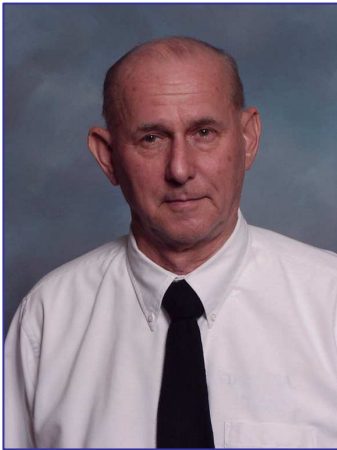


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October 29, 2015

Death Notice No. 21 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CHARLES LOHRENZ**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 28, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 84 with 65 years of religious profession.

Brother Charles was a teacher and maintenance worker whose ministry as a gardener in his later years provided an abundance of fresh vegetables for those in need.

Charles Gilbert Lohrenz was born February 16, 1931, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He and a sister, Genevieve, were the children of Clara (Plichta) and Charles Lohrenz.

Brother Charles – who preferred to be called “Chas” – attended Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary. He joined the postulate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 1948.

Brother Chas entered the novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, and professed first vows there on August 15, 1950. He attended St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1953. He professed perpetual vows on July 14, 1956, in Galesville.

Brother Chas spent 23 years teaching courses ranging from economics and bookkeeping to religion, geography and typing. He coached football and bowling, and moderated sodalities. He taught at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois (1953 – 1954 and 1962 – 1967); St. Mary’s High School in St. Louis, Missouri (1954 – 1960); and Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas (1970 – 1974) among others. He earned a master’s degree in economics from St. Mary’s in 1962.

In 1976, Brother Chas began working in maintenance and technical services, both within and outside of Marianist institutions. He served at St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis (1976 – 1978 and 1991 – 1998); and in his hometown of Milwaukee (1978 – 1989).

In 1998, Brother Chas moved to San Antonio, where he lived at the Marianist Residence and served as a maintenance worker. His favorite ministry was as a gardener. He maintained two vegetable gardens on campus at St. Mary’s University, where he grew hundreds of pounds of produce annually until a few months before his death.

“When Chas found gardening, he found his niche,” said Brother Jerry Sullivan, who was in Brother Chas’ vow group. “Gardening was a positive, important thing in his life, and he was very good at it. Many needy people benefited from Chas’ hard work,” said Brother Jerry.

The fruits of Bro. Chas' labor went directly to those in need – including a St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter, the Carmelite Sisters, and Freddie Garcia's Victory Fellowship, a halfway house for recovering drug addicts.

“This is my apostolate. I'm a man of the land,” Brother Chas said in a 2008 article in *Today's Catholic*, the San Antonio archdiocesan newspaper. “One of the corporal works of mercy is ‘feed the poor,’” he said, adding that recipients appreciated his vegetables, especially the vine-ripened tomatoes. He reportedly planted as many as 800 heads of lettuce each year, all to be given away.

“Chas was an interesting man with a variety of talents,” said Brother Mike O'Grady, Brother Chas' community director. “He was excellent at welcoming guests to our community, and his gardening was his own way of caring for people. He was generous in special ways.”

May he rest in peace.