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**Death Notice No. 3 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSEPH NU'UANU**, of the Cupertino Marianist Community (California), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 23, 2013 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 77 with 56 years of religious profession.

Bro. Joe was a joyful and exuberant spirit, described by a fellow brother as a “gifted educator who found his niche in service to the poor.”

Joseph Poui Nu'uanu was born to Henry and Lei (Kailiahi) Nu'uanu on May 19, 1935, in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Joseph was the second oldest of the large Chinese-Hawaiian Nu'uanu clan of five boys and six girls.

“He didn't need leis or chants to support his heritage. It was part of his soul,” said Bro. Bill Farrell. “His legacy doesn't need to be exaggerated: He was a just man who found the face of Christ in serving the poor.”

In 1955, after graduating from Marianist-sponsored Saint Louis College (now Saint Louis School) in Honolulu, Joseph wrote to Marianist Provincial Walter Tredtin to ask for entrance into the Marianist novitiate. “Since I can only tell what is in my heart, I shall dispense with the flowery words and lay my cards flat on the table,” he wrote. “Under the auspices of the Brothers of Mary, I have come to know real love of Mary, God and neighbor. Their guidance has given me an incentive to guide others to the righteous path of God.”

Joseph entered the novitiate in Santa Cruz, California, in August 1955. He professed first vows at Santa Cruz on August 15, 1956, and spent two years at the scholasticate at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. Bro. Joe called his first profession date “one of the scariest days of my life.” The entire group got food poisoning from potato salad that had been sitting in the sun. “The nuns from a nearby hospital were angels of mercy,” he wrote, “and soon peace was restored.”

He professed perpetual vows on August 26, 1962, in Canoga Park, California. The following year he earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of San Francisco in California.

For more than 20 years, from 1958 until 1980, Bro. Joe served the Marianists as an educator at Saint Louis School in Honolulu, St. Anthony High School in Maui and Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco. In the summer of 1965 he studied Hawaiiana, the culture of Hawai'i, especially the Kingdom of Hawai'i era, at the University of Hawai'i. St. Anthony became well known for its Hawaiian Week programs because of Bro. Joe.

Fr. Ted Ley tells a wonderful story about this period: “At the school carnival at Saint Louis School in 1973, Bro. Joe and Bro. Gary Morris challenged each other to a “pie in the face” for the moderator whose division came in second. Bro. Joe’s division lost by a slight margin. As students watched in silence, Bro. Joe appeared, nattily attired in black vest and tie. The two men walk toward each other. Bro. Gary simultaneously applied two large coconut cream pies to Joe’s face. When interviewed by students, Bro. Joe said, ‘We Hawaiian *ali’i* (old nobility) must maintain our dignity, even in the most challenging situations.’”

In 1980 Bro. Joe began studies at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, a graduate school of Santa Clara University, receiving his master’s degree in theology in 1982.

Bro. Joe’s life changed dramatically in the mid-1980s. “From being a teacher and mentor to high school students, he shifted gears and became a servant and student of the needy, hungry and poor,” said Bro. Tom Redmond. “He learned from them that the most important things in life are what bind us together as one.”

Bro. Joe served as an intake counselor for homeless families seeking shelter at the Emergency Housing Consortium in San Jose, California. But it was his role as executive director of Martha’s Kitchen, an interfaith community dining room in San Jose, that set the course for his life.

When Bro. Joe became director of the dining room in 1986, he had no experience in running a soup kitchen. At the time, Martha’s Kitchen was serving 30,000 meals a year to the needy. When he retired in December 2002, it was serving 100,000 meals at the original location as well as eight other locations. Bro. Joe also had made the kitchen a profitable organization.

A 2002 article from the *San Jose Mercury News* said that Nu’uana had been “. . . a wellspring of good cheer, optimism and kindness” to those who worked with him. He told people to pray for donations to the soup kitchen, but said, “When you talk to God, don’t beg. Expect a miracle and he’ll come through.” When asked about his experiences at Martha’s Kitchen, Bro. Joe said, “Some people have said ‘You’re doing a good job with the poor.’ I say, ‘Oh no, the poor have done a good job with me.’”

After retiring from the soup kitchen, he served as sub-director of the San Juan residence in Cupertino for several years, and then moved to the Cupertino Marianist Community in 2007.

“He was indeed a noble Hawaiian,” said Bro. Bill Farrell. “The gentleness of his spirit, his devotion to Our Lady, his eye for the beautiful, was truly inspirational.”

May he rest in peace.