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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, **JAMES WISECAVER**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 17, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 73 with 54 years of religious profession.

A creative and energetic man, Brother Jim ministered as a high school teacher and principal, a college professor, a photographer and a member of the Marianist vocation team. He is remembered for his ability to be fully present to those around him, creating a sense of welcome and warmth wherever he was.

James Frederick Wisecaver was born July 5, 1942, in Santa Monica, California. He was the second of four sons in the family of John and Jene

(Provinsal) Wisecaver.

Brother Jim attended St. Joseph Parish Grade School and Junipero Serra High School, both in Gardena, California. It was at Serra that he first encountered members of the Society of Mary, and he entered the novitiate in Santa Cruz, California, shortly after graduating from high school in 1960. He followed in the footsteps of his older brother, John, who was a member of the Society of Mary from 1958 to 1991.

Brother Jim professed first vows in 1961. He attended the University of Dayton, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1965. That fall, he began teaching at Archbishop Mitty High School, a Marianist-staffed school in San Jose, California. He professed perpetual vows on August 26, 1967, in San Francisco, California.

He remained at Archbishop Mitty until 1976, rising to become chairman of the science department and the principal of second-year students. He earned a master's degree in educational administration from San Jose State University in California in 1976. In the fall of that year, he returned to his alma mater, Serra High, where he was assistant principal.

“Jim was a Marianist through and through. In the ‘70s when so many religious were leaving their communities, he said he made a conscious decision that he was going to stay in religious life,” said Sister Evangeline Escobar, provincial of the Marianist Sisters in the United States. “He was very enterprising and always found ways to make things work in community. At one time, the community needed a car, so he took an evening job in a department store to bring in extra income for the car,” she said.

In 1979, Brother Jim was called to minister as principal at St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School in Wailuku, Hawai'i. He served there through the 1986 – 1987 school year. He then took a year's sabbatical, participating in a program for church leaders at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Brother Jim spent 1988 to 1991 working on a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of San Francisco in California. He put the degree to good use quickly, serving as associate superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Victoria, Texas. During this time, he helped create a graduate program in student leadership at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

"He was a master educator who taught by every word, gesture and action," said Brother Brandon Paluch. "He had a huge heart and mischievous grin, along with stories and lessons for every occasion. He was always up for a little adventure, whether it was a photo shoot along the California coast or a drive along Los Angeles city streets," Brother Brandon said.

Brother Jim continued his work with the Texas dioceses until 1994, when he accepted a post as dean of students at Chaminade University of Honolulu. Then, from 1996 – 1997, he served as associate superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Monterey in California. During this time, he also began serving on the board of trustees at Chaminade College Preparatory in West Hills, California.

In 1997, Brother Jim became a professor of education at California State University, Northridge, with a key responsibility of supervising student teachers. "Jim was not afraid to visit schools in lower economic areas to evaluate student teachers," said Brother Tom Oles, who lived in the West Hills Community with Brother Jim. "And he felt an obligation to help student teachers from minority or lower economic backgrounds." Brother Jack Dempsey, the community's director, said peers at CSUN spoke highly of Brother Jim's abilities and commitment. "His colleagues referred to him as the 'utility outfielder' because he was always willing to drive to far-flung fields and struggling public high schools where other supervisors didn't want to travel," Brother Jack said.

During these years, Brother Jim also ministered as part of the Marianist vocation team. "Jim gave himself fully to relationships with diverse vocation contacts over the years, following up with them doggedly and taking a genuine interest in their lives," said Brother Tom Wendorf, Province vocation director. "Jim's energy for sharing the Marianist charism came through in many ways."

"Brother Jim always had time for you no matter where he was or what he was doing – the gift of presence was one he would never deny anyone," said Brother Michael Chiuri. "His legendary trips to have lunch with those discerning a call to Marianist life or to go on photography trips with a group of contacts created moments of community in which we all felt loved and appreciated. He'd say, 'how can we expect people to join us if we don't have time to spend time with them before they join us?'" Brother Michael said.

Brother Jim became ill in early 2015 and spent time in and out of health care facilities before moving to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio in September. Sister Evangeline Escobar was among those who visited Brother Jim in his last days.

"I was present during one of his conversations with the doctors. They had come in to talk about hospice and wanted to make sure he was in agreement not to have them use any extraordinary means to keep him alive," Sister Evangeline said. "He stated very clearly that he was ready to go, that he had had a wonderful life as a Marianist, and that if God wanted him at this time, he was ready."

May he rest in peace.