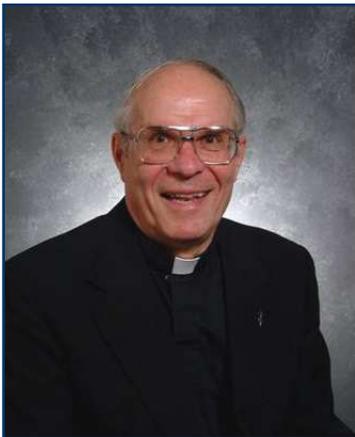


**CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI**  
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia  
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406  
E-mail: [gensecsm@smcuria.it](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)

April 14, 2015

**Death Notice No. 11 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **GEORGE ABMAYR**, priest of the Mercy Siena Community, Dayton, Ohio, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 31, 2015 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 87 with 68 years of religious profession.

Fr. George was a high school teacher and librarian who served mostly in Ohio. He took seriously the role of “servant priest” and will be remembered for his dedication to prayer, community and the schools where he served.

George John Abmayr was born on February 22, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was one of five children in the family of George and Teresa (Roos) Abmayr. He attended North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary.

At age 16, Fr. George entered the postulate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio. He made his novitiate at Beacon, New York, and professed first vows there on August 18, 1946.

Fr. George earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1949, and began teaching Latin and religion at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, that fall. In 1950, he professed his perpetual vows in Dayton. Fr. George remained at Chaminade High until 1953, when he left for Fribourg, Switzerland, to begin seminary studies. He was ordained in Fribourg on July 22, 1956.

Over the next several years, Fr. George served at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, Ohio (1958 – 1959), Chaminade High School in Dayton (1959 – 1960) and his alma mater, North Catholic (1961 – 1962).

In the fall of 1962, Fr. George returned to Chaminade High where he taught Latin and served as chaplain and librarian. By attending summer school, he earned a master’s degree in library science from Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, 1964.

Fr. George remained at Chaminade for 16 years, his tenure incorporating the school’s transition to a coed institution, Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School, in 1973. During most of these years, he was primarily the school’s librarian and audio-visual coordinator. He developed a knack for using A/V equipment, which in ensuing years would bloom into skill with computers.

In 1978, Fr. George was called to serve as executive director of Bergamo East Conference Center in Marcy, New York. He remained at Bergamo until May 1980.

Fr. George returned to high school ministry that fall, taking the reins as librarian at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland. He remained in this post through 1999, as the school was merged to become

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in 1991, and as his technology duties evolved from films to videotapes to computers. He was committed to the VASJ school community, and his work seldom ended with the school day.

“I lived with Fr. George at St. Joseph in the mid-1980s. George was the “Bingo Czar” at the school at a time when bingo was a serious money-maker. He loved the bingo operation because he loved people and was able to meet a variety of people and help the school in the process,” said Bro. Joe Kamis.

Although Fr. George stepped down from a full-time staff role at VASJ in 1999, he remained active as a volunteer, assisting in the library and helping students work on Macintosh computers. Fr. George had no use for PCs. During this time, he also served on the board of the Marianist Urban Students Program, which provides a Marianist high school education for promising students from underprivileged backgrounds.

“I lived in community with Fr. George during his retirement years, which were very busy. He moderated the Marianist League and helped run weekly bingo,” said Bro. Jack Dempsey. “He also enjoyed managing the community finances and automobiles, and would readily pitch in to do housework, cut the grass and shovel the snow.”

Along with his willing contributions to temporal matters, Fr. George also will be remembered for his witness to prayer and his sacramental ministry. “Fr. George was a prayerful man. In the evenings he would always be in his room saying his office,” said Bro. Dave Murphy.

In 2010, at age 82 and after 60 years of ministry, Fr. George moved to the Siena Woods Community in Dayton.

May he rest in peace.