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Death Notice No. 24 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Marianist Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RICHARD ROESCH**, of the Marianist Residence (San Antonio, Texas) who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 2, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 91 with 72 years of religious profession.

Bro. Richard was a teacher and librarian who spent much of his long ministerial life at Marianist schools in Hawai'i and at Cleveland public schools.

Richard Louis Roesch was born on August 14, 1923, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was one of seven children in the family of Louis and Marie (Salatel) Roesch. In addition to a religious calling, Bro. Richard may have had a genetic predisposition to Marianist life. Two uncles, Louis Salatel (died 1953) and Anthony Salatel (died 1968) were Marianist brothers. His appreciation of the Society of Mary increased when he was taught by members of the Society at Cathedral Latin School in his hometown.

Just before his 15th birthday, he entered the postulate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio. He entered the novitiate at Beacon, New York, in 1941, and professed his first vows there on August 24, 1942.

Bro. Richard earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1944. Over the next few years, he taught at Trinity College in Sioux City, Iowa; St. Michael in Baltimore, Maryland; and Holy Rosary in Dayton, Ohio. He professed his perpetual vows on August 26, 1945, at the University of Dayton.

During the 1946 school year, Bro. Richard taught at St. Mary's School in Hilo, Hawai'i. He then moved to Saint Louis College (now Saint Louis School) in Honolulu, where he remained through 1952. "Richard was a gentle teacher," said Bro. Tom Spring. "He was very caring and solicitous with his grade school students."

In 1952, Bro. Richard completed the first of his master's degrees, this one in history from the University of Hawai'i.

For the next eight years (1953 – 1961), Bro. Richard taught at Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco, California. He also completed a second master's degree in library science from the University of Southern California in 1957. This degree helped turn his ministry focus in a new direction.

Bro. Richard returned to Saint Louis School in 1961, this time as librarian. He served 10 years at the school, and during this tenure earned a master's degree in media from University of Hawai'i in 1969. He then moved to the librarian's role at St. Anthony School in Maui for another 10-year span

(1971 – 1981). During this time, he also served a term as president of the Hawai'i Library Association.

Bro. Richard returned to the U.S. mainland later in 1981 and began a period of renewal at the University of Notre Dame. He then served a year as librarian at DeSales High School in Walla Walla, Washington. Bro. Richard returned home to Cleveland in 1983 to care for his aged father and an aunt.

Because there was not a librarian position open at St. Joseph High School (now Villa Angela – St. Joseph), Bro. Richard took a job with the Cleveland public schools. Beginning in 1986, he was librarian at schools including East Technical and Max S. Hayes. “I have been impressed with how he touched the personal lives of his students,” said Bro. Jack Dempsey, his community director at the time. “In the casual conversations he shared at dinner, he revealed his concern for his students.”

Always an energetic person, Bro. Richard was an avid swimmer and bicyclist. In 1993, shortly before his 70th birthday, he joined hundreds of other cyclists in the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure, covering 50 miles per day for seven days and camping in a tent along the way.

In 2002, at age 78 and after 57 years in education, Bro. Richard retired. He remained active in his community on Marcella Road in Cleveland and was a volunteer with a local hospice agency.

Bro. Richard moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio in 2007. “Bro. Richard was a loveable brother,” said Bro. Lester Kaehler, the community director at the time. “He was strong-willed, but humble and mischievous with a good sense of humor. I will miss his gentle smile.”

May he rest in peace.