

November 17, 2007

Death Notice No. 35 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to its fraternal prayers our dear brother, **FRED HAUSCH**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 9, 2007, in St. Louis, Missouri, in the 76th year of his age and the 55th year of his religious profession.

Bro. Fred spent most of his 54 years as a Marianist serving as a cook and kitchen manager, nourishing the physical and the spiritual well-being of others.

He was born the oldest son of a baker in Keokuk, Iowa, on September 28, 1932, and was raised in an apartment above the family business – the Hausch Home Bakery – in downtown Keokuk. His parents, Fritz and Marie (Kretz) Hausch, had emigrated from Germany, and Fred spent a year in Germany as a young child. The Hausch family included two younger sons, Ernest and Otto (Mike).

When Fred was just a few months shy of graduating from St. Peter's High School in Keokuk, a visiting Marianist, Bro. John Kessler, gave a recruitment talk to his class. Fred's teacher, a Sister of Charity, encouraged him to talk to Bro. John. That conversation led to Fred's entrance to the Marianist novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, a few months later, on July 31, 1952. He professed first vows there on August 15, 1953, and perpetual vows in July 1959 in Clayton, Missouri.

In asking to renew his temporary vows for one year in 1954, Bro. Fred wrote:

"I think that the vows of religion are the way God has chosen for me to glorify Him, to honor His Mother, to save my soul, and to aid in saving other souls. I believe that the past year has shown me that God certainly must have wanted me in the Working Brother category. The past months have unfolded to me many of the possibilities the Working Brother has for his own sanctification and for the sanctification of others."

Bro. Fred began his cooking career in earnest in 1956, and for the next nine years cooked at Marianist houses of formation: the novitiate in Galesville, the "second novitiate" in Glencoe, Missouri, and the scholasticate in San Antonio at St. Mary's University. In the 1960s and 1970s, he was cook and kitchen manager at three school communities: St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis, St. Joseph High School in Victoria, Texas, and St. Michael's in Chicago, as well as at the second novitiate in New Haven, Missouri.

For several years in the 1960s, Bro. Leo Slay directed an annual weeklong "Marianist Culinary Institute" for Marianist cooks throughout the U.S., and Bro. Fred was an enthusiastic attendee. He also attended the "Institute for Food Service Supervisors" conducted by the Catholic Hospital Association.

Although Bro. Fred had little formal education, he was well read, especially in history, and was considered an expert on World War II. He had a passion for details and an amazing memory for dates, places and people, whether Marianist brothers, World War II generals, or old movie stars.

“I was fascinated by him,” said Bro. Joe Markel. “He was a very special person, very intelligent. When I would ask him how he could remember so many details, he’d say, ‘I just file them in my mind for future use.’”

Bro. Fred also loved nature and the outdoors, and could identify the unique markings of many different species of fish, birds and animals. He read everything the conservation department published and knew all the regulations regarding canoeing and hunting.

In 1978, Bro. Fred joined the Marycliff Community in Eureka, Missouri, where he would remain for the rest of his life. For many years Bro. Fred assisted with food service at the Marianist Apostolic Center (now the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center), which is located on the grounds of Marycliff. From 1978 to 1985, he spent several summers working in food service at TECABOCA, a Marianist boys’ camp and retreat center in Ingram, Texas.

Bro. Fred was devoted to the Marianist Affiliate group at Marycliff. Nancy Davies, a longtime St. Louis Marianist Affiliate, said that Bro. Fred never missed an Affiliate activity. “He was a quiet, gentle Marianist presence at our gatherings. It may not seem like a huge thing, but it meant a lot to us. We loved Bro. Fred.”

Like his father before him, Bro. Fred’s specialty was baking, and he was known for his homemade bread, pies, cakes and holiday stollens, some of which were sold at the retreat center. Bro. Ken Jung, a longtime friend who trained Bro. Fred to cook during his novitiate, said Bro. Fred returned the favor by giving him valuable baking tips.

From 1990 until his death, Bro. Fred cooked for the Marycliff community and volunteered at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center. Fr. Joe Uvietta, former director of the center, said that Bro. Fred was always willing to help out. “It was the little, behind-the-scenes things that Bro. Fred offered to us, such as filling the soda machines or moving furniture,” Fr. Joe said. “He did things in his own quiet way, and I could always count on Fred to be present.”

“He was genuine and kind and had a childlike honesty about him,” said Bro. Joe Markel. “He didn’t do extraordinary things, but there was a constancy and a faithfulness to his religious life and to his work. It reminds me of the ‘little way’ of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.”

May Bro. Fred rest in peace.