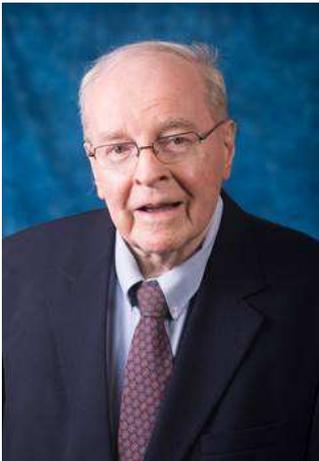


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Death Notice No. 1 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **EUGENE MEYERPETER**, of the Marianist Residence (San Antonio, Texas), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 5, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 88 with 69 years of religious profession.

Brother Gene was a teacher of math and chemistry and was a fervent advocate of technology and innovation in secondary education. He also believed in empowering faculty members and is remembered with gratitude for delegating authority to them.

Eugene (“Gene”) Joseph Meyerpeter was born October 31, 1927, in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Murer) Meyerpeter, also had a daughter, Elizabeth. After attending grade school with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Gene attended Hadley Technical High School because his father considered it important for him to learn a trade. Influenced by the Marianist brothers who ran the nearby North Side Catholic High School (later De Andreis High School), Gene entered the Marianist novitiate at Marynook in Galesburg, Wisconsin, in 1945 at age 18. His first profession occurred one year later in Galesburg on August 15, 1946. He completed his scholasticate at Maryhurst Normal in Kirkwood, Missouri, and Mount Saint John in Dayton. On July 16, 1950, 23-year-old Brother Gene professed perpetual vows at Marynook.

After graduating from the University of Dayton in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in education, Brother Gene taught for 10 years at four high schools in Chicago and the St. Louis area: St. Mary’s High School in St. Louis; Coyle High School in Kirkwood, Missouri; St. Michael’s in Chicago; and Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois. He taught religion, chemistry and math; moderated band, photography, science and glee clubs; worked in guidance and served as a recruitment coordinator. During these years, Brother Gene earned a master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame. Brother Gene was a teacher and assistant principal at St. John Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, from 1962 – 1964, and held the same two roles at Assumption High School for the following two years.

In 1966 Brother Gene was asked to help plan a new retreat center in Glencoe (now Eureka), Missouri, in the former St. Louis Province. After visiting retreat centers in several states, he returned to the property and chose the location, structure, furnishings and program for the Marianist Apostolic Center (now the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center.) Brother Gene served as director for three years. The center has been serving youth in the St. Louis archdiocese and adult retreatants for almost 50 years.

Brother Gene was principal of Assumption High School in East St. Louis from 1970 to 1975, followed by a four-year stint as the director of a formation program for high school teachers and administrators.

He was principal at Daniel J. Gross High School in Omaha from 1981 to 1983, followed by three years as treasurer of the former St. Louis Province. In 1987 he was named assistant for planning and research to the president of St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, a position he held for seven years.

Brother Gene loved applying technology and innovation to education. He was active in the St. Louis and Chicago Science Teachers organizations, and was president of the Diocesan Principal Association. He received two National Science Foundation grants in chemistry, one to Princeton University in 1959 and another to Brown University in 1960. As an exchange teacher at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland in the early 1960s, Brother Gene was involved in the "Chemical Bond Approach," an experimental chemistry program for junior honor students.

In an interview with the "North Texas Catholic" in Fort Worth in 1996, Brother Gene said: "Through technology, I believe we can find ways to bring Catholic education to those who can't afford it."

In the same article, the late Brother Pierre Weitkamp said Brother Gene promoted his faculty. "He believes in them and treats them with great respect," said Brother Pierre. Brother Gene took on the dual role of president/principal at Nolan High School in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1994, continuing as president when a new principal was appointed. Father Tim Kenney said, "In his later years, he was very motivated to learn and use technology to tap into the hearts of people."

Brother Gene was honored to be selected as a delegate to the 1996 General Chapter in Rome, at which the delegates voted for Father David Fleming as the new superior general. "I was moved by the way language and culture barriers gave way to a vision for the common good," he wrote.

From 2002 to 2009, he was assistant to the Province Office of Education in the newly formed Marianist Province of the United States. Father Oscar Vasquez, who ministered with Brother Gene at Nolan, said he was a Marianist educator and administrator and took both roles seriously. "Most importantly, he was faithful to daily personal and community prayer. He modeled Marianist leadership and the principles of subsidiarity. When issues came up, he was quick to call for a conversation of those involved. He modeled the concept of conversation and the discipleship of equals which is so needed in our world these days."

At age 82, Brother Gene stepped down from full-time ministry. He moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio in 2010, continuing to coordinate special projects in the Office of Education and helping coordinate the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP). He served as part of the Province Office of Sponsorship.

Tim Neary, director of MUSP at Villa Angela-St. Joseph in Cleveland, learned a lot about Brother Gene when he was being interviewed for the job. "It was obvious he cared about the young people in MUSP Cleveland, even though he never met them. He cared about social justice and what we are called to do for the marginalized in society. His devotion to Mary came through as he asked how I worked with young girls that have experienced hardships. These were important to him."

Brother Gene would have celebrated 70 years of profession in the Society of Mary this summer.

May he rest in peace.