

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOHN MICHAEL KLEIN**, of the Marianist Residence community in San Antonio, Texas, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 4, 2009, in San Antonio in the 85th year of his age and the 66th year of his religious profession.

John was born in Detroit, Michigan, on February 25, 1925, one of six children of John and Anna (Neurohr) Klein. He was taught by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters at St. Catherine grade school in Detroit. Even as a youngster, John was drawn to religious life. He learned about the Society of Mary through a friend whose brother was a Marianist. John contacted the Marianists, and Bro. Louis Meinhardt visited the Klein home to explain the order. Three months later, after graduating eighth grade, John entered the postulate of the Society of Mary in Kirkwood, Missouri.

While a postulant, John became interested in teaching. In 1945, he received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton. John professed first vows in 1943 and perpetual vows in 1947 at Galesville, Wisconsin.

Bro. John began his teaching career in 1945 at St. Joseph grade school in Victoria, Texas, where he taught second and fourth grade until 1953. He spent the next six years (1953 to 1959) at Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis. At Chaminade, Bro. John taught sixth grade and was a prefect for boarding students.

He made a second novitiate at Glencoe, Missouri, and resumed his teaching duties in 1960. Bro. John taught seventh grade for two years at St. Joseph in El Paso, Texas, and then returned to St. Joseph in Victoria to teach until 1966.

Former St. Joseph (Victoria) student Dan Arnold remembers Bro. John as a man with a deep concern and commitment to teaching. "He genuinely cared about his students. I retired a few years ago after 30 years in school education, and I hope that I showed that level of passion and love he expressed for his students," said Dan.

Bro. John spent the last several decades of his 65 years as a Marianist assisting with a number of ministries in Missouri and Illinois. He served at the formation community at Maryhurst in Kirkwood and at Maria Vista, a Marianist retreat center in New Haven, Missouri. He also was a member of the St. Louis Provincialate staff.

In 1982, he began serving in East St. Louis, Illinois, first at Assumption High School and then helping with community service at the Vincent Gray House. Bro. John also was one of three Marianists who formed a "house of intercession" called House of Prayer. The purpose was to promote the spiritual unity of the Province. The three brothers pledged to pray two extra hours each day. Each week they selected a Marianist community as their special focus.

Bro. John was committed to his ministry at the House of Prayer and faithfully wrote letters to communities and individual Marianists to let them know they were being prayed for.

Letter writing, learning about art and music and tending to his plants were among Bro. John's favorite hobbies, according to Bro. Norbert Karpfinger, a fellow community member in East St. Louis. "He was very generous with his time," said Bro. Norbert. "John tried to help a lot of charities, and I admired him for it. He did what he believed in."

Another East St. Louis community member, Bro. John Laudенbach, remembers Bro. John's humility. "He did all kinds of things for the parish and others and didn't expect any notoriety. He washed all the linens for the parish, and no one knew it."

Bro. Art Cherrier, who lived with Bro. John at the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, where John went to live in 2007, remembers him as "an extraordinary storyteller with a phenomenal memory for dates and events."

May he rest in peace.

