

December 15, 2008

**Death Notice No. 34 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **PAUL MERLAND**, of the Mercy Siena Gardens Marianist Community (Dayton), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8, 2008 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, in the 78<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 57<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

After high school, Paul worked a day job in an office and attended evening college at Xavier University in Cincinnati. In three years, he had accumulated 46 credit hours but had doubts about his future. "I realized I was accomplishing something," Paul wrote. "But it was nothing that seemed of a completely satisfying or permanent nature." He began to seriously consider religious life after consulting with an old friend, a Marianist brother

he met at Purcell High.

"One does not have to have the privilege of being associated very long with the members of the Society of Mary, both priests and brothers, before coming to the realization that they are a group of men who are full of zeal and enthusiasm for the souls of men," Paul wrote.

Paul entered the novitiate of the Society of Mary in Marcy, New York, in 1951. Because he was one of the more mature novices, one of Paul's first assignments at the novitiate was to promote Marianist literature in local high schools and parishes. He professed first vows in 1952 at Marcy and perpetual vows in 1957 at the University of Dayton. In 1955, Bro. Paul completed a bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Dayton. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Dayton in 1977.

Bro. Paul began his religious career in 1956 as a high school teacher. He taught business courses, religion and driver's education at Marianist high schools in Ohio, including Chaminade in Dayton, Hamilton High, and Archbishop Moeller in Cincinnati. At Hamilton, he also served as the school's business manager.

"Paul was a serious minded business manager," said Fr. Bertrand Buby. "He always made sure the employees were getting their just wages and benefits."

Bro. Paul was assigned to the Treasurer's Office at the University of Dayton in 1965, where he worked for two years. In 1967, he became the first business manager at the Bergamo Conference Center, a Marianist retreat center at Mount St. John in Dayton. Bro. Paul returned to the University of Dayton in 1971 and worked for the next seven years as director of special services and later as the first director of cooperative education.

After a sabbatical and a period of time teaching at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, California, Bro. Paul returned to Cincinnati and served nearly seven years in finance and membership at the Cincinnati Museum Center. He retired from the museum in 1998 and illness brought him to Mercy Siena in Dayton in 2007.

Paul was interested in politics and had a special love for the history of interurbans and railroads. According to Bro. Don Geiger, Bro. Paul knew the name and route of practically every railroad and interurban in the state and the main ones throughout the country.

“He had an amazing memory for historical details, especially concerning floods and railroads,” said friend Don Wigal. “Paul would often know obscure facts by dipping into his bottomless pit of information.”

May he rest in peace.