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Death Notice No. 7 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSEPH TARRILLION**, priest, of the Marianist Residence community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 2, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 83 with 64 years of religious profession.

Father Joe was an educator and school administrator dedicated to serving others. He spent most of his long ministry in San Antonio, including about 15 years each at St. Mary's University and Central Catholic High School.

Joseph Anthony Tarrillion was born on June 20, 1933, in San Antonio. He was one of five children in the family of William and Anne Josephine (Mosel) Tarrillion. He attended St. Cecelia parish school and Central Catholic High School. His family had close ties to the Marianists; his father and uncles had attended St. Mary's University, and he remembered socializing with Marianist brothers and priests from a young age.

Father Joe entered the Marynook novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, at age 18. He professed first vows at Marynook one year later, on August 15, 1952.

Father Joe earned a bachelor's degree in English from St. Mary's University in 1955, and began teaching later that year at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois. As evidence of the high expectations for young Marianist teachers, among Father Joe's five classes was Latin I, with 38 boys. His smallest classes had 32 boys. He remained at Assumption through 1958, and then taught at McBride High School in St. Louis, Missouri, for the following three years.

In 1961, Father Joe entered the Regina Mundi Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, and earned a degree in theology. He was ordained on March 26, 1966, in Fribourg.

Later that year, Father Joe began a three-year stint as chaplain and teacher at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He remained in Milwaukee for another two years (1969 – 1971) as the director of religious education for St. Mary's Parish.

During this time, Father Joe was also working toward a master's degree in theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He completed the degree in 1971.

For the following seven years, Father Joe ministered at Bordeaux House in St. Louis, as director of religious education for the former St. Louis Province. His role involved forming lay men and women as teachers of religion.

Father Joe returned to San Antonio in 1977, where he began an extended tenure at his alma mater, St. Mary's University. He was a professor of theology and, beginning in 1980, chairman of the theology department. In 1982, he established the university's Marianist Religious Forum and served as its executive director. During the late 1980s and early '90s, he was also the Marianist representative to the university's board of trustees.

In 1993, Father Joe was called to serve as president of his former high school, Central Catholic. At the time, the school was struggling. It turned out that Father Joe was what the school needed. Over the next 15 years, he worked to strengthen academics and increase enrollment. He built up the school's alumni support base and was able to increase its endowment from \$450,000 to more than \$4 million. He led successful capital campaigns that made it possible to improve school facilities.

"Father Joe made lasting contributions to the future of Central Catholic High School during his long tenure as president," said Brother Jim Burkholder, a school faculty member. "He went to cities with large CCHS alumni populations, and met with alumni personally to explain our development goals. He brought many alumni 'back into the fold,'" said Brother Jim.

In 2008, Father Joe was named a St. Mary's University "Distinguished Alumnus" and was feted at a special ceremony on the campus he loved, surrounded by many he had influenced over the years.

In late 2009, health problems necessitated that Father Joe step down from the busy role of school president. And so, at age 76, he became the school's "president emeritus."

"Father Joe Tarrillion was a good man who rolled up his sleeves every day and got busy building strong families of faith. He was happy serving others," said Paul Garro, current president of Central Catholic. "This school is thriving today because of Father Tarrillion's unwavering commitment, wisdom and spiritual insight. We stand on his shoulders and will seek his guidance in his forever position of president emeritus."

Father Joe moved to the Marianist Residence, a healthcare facility on the campus of St. Mary's. In his later years, he received kidney dialysis treatments three times each week, for more than four hours at a time. "Father Joe was brave in his suffering," said Brother Mike O'Grady, director of the Marianist Residence. "He rarely felt well, but he still wanted to be part of the community; he wanted to remain connected to his fellow brothers."

May he rest in peace.