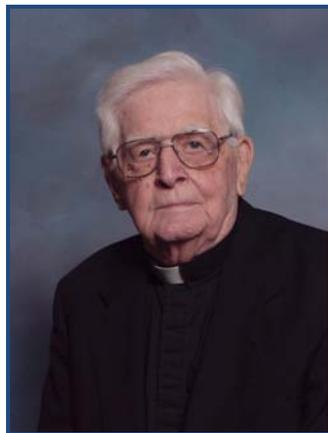


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Death Notice No. 18 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **HERBERT ALOYSIUS PIEPER**, of the San Antonio Marianist Residence community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 10, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 100 with 82 years of religious profession.

Herbert William Pieper was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 26, 1910, to John Pieper and Elizabeth (Abel) Pieper. He had five brothers, including James, who also became a Marianist religious.

Herbert was taught by Notre Dame nuns as a child and first met the Marianists at Northside High School. He entered the postulate in 1926 at Maryhurst, in Kirkwood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, and the novitiate at the same location a year later. Herbert took his first vows as a Marianist on August 15, 1928. Superiors noted he was “at ease with young and old.”

After two years studying at the scholasticate, Herbert was assigned to teach at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, Texas, in 1930. He stayed there for a year before teaching for one year in the high school department at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. He considered this his most interesting assignment.

Herbert served at the Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois, from 1932-1933. He taught religion, French, history, economics, Latin and English courses during his career as a Catholic educator. He also moderated the school newspaper.

Herbert professed his perpetual vows on August 11, 1932, at Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis. He returned to Maryhurst a year later, this time to serve as teacher. Herbert entered the seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1934, and was ordained a priest on August 15, 1938, 10 years to the day after he professed first vows.

Upon returning to the United States, Fr. Herbert taught in St. Louis at Southside High School and Chaminade College Preparatory School and then served as chaplain at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio.

Fr. Joe Uvietta attended Central Catholic while Fr. Herbert was chaplain. He says the students looked up to Fr. Herbert and considered him a friendly and open person.

Fr. Herbert was assigned to his hometown again in 1949, serving as a chaplain at St. Mary's High School for one year before being assigned to the same role for nine years at Maryhurst. From 1959 until 1963, Fr. Herbert served as a chaplain at the scholasticate and Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, and Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin.

Bro. Joe Grieshaber was a postulant while Fr. Herbert was the chaplain at Maryhurst. Bro. Joe recalls him as a friendly, welcoming priest, and says his sisters remembered Fr. Herbert a half-century after last seeing him.

"He was a kind, gentle man," Bro. Joe said. "I don't know if I ever saw him get mad."

Fr. Herbert took on a new role at Marynook in 1963, when he was appointed novice master for six years, followed by two years at Central Catholic. Fr. Herbert returned to St. Louis in 1971, where he would work as a chaplain at St. Mary's High School for seven years. It was his final assignment at a Marianist school before moving into parish work.

"I found it hard to close the classroom door," Fr. Herbert said. "For me, the classroom was its own reward."

Fr. Don Cahill said Fr. Herbert was nervous about moving from a school to a parish.

"I told him, 'you're a listener, you're kind, and you're patient. You'll do great,'" Fr. Don said. "And when he got to that parish, he loved that parish. He loved the people."

Fr. Herbert began his parish ministry in 1982 at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis. He served as assistant pastor until 1999, a time in his life he called "equally interesting and rewarding."

Fr. Don recalls how the poor often came by the parish seeking help and the Marianists' gave gift certificates to the gas station and grocery store. One man often visited and said he needed help to support his family. However, his wife also visited and said the same thing. The Marianists at the parish considered ways to solve the issue, but Fr. Herbert did not believe it to be a fruitful discussion.

"It's their obligation to be honest," Fr. Herbert told everyone. "Our obligation is to be charitable and help them."

Despite being in his 80s when the personal computer became popular, Fr. Herbert worked hard to learn how to use it after retiring to the community at Marycliff in St. Louis.

"Fr. Herbert was never afraid of change," Fr. Don said. "He said nothing is in cement and life moves on."

In 2003, Fr. Herbert moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, Texas, where he would spend the remainder of his life. Though he was not ill, Fr. Herbert wanted to move to the retirement center in San Antonio before he became a “burden” on anyone. Marianist brothers cited this as an example of his considerate attitude. Fr. Herbert was so well-liked that parishioners from Our Lady of the Pillar came to visit him in San Antonio.

Fr. Herbert celebrated his 80th jubilee as a Marianist and 70th anniversary of his ordination in 2008. He passed away just two days after the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, the founder of the Marianists, whom Fr. Herbert admired greatly. He said his most rewarding experience as a Marianist was “coming in contact with the personality of Blessed Father Chaminade and his approach to spiritual life.”

Fr. Herbert will be missed by his Marianist brothers.

May he rest in peace.