

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT RIEMANN**, of the Marianist Residence Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 4, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas, in the 82<sup>nd</sup> year of his age and the 61<sup>st</sup> year of his religious profession.

Bob was born in Maplewood, Missouri, on January 4, 1927, the only son of Charles and Catherine (Hoogstraet) Riemann. He attended Immaculate Conception grade school and South Side Catholic (later St. Mary's) High School in St. Louis, where he first met the Marianist brothers.

Bob graduated in 1945 and joined the U.S. Army to serve in World War II. After basic training, he was assigned to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Luzan in the Philippines. When the war ended later that year, Bob was honorably discharged. He reenlisted in the Regular Army and was stationed at Camp Crowder in Missouri and Camp Polk in Louisiana.

In 1946, near the end of his military service, Bob discerned a call to religious life. "I had not been, and was not then, in contact with any religious or spiritual director," Bob wrote. "I must believe that my inclination was an inspiration from God."

He entered the novitiate of the Society of Mary at Galesville, Wisconsin, in 1947. Bro. Bob professed first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1955 at Galesville. He began his 60-year career as a working brother in 1948 serving in the print shop of Catholic Authors Press, a Marianist-sponsored publisher of Catholic literature located in St. Louis. Bro. Bob was a printer and proofreader.

Bro. Louis Pinckert., a fellow printer, worked with Bro. Bob for several years. He remembers sharing many good times and laughs, including creating some spoof editions of the *Maryhurst Messenger*, a novitiate newsletter. Usually poking fun at novice director Fr. Charles Neuman, who was a good sport, the publication elicited many laughs at the novitiate.

While he liked to have fun, Bro. Bob took his work seriously and had an eagle eye for proofreading. "He spotted everything," said Bro. Louis. "A real test of our friendship was when I purposely printed a few of Bob's perpetual vow cards with his name misspelled and put them on top of the real cards. I swear I could hear the scream, even when the presses were running!" said Bro. Louis. "Bob was intelligent, hard working and prayerful. He sought to find the right blend of work and prayer, and I think he found it."

When the Marianists opened St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis in 1960, Bro. Bob was assigned to the school's maintenance department. In 1963, he was asked to serve for a year as secretary to the provincial of the former St. Louis Marianist Province and then a year in maintenance at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. In 1966, the Marianists opened Maria Vista, a facility for continuing Marianist formation, in New Haven, Missouri. Again, Bro. Bob was brought in as part of the team to get the new facility off the ground. Bro. John Klein worked in maintenance with Bro. Bob at Maria Vista. "He was a delightful person," said Bro. John. "He always worked hard and did a

good job.” Bro. John said Bro. Bob was legendary for his sense of humor and love for animals.

The last three decades of his career as a working brother were spent in maintenance and clerical positions at Maria Vista, until it closed in 1978, St. John Vianney High School and Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis.

Due to declining health, Bro. Bob joined the Marianist Residence community in San Antonio in 2003. At the Residence, he was reunited with Bro. John Klein, who said his old friend never lost his ability to laugh. “Even when told he had a short time to live, Bob came to the dining room with a smile and a joke and would stop at the tables to talk,” said Bro. John.

Bro. Bob will be remembered for his humor, skill in many areas and as an asset to the communities where he lived.

May he rest in peace.