

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

December 14, 2017

Death Notice No. 29 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ANTHONY PISTONE**, of the Marianist Community in California, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 6, 2017, in California, USA, at the age of 82 with 64 years of religious profession.

Brother Tony, as he was known, was a teacher and school administrator who also served as assistant provincial of the former St. Louis Province and as regional superior of the Marianists in India.

Anthony Joseph Pistone was born on March 25, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois. He was one of four children in the family of Joseph and Irene (Deane) Pistone. After public elementary school, young Tony attended St. Michael Central High School in Chicago, where he first encountered the Brothers of Mary.

Inspired by the Marianists' warmth and skill as teachers, Tony entered the Marynook novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin, in 1952, and professed first vows there a year later, on August 15, 1953.

Brother Tony earned a bachelor's degree in music education at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, in 1956, and began teaching later that same year at McBride High School in St. Louis, Missouri. He remained at McBride through mid-1959. He professed perpetual vows on July 19, 1959.

For the next several years, Brother Tony taught at Cathedral High School in Belleville, Illinois (1959-1964) and Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1964-1965).

From 1965-1967, Brother Tony was an instructor at the Marianist scholasticate at St. Mary's University while also serving as the community subdirector. During this time, he earned a master's degree in theology from St. Mary's.

Brother Tony returned to high school ministry for the next several years, teaching at McBride (1967-1969 and 1970-1972), Don Bosco (1969-1970) and St. Mary's High School in St. Louis (1972-1974). His assignments typically included band, chorus, English and religion classes, and he often moderated sodality and student council.

Ned Maniscalco, a McBride alumnus, said that Brother Tony showed him a different way of looking at the world and at himself. "For me, he was a beacon that helped me navigate the often treacherous waters of late adolescence and early manhood."

Brother Tony ministered as the director of the Shenandoah Community in St. Louis for two years before being called to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to be assistant principal at McGuinness High School. He served there until mid-1978.

That same year, Brother Tony completed a master's degree in private school education from the University of San Francisco.

For most of the next decade, Brother Tony rose through the administrative ranks at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas. He was assistant principal, principal and president at Nolan, spanning the years from 1979-1987.

“Bro. Tony was faithful to his yes to God's call to Marianist life and mission wherever God called him,” said Father Jim Tobin. “He was a good community man. He loved life to the fullest with a spirit of joy, humor and optimism. He cherished his friends and relationships.”

In 1987, Brother Tony was named assistant provincial for the St. Louis Province, a post he held through 1992.

When he completed his term as assistant provincial, he took a year's sabbatical in an atypical location: India. His time at the Chaminade Niyala Community in Bangalore convinced him of his call to serve the poor.

After another stint teaching high school in St. Louis (at Chaminade College Preparatory, 1993-1995), Brother Tony returned to India.

He spent nearly all of his 60s in India, eventually serving as regional superior. (The geographic designation has since changed and India is now a district, not a region.) Brother Tony later wrote that the highlight of his vocation was ministering to the street children in Bangalore.

Indian Father Josephraj remembers Brother Tony from his early days of his aspirancy. “Brother Tony was my first director,” said Father Josephraj. “He was very generous to the brothers and the street children. He used to spend time with the children at a cemetery because they lacked space in the slum.” A fellow Indian Marianist, Brother Kumaraswamy, added that Brother Tony would teach the children as they sat on tombs because there was no other place for them to be. “Brother Tony was the one who sowed the seeds of the ‘REDS’ program we provide today,” said Brother Kumaraswamy, noting that he is hugely grateful for Brother Tony's contributions to the growth of the mission of the District of India. (Today, REDS is a ministry to street children, providing them with basic education and healthcare.)

After spending a total of seven years in India, Brother Tony returned again to the United States and to high school ministry. He taught for another three years (2003-2006) at Chaminade in St. Louis.

For the next several years, Brother Tony was director of the Marianist Community at Chaminade College Preparatory in West Hills, California. From there, he moved into the healthcare community where he resided until his death.

“Brother Tony Pistone lived a life of extraordinary richness,” said Father Ralph Siefert, who knew him for decades. “He had a wide range of interests, and his ministries reflected his talents: he was a band and choral director and a skilled school administrator and yet he was able to care for the poorest of the poor with dedication and compassion,” said Father Ralph.

May he rest in peace.