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



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **PAUL FENNELLY**, of the Cupertino Marianist Community (Cupertino, California), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 14, 2016 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 74 with 55 years of religious profession.

Brother Paul served in administrative roles, often as a bookkeeper or office manager, and nearly always in his home state of California. He was secretary to three consecutive provincials in the former Pacific Province. He will be remembered for his unassuming manner, unwavering reliability and cheerful spirit.

Paul Thomas Fennelly was born on May 9, 1941, in Alameda, California. He was one of four children in the family of Thomas and Josephine (Colombo) Fennelly. Brother Paul attended St. Joseph Elementary and St. Joseph Boys High School, both in his hometown. Impressed by the Marianists who were his high school teachers, Brother Paul entered the novitiate at Santa Cruz, California. He professed first vows there a year later, on August 15, 1960.

Brother Paul attended the scholasticate in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and took courses at Chaminade College (now Chaminade University). He returned to the U.S. mainland in 1963 and served as a secretary at Archbishop Riordan High School and at the novitiate for one year each. He professed perpetual vows on August 29, 1965, in Santa Cruz.

From 1965–1967, Brother Paul was on staff at the Marianist Mission in San Francisco, California, helping the fledgling fundraising operation build and organize its donor lists under the leadership of Father Donald Bracht. For the following two years, he was a secretary at the Provincial office, serving under Father Bertrand Clemens.

In August 1970, Brother Paul returned to Archbishop Riordan High School, where he was the community bookkeeper and served in the school's business office and bookstore. After two years, Brother Paul was called back to the Provincial office in Cupertino, where he served as a secretary from 1972–1977. During this time, leadership of the Pacific Province transferred from Father Clemens to Father Joseph Stefanelli.

“Only you and your typewriter have at times stood between me and disaster,” wrote Father Joseph to Brother Paul in a 1977 thank you letter that Brother Paul himself typed. “Knowing that I could dash off my thoughts, botch them up, and somehow have them look right when they came out of your machine was a most consoling thought,” Father Joseph wrote. In the letter, Father Joseph asks God to bless Brother Paul for the “many services rendered to me, the community and the Province.”

For the next five years, Brother Paul again ministered in school settings, first at St. Anthony Junior/Senior High School in Maui, Hawai'i (1977–1979) and then at DeSales High School in

Walla Walla, Washington (1979–1982). At St. Anthony, he worked in the business office and provided clerical support, including tallying attendance and making photocopies. At DeSales, he managed the business office.

Brother Paul returned to California in 1982, serving as director of the Villa St. Joseph Community in Cupertino for two years while also working in the Province finance office. He was called to work full-time in the provincial offices in 1984, serving under a third Provincial, Father John Bolin, as a secretary and business office manager.

Brother Paul “probably knew more than the incoming provincial about day-to-day matters,” said Brother Francis “Skip” Matthews. Brother Skip was a year ahead of Brother Paul at the novitiate and the two were friends throughout their long ministries. “Brother Paul was one of the traditional working brothers,” Brother Skip said. “He was hardworking, deeply religious and humble. If something needed doing, Brother Paul got it done and he did it well.”

In the fall of 1988, Brother Paul moved to Gardena, California, to be business manager at Junipero Serra High School. He remained there until 1993. “I enjoy helping and serving others in all my assignments,” Brother Paul wrote later in a jubilee reflection. He noted that he was “thankful to my predecessors in all my jobs. (I had) no education in any of them except from my predecessors.”

Brother Paul’s final formal ministry was at Archbishop Riordan High School, where he again handled a number of roles: community treasurer, secretary to the academic dean, registrar, and assistant to the athletic and drama programs. He remained there through most of 2002, when he returned to the Villa St. Joseph Community in Cupertino. For many years he was the community’s bookkeeper and also served as a chauffeur until health problems forced him to relinquish his place behind the wheel.

“Brother Paul was a dedicated Marianist in support of the apostolate and the functioning of the community,” said Brother Tom Redmond, director of the Cupertino community. “He was an all-around, dedicated Marianist in the working brother tradition. He was on the quiet side, but when you spoke to him he would open up. He enjoyed one-on-one time,” said Brother Tom.

May he rest in peace.