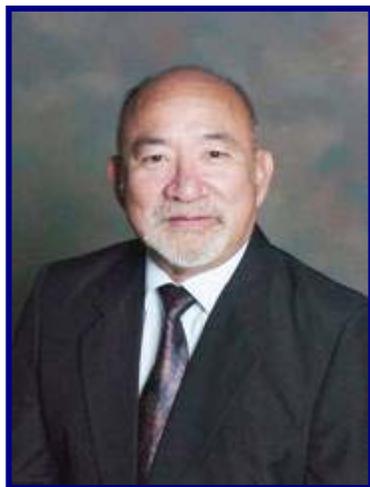


October 22, 2007

**Death Notice No. 28 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **FRANKLIN PAO**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 12, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii, in the 73<sup>rd</sup> year of his age and the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of his religious profession.

Bro. Franklin was born on January 30, 1935, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, to Nicholas and Mabel (Sylvester) Pao. He attended St. Louis Grade School and two years of high school at St. Louis College in Honolulu. In 1952, Franklin was accepted to Chaminade High School in Los Angeles.

In 1954 Bro. Franklin entered the novitiate of the Society of Mary at Santa Cruz, California. He professed first vows in 1955 in Santa Cruz and spent the next two years studying at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Bro. Franklin professed perpetual vows in 1958 in San Francisco and was assigned to minister as a working brother. Reflecting on his early formation, Bro. Franklin said, "I learned that religious life does not guarantee you heaven. Through religious life, I learned how to accept myself as I am and others as they are. We are all the same in the eyes of God."

In his 50 years of ministry, Bro. Franklin served in a number of capacities. From 1957 to 1969, he was secretary for the provincial of the Province of the Pacific. In 1969 he was assigned to the Marianist Art Center in Santa Cruz, where he learned how to create stained glass windows. From 1972 to 1975, Bro. Franklin served as an administrative assistant to the Foreign Study League in San Jose and spent his summers in Europe as a representative of local school districts. During this time, Bro. Franklin also served as director of the Santa Clara Valley Marianist community. In 1976, he was named administrator of Villa St. Joseph, a healthcare center for Marianists in Cupertino, California.

After living on the mainland for over 25 years, a turning point in Bro. Franklin's life came in 1978. He enrolled in a program at Chaminade University of Honolulu initiated by Kumu Keola Lake called the "Hawaiian Renaissance Program." It was a chance to reintroduce himself to his Hawaiian heritage. "On the mainland, I learned to stand tall with shoulders back and head high, and to be proud of who I am," said Bro. Franklin. "This was an important aspect of my life. Little did I know that this would be the backbone of my life in my older 'discovery' years."

In 1982, Bro. Franklin returned to Hawai'i with a strong desire to learn more about his Hawaiian heritage. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1985 in Hawaiian Studies from the University of Hawai'i. In 1983, he was invited to join The Royal Order of Kamehameha, one of four Hawaiian royal benevolent societies. Bro. Franklin was appointed Kahuna Nui of The Royal Order of Kamehameha I in 1988 by the Ali'i Nui and approved by his council of high chiefs. He held this position until October 2005 when he retired. Bro. Franklin also was invited to join the Hale O Na Ali'i, another Hawaiian royal society, in May 1983.

Bro. Franklin joined the hula halau of Kumu John Keola Lake in the summer of 1979. He was graduated as a Kumu Hula under the tutelage of Kumu Lake, Chaminade University's Kumu-in-Residence. ("Kumu" means source of knowledge. The teacher of hula is the "kumu hula.") At the time of his death, Bro. Franklin was a state-licensed Kahuna O'o of Pu'u Kohola Heiau, Temple of State, on the island of Hawai'i, since 1994. Bro. Franklin was often called upon to chant a Hawaiian prayer before formal ceremonies at Chaminade University as well as for other groups. He performed many other blessings for homes, offices, buildings and weddings. From 1985 until the spring of 2006, when he retired, Bro. Franklin was registrar for Saint Louis School.

"Franklin loved life to the fullest and showed it by sharing his talent through Hawaiian culture, song and dance. He had a smile that shined all over his face," said Fr. Tim Kenney. "He will be missed by many, including the thousands of students he influenced at Saint Louis School."

In January 2007, he began providing secretarial assistance to the Marianist Center of Hawai'i. On May 19, 2007, he was awarded the Kalani Ali'i Award by the four Hawaiian royal societies in recognition of the numerous contributions he made toward the advancement of the Hawaiian people and their culture.

"Bro Franklin was truly a Marianist and truly Hawaiian," said Bro. Frank Damm. "For me he was such an inspiration and model for bridging cultures gracefully. Not many men are so well respected in two different worlds."

In his later years, Bro. Franklin mentored young Marianists, both religious and lay, in the integration of Hawaiian culture and values with those of the Marianists. "I have found that the Marianists have in their culture so many Hawaiian cultural attitudes. The ohana (family) is important, and it includes the Christian, Marianist education characteristics," said Bro. Franklin.

He was known for his quiet nature, caring ways and unwavering spirit. "There have been few Marianist brothers I have encountered on my journey that exhibited the fraternal love that Franklin shared with his brothers," said Bro. Brian Halderman. "I admired his journey of integration. He was a great model for us in this regard."

In the final stages of his cancer, Bro. Franklin asked to remain at home with his brothers at the Hale Malia Marianist community in Honolulu. According to Bro. Dennis Schmitz, walking with Bro. Franklin through his illness and coming together in grief has been a difficult but truly uplifting experience for the community. "Whenever someone left Bro. Franklin's room, he would say 'a hui hou'(see you again soon)," said Bro. Dennis. "Now we can all say to him, 'a hui hou'."

May he rest in peace.