

**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)

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**Death Notice No. 8 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Marianist Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **WILLIAM (BILL) FACKOVEC**, of the Mercy Siena Community (Dayton, Ohio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 7, 2014, in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 88 with 67 years of religious profession.

While Bro. Bill enjoyed his early career as a teacher, his true professional calling was as a librarian. He helped build the Marian Library at the University of Dayton into a renowned resource for religious scholars. The library's extensive rare book collection is named in his honor.

William Martin Fackovec was born on April 18, 1925, in New York, New York. He was one of two children in the family of Magdalen (Serina) and Thomas Fackovec. Bro. Bill attended Holy Redeemer grade school, Cathedral High School and Cardinal Hayes High School, all in New York.

Bro. Bill entered the novitiate at Beacon, New York, where he professed first vows on September 8, 1946. "Bro. Bill loved to tell his vocation story of how he came to the Marianists as the result of a fall on a mountain near the Marianist postulate in Beacon," said Fr. Joe Kozar. In the tumble, Bro. Bill broke his leg and convalesced at a hospital within view of the postulate. He believed it was a sign to reconsider a religious vocation. "Bro. Bill fell into the Society of Mary," said Fr. Joe.

Bro. Bill received a bachelor's degree in education in 1949 from the University of Dayton and professed his perpetual vows the following year, also at UD. At that time, he was teaching at St. John the Baptist High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From 1950 through 1957, he taught at North Catholic High School (now Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic) in Pittsburgh.

It was during his time at North Catholic that Bro. Bill's career began to shift course. In 1952, he took over operation of the school's library while continuing to teach religion and English. In 1958, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served as librarian at Purcell High School (now Purcell Marian), a position he held through the spring of 1960.

In 1959, Bro. Bill completed a master's degree in library science at Case Western Reserve University.

For the next five decades, from 1960 through 2011, Bro. Bill served in the Marian Library at the University of Dayton as librarian, cataloger and chief research consultant. When he began his work there, the library's collection totaled about 15,000 volumes. At the time of his retirement, the collection totaled about 90,000 volumes in more than 50 languages.

"Bro. Bill represents what was once the model of the classical librarian – one with familiarity with literature, history, theology, music, art and facility in several languages," noted an article in a 2011 newsletter from the International Marian Research Institute.

While serving at the Marian Library, Bro. Bill would make a trip to Europe every few years to search out rare and antique books. He maintained personal contact with several book dealers, and would ask them to hold books on Marian topics for his consideration. His efforts resulted in the library's rare book collection which numbers about 7,000 books, including handwritten volumes from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the books are found in no other library. At a ceremony in 2010, this collection was designated the Bro. William Fackovec Rare Book Collection.

Fr. Johann Roten, SM (Province of Switzerland) served as director of the Marian Library and worked with Bro. Bill for many years. He wrote this memorial:

*Brother Bill*

*A clockwork religious of monumental faith,  
A golden heart in shoes threadbare from walking the extra mile,  
A memory defying computers,  
A self-made cultural genius  
A lover of the unspoken word and the enchantment of music.*

May he rest in peace.