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Death Notice No. 17 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RICHARD MIDDLETON**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 18, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 87 with 70 years of religious profession.

Brother Richard was a longtime teacher and librarian at Marianist high schools. He ministered for more than 20 years at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska, where one of four school “houses” is named in his honor.

Richard Delaney Middleton was born October 22, 1927, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was one of four children in the family of Martha (Rother) and Charles Middleton. The Middletons were a devout family. Richard’s older brother, Charles Jr., became a diocesan priest and served in the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas. A sister, Virginia, became a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Brother Richard attended William Cullen McBride High School in St. Louis, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary. “I was impressed by their family spirit and spiritual vigor,” he later wrote. He joined the postulate at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, at age 15.

Brother Richard entered the Marynook novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin, in 1944, and professed first vows there on August 15, 1945. He attended the University of Dayton, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in education in 1948.

In the fall of that year, Brother Richard began his long ministry in Marianist high schools. He taught for one year at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, then for four years at Central Catholic High School in East St. Louis, Illinois. He professed perpetual vows on July 16, 1950, in Galesville.

He taught and served as the school librarian at Assumption High School in East St. Louis in 1953 – 1954, and was the librarian at Cathedral High School in Belleville, Illinois, from 1954 – 1963. During his time at Cathedral High, Brother Richard earned a second bachelor’s degree; this one in library science from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas, in 1956.

In these early years, Brother Richard taught religion, chemistry and math. Like most Marianists who served in schools, his additional tasks were varied and numerous. He moderated chess teams, sodalities and library clubs, managed school bookstores, maintained lockers and was a ticket handler at sporting events.

“Brother Richard was very generous with his time and energy. He was the ‘person behind’ many things, getting them done without fanfare,” said Father Al McMenemy, who served with Brother

Richard for many years. “Rich was a humble man, a good religious. He liked to go with me to visit various Marianist Affiliate groups, contributing his own prayerfulness, discussion and friendliness.”

Brother Richard served as the librarian at St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis from 1963 – 1967, and continued as librarian at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas, from 1967 – 1971. Later that year, he began a long tenure at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska. Brother Richard remained at Gross Catholic for more than two decades, where he was the face and heart of the school library.

“Brother Rich was a quiet, humble servant at Gross Catholic High School for 21 years,” said Dorothy Ostrowski, president at Gross. “He is remembered as a kind and gentle man who performed a variety of tasks quietly and willingly. Seeing Brother Rich always brought a smile to your face and joy to your heart. He was that kind of brother.”

During these years, Brother Richard also was active in the Catholic Library Association, serving on executive boards in St. Louis, San Antonio and Omaha. He also served as treasurer of the Missouri Association of School Librarians. He believed greatly in the value of his library ministry. In an article for the Catholic Library Association, he wrote: “This activity is certainly apostolic in its striving to instill responsibility into the heads of high school students. Reading shapes one’s character. If one reads the best books, he will develop into a noble personality.”

In 1992, Brother Richard returned to his hometown of St. Louis, where he lived first in the community at Chaminade College Preparatory and later in the community at St. John Vianney High School. He handled maintenance duties for his communities and took care of the communities’ cars, a task he enjoyed greatly.

In 2014, Gross Catholic High School instituted a “house system” to strengthen community among students in different grades and inspire their social, spiritual and academic growth. Each house is named for a Marianist who served at the school. The Gross website states: “The purpose of naming houses after these men is to honor those who significantly shaped our school community.” One of the four is called “Middleton House,” in honor of Brother Richard.

May he rest in peace.