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Death Notice No. 12 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT OSBORNE**, priest of the Maryland Avenue Community, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 27, 2014 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 81 with 58 years of religious profession.

Fr. Bob was a teacher, pastor, campus minister and administrator, mostly in the St. Louis area. He also served in administration for the St. Louis Province for nearly a decade.

Robert Roy Osborne was born on January 16, 1933, in New Rochelle, New York. He was one of three children in the family of Alice (Sartori) and Robert Osborne. His family moved west, and Fr. Bob attended Junipero Serra grade school and Carmel High in Carmel, California, and Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas.

Shortly after completing a bachelor's degree at St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1954, he entered the novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin.

He professed his first vows at Galesville in 1955. His initial ministry was at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he taught English, math and religion.

Fr. Larry Doersching was a student of Fr. Bob's at Don Bosco. "I believe many of my classmates would not be where we are if not for Fr. Osborne. One day in English, he cracked an outrageous pun and a student did one in return. (Fr. Bob) returned with another pun, and the rest of the class was taken up with nothing but puns. It was one of the most creative things I've ever seen a teacher do. It taught us about adapting, changing expectations, relating ideas, coming up with the unexpected, good humor – all very typical of 'Os'!" said Fr. Larry.

Fr. Bob professed his perpetual vows in 1959 and remained at Don Bosco through 1962, when he entered the seminary at Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained on March 26, 1966.

A long association with the St. Louis area began later that year, when Fr. Bob was assigned as a chaplain and teacher at St. John Vianney High School, where he would remain through 1970. He was then a teacher, associate principal and president at Chaminade College Preparatory from 1970 through 1981. He earned a master's degree in education from Loyola University in Chicago in 1971.

In 1981, Fr. Bob began ministry as pastor at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis, a position he held through 1986. He then began serving as assistant for temporalities for the St. Louis Province. He remained in that role until mid-1995.

After a sabbatical, Fr. Bob returned to St. John Vianney High School in 1996 in a mission integration role. In 2000, he again served at Chaminade College Prep for a two-year term as a chaplain and campus minister.

During his time in St. Louis, Fr. Bob also ministered as chaplain to a number of municipal police departments and a fire protection district. He was a regular "visiting priest" at St. Peter Parish in Kirkwood, Mo.

"There was always a serious side to Bob under his ready laughter," said Fr. Bernard Lee, who was a high school classmate and college fraternity brother of Fr. Bob's. "I most remember the attentive quality of his presence to whomever he was with."

In 2002, Fr. Bob was tapped for the presidency at St. John Vianney. He is credited as the driving force behind a capital campaign that expanded the facility and improved educational opportunities for students.

Fr. Bob stepped down from the Vianney presidency in 2006 because of legal allegations. The St. Louis County prosecutor's office later dropped all criminal charges. Fr. Bob remained as a pastoral assistant at St. Peter Parish until 2009.

"Fr. Osborne was an educator, mentor, and most importantly, a good friend. He was an example to the Vianney family on how to live and love life," said Vianney alumnus Kevin Haar Jr. "He taught us how to lead. There will never be another one like him."

May he rest in peace.