

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

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Death Notice No. 23 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **PAUL VIESON**, priest of the Alumni Hall Marianist Community, University of Dayton, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 6, 2014 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 74 with 54 years of religious profession.

Fr. Paul was a high school teacher and university professor who served as archivist for the Marianist Province of the United States. He also ministered as an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in New Carlisle, Ohio, for more than two decades.

Paul Frederick Vieson was born on June 18, 1940, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was one of two sons and a daughter in the family of Chester and Kathryn (Miller) Vieson. He attended Catholic grade schools and Purcell High School (now Purcell Marian) in Cincinnati. He entered the postulate in Beacon, New York, at age 15. In August 1958, Fr. Paul entered the novitiate at Marcy, New York, and professed his first vows there on September 2, 1959.

A lifelong lover of history, Fr. Paul earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Dayton in 1962, and added a second bachelor's in education from UD two years later.

From 1962 to 1966, Fr. Paul taught at Chaminade High School (now Chaminade-Julienne) in Dayton. He entered the seminary at Fribourg, Switzerland, in the fall of 1966, and went on to earn a degree in sacred theology. He was ordained to the diaconate in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 16, 1970.

Fr. Paul continued studies at the University of Chicago and Saint Louis University, earning master's degrees in 1972 and 1974, respectively. For part of this time, he also was teaching world history and English at Monsignor Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In 1977, Fr. Paul completed a final year of teaching at Hackett, and rededicated his time to his studies. He returned to the University of Chicago and also studied at the Borthwick Institute at the University of York in England.

Fr. Paul returned to his home state and to the University of Dayton in 1981, where he taught European history. "I observed some of (Fr. Paul's) classes, and I remember what a passionate and knowledgeable teacher he was," said Paul Benson, a fellow UD professor. "Students deeply appreciated the range of his knowledge and his sense of humor. They knew he cared for both their intellectual and personal development."

Not necessarily one for direct paths, Fr. Paul was ordained a priest on September 2, 1984, at Mount Saint John in Dayton. Fr. Paul later quipped in his jubilee biography that Cincinnati Archbishop

Daniel Pilarczyk called his time between seminary and ordination “the longest temporary diaconate in the Church’s history.”

Fr. Paul continued as a professor at UD while also serving as a director of his Marianist community. In 1987, he completed his dissertation and received a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago.

In 1998, Fr. Paul was named director of the archives for the Cincinnati, Pacific and New York Provinces of the Society of Mary.

“Paul’s depth of understanding of European history was remarkable. He was an excellent teacher, always well prepared. His students knew they were getting the best from him,” said Bro. Joe Kamis, who was provincial of the Cincinnati Province at the time. “He gave that same energy and commitment to the archives when he took them over. He updated himself through readings, videos and journals.”

In addition to his work at the archives and UD, Fr. Paul served on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Council of Priests. He also had a relationship with Sacred Heart Parish in New Carlisle, Ohio, north of Dayton. Beginning in 1987, he served as an assistant pastor, and continued to celebrate the Eucharist at the parish until a few weeks before his death.

“Fr. Paul was always concerned about helping people,” said Bro. John Habjan. “He enjoyed his ministry at Sacred Heart parish and the parishioners liked and respected him very much.”

May he rest in peace.