

**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](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)

February 16, 2012

**Death Notice No. 3 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CHARLES EHRENFELD**, of the Cupertino Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 8, 2012 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 96 with 78 years of religious profession.

Bro. Charlie cared deeply for God's creation and never drove a car in all his years as a biology teacher in Marianist schools. Even into his 80s, he walked around the areas he lived and collected aluminum cans to be recycled.

Charles Ehrenfeld was born to Charles and Anna (Schlie) Ehrenfeld on August 27, 1915, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He had one brother and one sister. After attending St. Mary's grade school, Charlie entered the Society of Mary's postulate in Dayton, Ohio, in August 1928, and entered the novitiate at the same location four years later. Bro. Charlie professed first vows on August 15, 1933, and professed perpetual vows on August 9, 1937.

After earning a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton, Bro. Charlie taught four years at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, Ohio, before serving at Colegio San José in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 1939 until 1943. He spent the following three years as a teacher at Hamilton Catholic High School in Hamilton, Ohio, and Chaminade-Mineola High School in Long Island, New York.

Fr. Norbert Burns was a student at Cathedral Latin when Bro. Charlie taught there. He remembers Bro. Charlie as a vibrant teacher who truly cared about his students.

"He was so full of life. I cried when he was transferred to Puerto Rico," Fr. Norbert said. "I thought here is this wonderful person leaving my life."

Bro. Charlie left the mainland for Hawai'i in 1946, where he served at Saint Louis School and St. Anthony Junior/Senior High School until 1964. He was considered an outstanding biology teacher and was a recipient of National Science Foundation grants to attend summer programs at Rutgers University, Yale University, the University of Colorado and the University of Hawai'i.

“Bro. Charlie took the classroom very seriously,” Bro. John Samaha said. “He was dedicated to doing his best for the kids and getting the best out of them.”

Bro. Charlie served as a teacher and administrator at St. Joseph’s High School in Alameda, California, from 1964 until 1966. He then served as a bookkeeper in Santa Cruz, California, for two years before returning to Hawai’i to teach at St. Anthony from 1969 until 1977.

Ramon Abregano, a former Marianist brother who is now an administrator at Saint Louis School, lived with Bro. Charlie while they served at St. Anthony in the 1970s. He remembers Bro. Charlie as an excellent teacher who was respected by students for his willingness to tutor them after school and because he kept the campus clean and beautiful.

“Bro. Charlie had what we call ‘Malama Ka Aina’ – a respect for the land,” Ramon said.

After 43 years in the classroom, Bro. Charlie continued to serve in maintenance, security and in other capacities in Santa Cruz and Hawai’i before retiring to the Cupertino Marianist Community in 1999.

Bro. John said that until he was unable to walk, Bro. Charlie collected aluminum cans and plastic water bottles in Cupertino. Neighbors recognized this and gave their cans and bottles to Bro. Charlie. The money he made from turning in recyclables was donated to help pay the tuition of a child overseas. He also was a beekeeper, classical music enthusiast and avid fan of his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates.

Bro. John said he will remember Bro. Charlie for his love of others, and not just people he knew.

“He was very considerate of anyone who needed a helping hand,” Bro John said. “He was always concerned with things being right, not just for the Society of Mary but for the world as a whole.”

May he rest in peace.