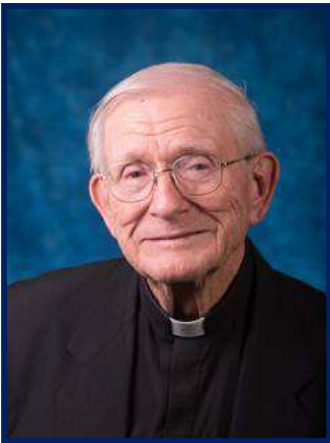


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May 19, 2017

Death Notice No. 14 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **PAUL EDWARD NEUMANN**, priest, of the Marianist Residence community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 11, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 87 with 69 years of religious profession.

Father Paul began his long ministry as a high school teacher and chaplain. He later served for 26 years in Peru and Mexico. A gentle, generous man, he was beloved as a pastor and confessor.

Paul Edward Neumann was born on August 22, 1929, in San Antonio, Texas. He was one of three sons and one daughter in the family of Charles and Margaret (Schulze) Neumann. He attended grade school at St. Joseph's Academy and College, and high school at Central Catholic High School.

Inspired by the example of his brother, the late Father Charles Neumann, young Paul wanted to join the Marianists as a high school freshman. But his father asked him to wait — as his brother had — until he graduated from high school.

In 1946, days before his 17th birthday, he entered the novitiate at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin. He professed first vows there on August 15, 1947. He began scholasticate at Maryhurst (1947-1948) in Kirkwood, Missouri, and continued at Mount Saint John (1948-1950) in Dayton, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in education at University of Dayton in 1950 and professed perpetual vows on July 10, 1951, at Marynook.

During his first five years of ministry, Father Paul taught at De Andreis High School in St. Louis, Missouri, and at his alma mater, Central Catholic High School. He later served as a prefect at Maryhurst.

He entered the seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1955 and was ordained on July 19, 1959. He returned to San Antonio and spent a pastoral year at St. Mary's University.

For the next 12 years, Father Paul served as high school teacher and chaplain, tracing a northerly arc on the map. He ministered at our Lady of Victory High School and Nolan Catholic in Fort Worth; at Roncalli High School in Pueblo, Colorado; Daniel J. Gross High School in Omaha, Nebraska; and at St. Michael's High School in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1973, Father Paul was called to a two-year posting at the Marianist Apostolic Center in Glencoe (now Eureka), Missouri. He served as chaplain and retreat presider before embracing new challenges further south.

Father Paul became Padre Pablo. He began missionary service in 1975 in Lima, Peru, at Colegio Santa María, where he taught and served as director for the Colegio community for nearly four years. For the next nine years until 1988, he served at Comunidad Emaús in Callao, Peru, where he was a pastor and ministered among the poor.

Although service in Peru was challenging for Father Paul, it provided unique opportunities in his ministry and formation. Years later, in writing about his Peruvian assignments, Father Paul penned his gratitude: "These have been years that I would not want to unweave from the fabric of my religious life," he wrote.

For two years beginning in 1988, Father Paul was pastor at Sagrado Corazon in Coatzacoalcos, Mexico. In addition to pastoral duties, he assisted with recruitment and formation for the local Marianists.

Father Paul was known for willingly accepting assignments and embracing both the Marianist community and local population where he served. Mexican Marianist Brother Juan Pablo Espinoza Chávez described Father Paul as an excellent brother who knew how to walk with the community and could adapt to any situation. "He was always merciful, and in our Marianist life, he always knew how to enjoy himself and others with the heart of a child," Brother Juan Pablo said.

Father Paul returned to Texas in 1990 to serve as pastor at Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Fort Worth. He enjoyed eight years in pastoral ministry before returning to Mexico, once again, for a two-year assignment as pastor at Sagrado Corazon. He remained in Mexico and accepted a new ministry in Querétaro, where he served as chaplain at the Marianist novitiate for nine years (2000-2009).

Father Oscar Vasquez, who served with Father Paul in Fort Worth, said he was an example for the younger Marianists. "No job, inside the community or in ministry, was too small or too big. He did all with a smile and true simplicity of heart. He took seriously the challenge of the Marianist Rule that he was ordained for the service of the community and the people of God," Father Oscar said.

Now age 80, Father Paul spent two years of service (2009-2011) as chaplain for the Comunidad Marianista in Puebla, Mexico. Brother Ed Longbottom served there with him. "Paul was sought out as a confessor by both the brothers and parish members. The secretary often had to tell him to leave the confessional because she needed to close the church," said Brother Ed.

"He was always available to offer Mass in the many chapels, sometimes walking a few miles rather than ask for a lift. The Eucharist was his most beloved devotion and ministry," said Brother Ed.

In late 2011, with health issues taking their toll, Father Paul moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. He remained as active as he could, and his fluency in Spanish made him popular for sacramental ministry and retreats.

Father Paul was a 2017 jubilarian who, in August, would have celebrated 70 years of profession.

May he rest in peace.