August 1, 2007

Death Notice No. 21 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **DANIEL SHARPE**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 23, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas, in the 84th year of his age and the 66th year of his religious profession.

Bro. Dan was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26, 1923, the only child of Daniel and Elizabeth (Becker) Sharpe. Education was paramount in the Sharpe household. Neither of Dan's parents was educated beyond the sixth grade, and they wanted more for their son. His parents also stressed the importance of faith and love for Mary. Although times were tough, Dan was forbidden to work while attending St. Cornelius grade school in Chicago. "I was told my job was to study," said Bro. Dan. His parents regularly attended devotions to Mary at their parish and prayed the rosary daily. "The grace of religious vocation was most nurtured by my parents," said Bro. Dan. He said the many sisters and brothers who were his teachers at St. Cornelius and later at St. Michael Central High School in Chicago also reinforced his openness to a religious vocation.

Education was Bro. Dan's first love and teaching became his primary ambition. He joined the Society of Mary as a means to become a teacher in a Catholic school. In 1939, Bro. Dan entered the postulate at Maryhurst in St. Louis. He professed first vows in 1941 and final vows in 1945 at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin.

Bro. Dan worked tirelessly to maintain and strengthen the Marianist mission in schools. He began his nearly 50 years in education in 1943 as a student teacher at South Side Catholic High School in St. Louis. After receiving his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1944, he began a three-year teaching assignment at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. For the next five years (1947-1952), Bro. Dan taught at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee and then returned to Texas to teach at St. Mary's University in San Antonio until 1957. Bro. Dan taught religion, social studies and Spanish. His fondness for Spanish prompted him to study in Mexico and earn a master's degree in Spanish in 1952 from Notre Dame University.

After teaching for almost 20 years and moderating activities such as football, basketball, track, golf and sodality, Bro. Dan held a series of administrative positions. He served as director/principal at Don Bosco High School (1957-1963 and 1969-1972) and Sodality and Apostolic Action coordinator at St. Michael Central (1963-1969). While serving in Chicago, he earned a master's degree in administration in 1964 from Marquette University in Milwaukee. In 1972, he oversaw the transition of Don Bosco High School to St. Thomas More High School and served as the school's first principal until 1975. From 1975 to 1979, Bro. Dan ministered at St. Mary's University as community director and vice president of student affairs.

He also served as an officer in several educational associations, including the Milwaukee Council of Catholic English Teachers, the Wisconsin Association of Catholic Secondary School Principals and the Youth Advisory Board of the Milwaukee-Waukesha Red Cross.

Bro. Dan's career took another turn in 1979 when he was elected to the Provincial administration of the former St. Louis Province. He served for eight years (1979-1987) as assistant provincial. During this time, he was instrumental in establishing a Marianist presence in Mexico. Fr. David Fleming, who was provincial during those years, said Bro. Dan was a good example of someone who could think outside the box. "Dan was an independent, sometimes whimsical thinker," said Fr. Fleming. "He would often surprise us with his points of view. He was a champion of the underdog, the poor and the ordinary people. It wasn't always easy to integrate his thinking with the ideas of others, but it was clear his ideas were rich and helpful."

Bro. Dan was very people-oriented and loved to chat over a game of checkers or pool. He was teased about being the "night shift" in community rooms during visitations and was known for his late-night conversations with brothers. For him, the interactions provided valuable insight into the morale of the Province. While serving as assistant provincial, Bro. Dan wrote a personal letter to each brother on his birthday. He also corresponded with the brothers through a series of letters ("Dear Arch"), known for their folksy style and inspiration.

After leaving Provincial administration in 1987, Bro. Dan returned to teaching and served at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. In 1991, he opened a new chapter in his life: missionary in Mexico. Bro. Dan ministered in Apaseo and Querétaro, Mexico, and served as a mentor to young Mexican candidates. His friend and fellow missionary in Mexico, Bro. Roberto Hanss, remembered when Bro. Dan fractured his thigh bone on the hill to chapel one morning. "He struggled to get up the steps to the chapel and, although in great pain, he did not tell anyone." According to Bro. Hanss, once Bro. Dan finally revealed what happened, his only request was for a cigarette. Cigarettes, especially filter-free Chesterfields, were another trademark of Bro. Dan.

In 2001, due to health problems, Bro. Dan retired to the Marianist health care center in San Antonio. According to Bro. Joe Grieshaber, former director of the center, Bro. Dan was an avid pool player, playing every night for the last seven years. In his last weeks, when he could no longer stand, he would watch others play. He also enjoyed playing dominoes. "Despite these mundane pleasures," said Bro. Grieshaber, "Dan was a prayerful man and did not absent himself from community prayer time. He was faithful to his God and to his promises as a religious."

May he rest in peace.