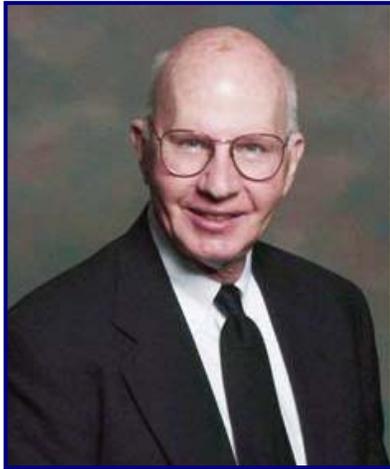


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Death Notice No. 18 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **DONALD FAHRIG**, on the Mercy Siena Gardens Marianist Community (Dayton), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 22, 2009 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, in the 84th year of his age and the 59th year of his religious profession.

Don was born in Dayton on April 2, 1926, the fifth child of William and Matilda (Homan) Fahrigh. The Fahrigh family experienced much tragedy. William Fahrigh was struck by a car and killed when Don was two years old and an older sister died in a fire. Don described his family life as “Catholic and poor with the typical joys and sorrows of a family of that type.”

Growing up in the Marianists’ Holy Rosary parish, the Marianists were always a part of his life. Don attended Holy Rosary grade school, Chaminade High School in Dayton and the University of Dayton. The seed of his vocation was planted in eighth grade by Bro. Charles Kneble, SM.

Don pushed aside thoughts of religious life in high school and during the two years following when he served as a fireman in the U.S. Navy during World War II (1944-1946). After his honorable discharge from the Navy and a few years of study at UD, Don sought direction in his life. He turned to his old friends, the Marianists, and entered the novitiate in 1950 at Marcy, New York.

Bro. Don professed first vows in 1951 at Marcy and perpetual vows in 1955 in Dayton. He received a bachelor’s degree in 1950 from UD and a master’s degree in educational administration in 1954 from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Later in life, he studied library science at Catholic University and Western Michigan University.

Bro. Don spent the majority of his career as a teacher and librarian. His first assignment was in 1953 at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, where he learned the night before classes were to begin that he would be teaching social studies. In 1954, he began a five-year assignment, one of many, at Purcell High School in Cincinnati teaching English and journalism.

At Covington Catholic High School in Kentucky, Bro. Don served as principal from 1959 to 1963. Fr. George Cerniglia was a young brother living in the Covington Marianist community at the time. “Don was my first director, and he was very kind and gentle with me as a first-year teacher,” said Fr. George. “He was a deeply committed religious and a man of prayer.”

For the next eight years, Bro. Don taught high school religion and English at Archbishop Moeller and Purcell in Cincinnati, Msgr. Hackett in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Chaminade College in Toronto. While at Hackett and Purcell, he also served as librarian and moderated the Purcell literary magazine called "The Plume." For one year (1969-1970), he was coordinator of the Marianist scholastics and editor of the *Marianist Bulletin* newsletter.

Fr. Joe Lackner, who had Bro. Don as an English teacher at Purcell, said he opened up a vast new world of art, literature and culture to students who came from primarily working class backgrounds. "He served us in many different ways," said Fr. Joe. "He was someone who could influence the whole culture of a school, brighten its environment and give it life."

In 1970, Bro. Don began more than 25 years of service as a librarian, resource for students and minister of beautiful surroundings. During this time he served at Archbishop Moeller and Purcell (which became Purcell Marian in 1980) High Schools and at the Marian Library on the campus of the University of Dayton. While working at the high schools, Bro. Don used his aesthetic ability to create beautifully decorated bulletin boards and school corridors.

Fr. Jim Heft, who first met Bro. Don in 1966, remembers him as a lover of literature and a great reader of Catholic classics and books on spiritual life. "He was very literate on the meaning and significance of Vatican II and matters of church renewal," said Fr. Jim. "Don regularly mailed articles he thought I would want to read. I can't recall any that I was not interested in." Bro. Don admired author G.K. Chesterton and was a member of the Chesterton Society.

Bro. Don also was a student and lover of liturgy. He frequently attended special Vesper services at the cathedral in Cincinnati and loved liturgies at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, where he often made his annual retreat. He enjoyed all forms of art and spent free time at concerts, museums and the Cincinnati Conservatory.

He also enjoyed the outdoors, rides in the country and camping. Fr. Jim Heft remembers a retreat they took in Kentucky at a cabin with no electricity or running water. "He loved it," said Fr. Jim. "Sitting in the sun, gazing at the river and reading one of his beloved books, Don was also in his element in that rustic setting."

Purcell Marian High School had a special place in Bro. Don's heart. After nearly 30 years of service there, he won the affection of countless students and faculty members. He retired from his library duties in 1996, but continued to serve as a volunteer at Purcell Marian and was active in neighborhood ministries, including moderating the Miriam Guild, an organization of Lay Marianist women.

In 2003, Bro. Don moved to the Alumni Hall community in Dayton where he became a faithful visitor to the brothers at the care centers at St. Leonard's and Mercy Siena. His last years and his own transition to the Mercy Siena care center were difficult, but his faith and trust in God comforted him in his final journey "home."

May he rest in peace.