

September 2, 2013

Death Notice No. 17 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **WILLIAM McCARTHY**, of the Marianist Residence Community (San Antonio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 20, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 89 with 71 years of religious profession.

Bro. Bill was a longtime teacher who spent more than a decade in ministry in Peru. He will be remembered for his positive attitude, his love of golf and his willingness to work hard for the benefit of the Society of Mary.

Born on September 11, 1923, in St. Louis, Missouri, Bro. Bill was among four sons and two daughters in the family of Thomas and Margaret (O'Donnell) McCarthy. He attended St. Mark grade school and McBride High School, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary. During his freshman year, he decided he would become a brother.

Bro. Bill professed his first vows on August 15, 1942, and his perpetual vows on July 1, 1946, both in Galesville, Wisconsin.

In an accelerated wartime program, Bro. Bill earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1944. That fall, he began his long association with Central Catholic High School in San Antonio as a teacher of religion, social studies and Spanish. Bro. Bill returned to the St. Louis area for brief teaching stints at Cathedral High School in Belleville, Illinois, and his alma mater, McBride High, in the late 1940s.

In 1952, Bro. Bill earned a master's degree in United States history from Saint Louis University, and also began a six-year assignment as a vocation recruiter for the former St. Louis Province. He was a dedicated recruiter, with one report noting that during a three-month period, he visited 62 schools in six dioceses and gave more than 125 vocation talks to groups of various sizes.

During the late 1950s, Bro. Bill made a second novitiate at Marycliff in Glencoe (now Eureka), Missouri, and returned to teaching at McBride High.

The 1960s and early 1970s were a step into another world for Bro. Bill as he taught and ministered at a number of Marianist outposts in Peru. A newsletter he sent to his fellow Marianists in the states describes the impoverished but joyful people of the region, the similarities between the Amazon and the Mississippi rivers, and a "tarantula as big as my fist."

In 1973, Bro. Bill returned to the United States and to teaching at Central Catholic. He remained there for the next 22 years. "I had the privilege of being in Bro. McCarthy's American History class my junior year," said Michael Cruz, a 1984 Central graduate. "He had a way of making you feel important – as if you were the only student in his class. And he loved to teach by storytelling. He could make you feel as if you were there in that time period."

“Bro. McCarthy was a great storyteller. I remember his stories about teaching in Peru,” echoed David Korn, a 1977 Central graduate. “He was a good teacher, and a very entertaining one. And he had a big love of life.” Bro. Bill also taught Korn’s father and uncle, who graduated in 1952.

“I think Bro. McCarthy’s legacy at Central will be that of a man of God who instilled Marianist values in each of the thousands of students he taught over the years,” said Cruz.

Bro. Bill’s career did not end when he retired from teaching in 1995. He enjoyed working with his hands and assisted Bro. Tom Suda on many construction and remodeling projects. The pair worked for months at a time at Tecaboca, the Marianist retreat center in Texas.

“Bill and I became good friends after he retired,” said Bro. Tom Suda. “The projects we worked on were often very physical, but he was helpful and always a very positive partner. He did the work because he was committed to helping the order in any way he could.”

Bro. Bill was also a talented, enthusiastic golfer. At age 70, he shot a 72 on 18 holes; at age 83 he shot an 81 on 18 holes. Bro. Mike O’Grady was his community director and golfing partner in recent years. “We’d be out on the course and Bill would remark repeatedly, ‘Isn’t this a beautiful day?’” said Bro. Mike. “He was a wonderfully positive person.”

May he rest in peace.