

March 21, 2007

Death Notice No. 10 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **J. EDWARD FICK**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 10, 2007 in Dayton, Ohio in the 91st year of his age and the 71st year of his religious profession.

Bro. Edward was born on October 9, 1916, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Dorfler) Fick. He grew up in St. Dominic's Parish in Hamilton, Maryland, and attended St. James elementary school. At age 16, Bro. Edward entered the postulate of the Society of Mary in Beacon, New York. He professed first vows in 1936 and final vows in 1940 at Mount St. John in Dayton, Ohio. "My sole desire is to work at the salvation of souls in Mary's own Society as a teaching brother," said Bro. Edward at the time of his perpetual profession.

Bro. Edward did his undergraduate course work at the University of Dayton and St. John's University in Brooklyn, New York. In 1946, he graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in education. He went on to earn a master's degree in special education from Loyola College in Baltimore in 1973.

In 1937, Bro. Ed fulfilled his dream to teach when he began his career in education teaching fifth and sixth grade at Most Holy Trinity School in Brooklyn. In 1940, he was assigned to St. John's Home, a home for boys in Brooklyn, where he was a teacher and counselor for five years. In 1946, Bro. Edward transferred to Saint Louis Elementary School in Honolulu where he taught and was principal from 1947 to 1949. He then spent a year as a teacher and athletic director at St. Anthony High School in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii.

A highlight of Bro. Edward's career came in 1950 when he helped construct a new building on the campus of Chaminade High School in Dayton. Bro. Edward served at Chaminade from 1950 to 1956 as a teacher, director of maintenance and assistant athletic director. For the next seven years, Bro. Edward was a teacher, athletic director and cafeteria manager at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland and St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania.

In 1963, Bro. Edward began a five-year ministry in Puerto Rico where he served as treasurer, business manager and director of maintenance at Colegio San José in Rio Piedras and at Colegio Ponceño in Ponce. Bro. Edward prided himself on a chapel he helped build in the mountains of Puerto Rico.

Bro. Edward began his ministry in special education in 1968 at John Bosco School in Baltimore, where he served for two years as principal. From 1970 to 1976, he taught special education at St. Elizabeth School in Baltimore. Bro. Edward also became active with the Baltimore Association for Retarded Citizens and served as its program technician, nursery supervisor and activity center supervisor from 1976 to 1980. One of his duties at BARC was teaching trades to people involved in the program.

Bro. Edward spent the better part of his last 20 years of active ministry volunteering at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. He served in Outpatient Admissions, CCU, Social Services, Radiology and the Print Shop. Bro. Edward once wrote that his time at St. Agnes was very special to him because he felt "needed and loved there." Fr. Pat Tonry, who lived with Bro. Edward in Baltimore, remembered the countless hours Bro. Edward devoted to St. Agnes.

"He was honored several times as volunteer of the year at St. Agnes," said Fr. Pat. "He loved that work very much and was much appreciated." Michelle Slafkosky, volunteer coordinator at St. Agnes, said the paperwork sorting system that Bro. Edward put into place is still in use today. "Bro. Ed contributed over 24,000 volunteer hours at St. Agnes," she said. "Everyone in the hospital knew him. He was a friend to all."

Throughout his service to the Society, Bro. Ed also enjoyed working on construction and facility projects. He was handy with electricity, gardening and carpentry.

Due to failing health, in 2001 Bro. Ed retired to The Franciscan at St. Leonard care center in Centerville, Ohio. In 2003, he transferred to the Villa St. Joseph healthcare center in Cupertino, California, and then moved back to Ohio, to the Mercy Siena healthcare center in Dayton, where he spent his final years. Bro. Edward celebrated his 70th jubilee as a Marianist brother in 2006.

May he rest in peace.