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



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CHARLES WANDA**, of the Novitiate Community, Dayton, Ohio, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 21, 2016 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 80 with 53 years of religious profession.

Brother Charlie was a gifted artist and beloved educator who taught for more than 40 years. He inspired many students to pursue careers as designers, architects, artists and teachers. He will be remembered for his gentle, welcoming manner.

Charles Patrick Wanda was born on September 23, 1935, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the only child of Albert and Alta (Weber) Wanda. He attended Catholic elementary schools in Cleveland and graduated from St. Joseph High School (now Villa Angela-St. Joseph), where he first met members of the Society of Mary.

Brother Charlie earned a bachelor's degree in art education from the University of Dayton in 1959. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves, resigning as a first lieutenant to accept a job as a teacher at his former high school.

In 1962, following his second year as a teacher at St. Joseph's and with encouragement from Marianists and other friends, he entered the novitiate in Marcy, New York. He professed first vows in Marcy on August 22, 1963, and perpetual vows on August 28, 1966, in Dayton.

In the middle of these two milestones, Brother Charlie began a long and fruitful ministry as a teacher at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Moeller, an all-boys school, had opened just a few years before. Brother Charlie would become a pillar of Moeller. He taught art and mechanical drawing, and was moderator of the yearbook, art club and Marianist LIFE (Living in Faith Experience). He was chairman of the fine arts department. He created set designs for school plays and programs for myriad school events.

Brother Charlie used his summers to continue his own studies and earned a master's degree in art education from Pratt Institute of New York in 1971. He also served as director of his community for many years during the 1970s.

With a brief break from 1982 – 1984 to study at the Central Academy of Commercial Art in Cincinnati, Brother Charlie served at Moeller from 1964 to 2004. His skill, warmth and compassion touched the lives of thousands of students.

A former student, Michael Kennedy, wrote to Brother Charlie on Facebook: “Words don't do justice in thanking you for the role you played in my life. You were there to challenge me when I needed it; we laughed together, we cried after my father passed and you taught me to find peace when life threw curveballs. Thank you for allowing God to use you in such amazing ways!”

“You truly changed the course of my entire life,” wrote another former student, David Trumpey. “I can't imagine where I would be without your influence. The impact you have had is profound.”

It was not only students who were influenced by Brother Charlie. A number of Marianists also credit him for his impact on their vocation. Brother Jim Moran is among them. “I used to visit the Marianist community in Cincinnati after work,” said Brother Jim. “Charlie and I hit it off immediately and became very good friends. He was the one who urged me to become a Marianist.”

In 2004, Brother Charlie retired from Moeller. In a tribute in a Moeller publication, a fellow teacher, Greg Stanforth, called Brother Charlie “the best representative Jesus has on this earth.” He wrote, “All he (Brother Charlie) ever wanted from any of his students is that we treat each other with dignity and respect, and that we show appreciation for our gifts by making the most of them – not for our own benefit – but for the benefit of each other and the love of Jesus and his mother.”

Brother Charlie moved to Dayton, where he became a resident artist at the Marianist Gallery at Mount Saint John. In a jubilee reflection, he wrote, “Although I'm no longer involved in the active ministry of teaching, I find new fulfillment by creating art that teaches others about the beauty of God's continuing creation.”

Brother Charlie was diagnosed with lymphoma in September of 2015. While treatment pushed the cancer into remission for a while, it recurred in July of 2016.

“Charlie had a strong faith that he expressed in actions, not words,” said Brother Charlie Johnson, who also lives at the Marianist Novitiate Community. “For the young guys, Charlie was a grandfather figure. He was a listener. He made the community a better place.”

May he rest in peace.