

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

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Death Notice No. 8 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JAMES McCaffrey**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 4, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 92 with 73 years of religious profession.

Bro. Jim taught business courses over the course of a long career, founded and led Marianist Affiliate groups, and also served as a teacher and administrator in Peru and Mexico.

James Louis McCaffrey was born October 4, 1922, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the middle of five children in the family of Frances (Dickhaus) and Thomas McCaffrey. Bro. Jim attended St. Frances de Sales grade school and Southside Catholic High School (now St. Mary's High School), where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary.

After graduating from high school in 1940, Bro. Jim entered the novitiate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri. Shortly thereafter, the novitiate was moved to Galesville, Wisconsin, where Bro. Jim professed his first vows on August 25, 1941.

In an accelerated wartime program, Bro. Jim earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1943. Between then and 1948, he taught at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, St. Michael's High School in Chicago, Illinois, and McBride High School in St. Louis. He professed perpetual vows on July 1, 1946, in Galesville.

In the fall of 1948, he began teaching at Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis, where he would remain for the next 10 years – with a one-year break (1953 – 1954) returning to his alma mater, St. Mary's High. In addition to teaching business courses at Chaminade, he coached soccer and baseball and moderated the Sodality of the Blessed Mother.

In 1958, he was called to be vocation director for the St. Louis Province, covering a region from Canada to Mexico and Indiana to Colorado. He later wrote, "I had never driven a car in my life, but with Mary's help and the prayer, 'Little Flower, show your power,' and a few scares to brothers who accompanied me while learning, I was ready to start a five-year term as recruiter." Bro. Jim recalled the experience as "wonderful years."

Bro. Jim returned to teaching in 1963 at Central Catholic for one year, and then taught at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois, in 1964 – 1965. He left Assumption to begin an 11-year assignment in Peru, serving as a teacher and principal at Colegio Santa Maria in Monterrico, and Colegio San Antonio de Varones in Callao. He also served as spiritual director of the *Christian Fraternity of the Sick and Handicapped*, a Jesuit program. In 1972, as part of this

program, he accompanied three disabled Peruvians to Rome for an international assembly that included an audience with Pope Paul VI.

In 1976, Bro. Jim returned to the United States, where he served for a year as a recruiter for the Tecaboca Marianist boys' summer camp in Texas. He then returned to teaching at Central Catholic (1976 – 1977). In 1978, at age 56, he earned a master's degree in business from Catholic University in Washington D.C. He taught at St. Mary's University (1977 – 1981). With his time at St. Mary's, Bro. Jim had taught at elementary, secondary and university levels.

Now in his fourth decade of ministry, Bro. Jim returned to the mission field with an assignment to Apaseo Grande, in the Mexican state of Guanajuato. He served as director of the lower grades at *El Instituto Carlos Navarro*, taught religion and English there, and also initiated and led a Marianist Affiliate group.

“Brother Jim will always be known here as *Hermano Jaime*,” said Bro. Frank Gomes, who followed him as director at the school. “He is valued as one of the founders of our mission in Apaseo el Grande ... The Marianist Affiliates of Apaseo loved *Hermano Jaime* and continue to ask for him. The news of his death is a source of great sorrow. Bro. Jim's love and leadership continue to make a great impact here.”

Bro. Frank also shared this story: “The Carmelite Sisters of Apaseo couldn't continue their mission of preparing the host for communion for the many local churches because their cutting machine broke. Bro. Jim drove to San Antonio, Texas (750 miles), purchased a cutting machine and transported it back in a Nissan pickup truck. Getting across the border was the bigger miracle: a *gringo* in a pickup truck with a huge, unidentifiable machine.”

After five eventful years in Mexico, Bro. Jim came back to the United States and taught for a year at Daniel Gross High School in Omaha, Nebraska, and at Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis (1987 – 1988). He then spent time assisting with adult faith formation at St. Thomas of Aquin Church in St. Louis.

In 1988, Bro. Jim returned to Texas, where he served in Fort Worth at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which was a Marianist parish at the time. He worked with the RCIA program and also formed a new group of Marianist Affiliates. In 1996, he moved to San Antonio – again – and used his fluency in Spanish to serve at Holy Rosary Parish and direct the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

In 1998, Bro. Jim began an active retirement at the Marianist Residence Community. He was a docent for the San Antonio Museum of Art and for a local historical park, was a volunteer Spanish teacher and served as an ombudsman at a nearby nursing home.

“Jim loved people and was very sociable,” said Bro. Lester Kaehler, who was director of the Marianist Residence Community. “He greatly enjoyed kidding and laughing, and he was always a ‘faith-full’ brother of Mary.”

May he rest in peace.