

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

May 19, 2017

Death Notice No. 13 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RAYMOND MIKLICH**, of the Mercy Siena Gardens community, Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 9, 2017 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 88 with 66 years of religious profession.

Brother Ray spent more than a half-century in ministry at St. John's Residence for Boys in Rockaway Park, New York, where he served poor and disadvantaged youth. He is remembered for his willing and earnest dedication to his work and to the Blessed Mother.

Raymond William Miklich was born on May 21, 1928, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was one of four sons and two daughters in the family of Ignatius and Mary (Vidrich) Miklich. He attended St. Lawrence parish school and Holy Name High School in his hometown.

Although he had long felt drawn to religious life, Brother Ray answered a divergent call upon graduating from high school. In August of 1946, he entered the United States Army as an infantryman. He spent part of his enlistment in Korea in the lead-up to the Korean War.

Following an honorable discharge in 1949, Sergeant Miklich returned home and began an earnest exploration of a religious vocation.

He sought guidance from the Marianists at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland. In a letter to the provincial, Brother Ray credited the Cathedral Latin Marianists, whom he called "the helping hand of Jesus and Mary," for nudging him toward the Society of Mary.

Brother Ray entered the novitiate in Marcy, New York, in 1949, and professed first vows there on September 8, 1950. He attended scholasticate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, (1950-1951) and Mount Saint John, in Dayton (1951-1953) and then taught for one year at Immaculate Conception elementary school in Washington, D.C.

After earning a bachelor's degree in education at University of Dayton in 1954, Brother Ray began service at St. John's Residence for Boys in Rockaway Park, New York. At the time, it was a home and school for boys who were parentless or from severely impoverished families. St. John's would become the focal point of his life's ministry.

Brother Ray professed perpetual vows at the University of Dayton on August 25, 1956.

Throughout his first decade at St. John's, Brother Ray laid the groundwork of his legacy of dedication to the St. John's community. Brother Tom Trager, who shared 35 years at St. John's with Brother Ray, said he was universally loved. "Occasionally, I visit St. John's and many staff

members still ask for an update on Brother Ray. His simple spirit of humble service was a source of edification for all of us,” said Brother Tom.

In 1964, after a decade as prefect, counselor and teacher at St. John’s, Brother Ray served for one year as a prefect of boarders and community treasurer at Colegio San José in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. He then spent a year in a second novitiate at Glencoe (now Eureka), Missouri.

“Brother Ray Miklich was simple and good — and also a character,” said Father Paul Landolfi, who spent years with Brother Ray at St. John’s. Father Paul recalled once asking him: What is your motto? What do you live by? “Brother Ray’s answer was ‘Mary, my confidence.’ Mary meant a lot to Brother Ray,” Father Paul said.

In 1968, at his provincial’s request, Brother Ray transitioned from teaching brother to working brother at St. John’s. From age 40 through his early 80s, he ministered in a variety of areas including business manager for the community, maintenance, counseling, and athletics program coaching and management.

Brother Ray Kane lived with Brother Ray at Rockaway Park and recalled Brother Ray’s devotion to the boys and his valuable, jack-of-all-trades contributions to the community. “He spent hours fixing bikes and go-carts for them ... running all sorts of contests and always having sodas and snacks for them,” said Brother Ray Kane. “He was always on-call, ready to fix anything on the property.”

Brother Steve O’Neil recalled Brother Ray as having a generous spirit. “He really enjoyed being of service to the boys and staff of St. John’s and often volunteered to cook dinner for the brothers after Mass on Sunday,” Brother Steve said.

Apart from a 16-month sabbatical leave in Florida and New Mexico (1980-1981), Brother Ray’s tenure at St. John’s spanned 54 years.

In 2013, at age 84, Brother Ray moved to the Mercy Siena Community in Dayton. When he was able, he assisted the staff at the Marianist Mission in processing thank-you cards, typically entertaining the group with jokes and cheerful conversation.

With every step he took on his vocational journey, Brother Ray may have recalled the words he wrote to his provincial in 1951: “With Jesus and Mary at my side, I cannot go wrong.”

May he rest in peace.