

The Province of the United States of America recommends to its fraternal prayers our dear brother, **TERRENCE O'CONNOR**, of the Marianist Residence community (San Antonio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 6, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 77 with 59 years of religious profession.

Bro. Terry served the Marianists as a teacher for nearly six decades. He had a passion for education and declared at his golden jubilee in 2002 that he “remains an unabashed member of that proud minority which still regards teaching as ministry.” Bro. Terry taught language classes for many years.

Terrence, who went by Terry, was born on October 21, 1934, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Christopher and V. Bernadette (Dawes) O'Connor. Christopher worked for the American Red Cross and while the family resided at Fort Sam Houston military base in Texas, Terry entered Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. After being taught by the Marianists for four years, Terry decided to join the order. Bro. Terry entered the novitiate after graduation and professed first vows on August 15, 1952.

Bro. Terry lived at the scholasticate in Kirkwood, Missouri, and then finished college studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. After earning a bachelor's degree, he returned to the St. Louis area to teach at St. Mary's, Chaminade, St. John Vianney and McBride High Schools from 1955 until 1962. Bro. Terry professed perpetual vows on July 13, 1957.

Bro. Terry primarily taught French courses. “I've been a classroom teacher for 54 years,” Bro. Terry said in 2010, “and honest to God, I cannot remember a single day when something wonderful didn't happen to me just because I was a teacher.”

From 1962 until 1968, Bro. Terry served in Fribourg, Switzerland, as a student at Regina Mundi Seminary and as a teacher at Villa St. Jean High School. Bro. Terry loved to travel and served as a translator at General Chapters and other Marianist meetings in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Kenya, France, India and Spain.

Bro. Terry taught at St. John Vianney High School for one year after returning to the United States and then served at his alma mater, Central Catholic, from 1969 until 1981.

Bro. Bill Chewning was the principal at Vianney while Bro. Terry served there in the late 1960s and admired his energy in the classroom.

“He was the most vibrant and interesting teacher I came across,” Bro. Bill said. “He was a wonder to behold in the classroom.”

Fr. John Leies gave Bro. Terry's eulogy and noted how much he enjoyed teaching.

“The classroom was his mission, his parish, his center of evangelization,” Fr. John said. “That was because he loved working with students.”

After a two-year term at the Teacher Training College in Switzerland, Bro. Terry began a long stay at St. Mary's University in 1983, where he would serve for the remainder of his life. Like the other schools where he taught, Bro. Terry poured his heart into the university.

"Anything regarding St. Mary's was of interest to him," Bro. Bill said. "Academics, athletics, music. He really cared about the students and kept up with quite a few after graduations."

Bro. Terry's proficiency in language was invaluable in a number of ways. His talents were used at university graduations because he could flawlessly pronounce the names of graduates.

"He was interested in helping students not only with their academic studies but also their personal difficulties and problems," Fr. John said in the eulogy. "In a letter written years ago, Bro. Terry repeated the words of an American composer: *'Love in your heart wasn't there to stay; love isn't love 'till you give it away.'* He wanted to share God's love with others."

May he rest in peace.