

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

January 9, 2018

Death Notice No. 1 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **DONALD SCHAAF**, of the Siena Woods community, Dayton, OH, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 3, 2018 in Dayton, OH, USA, at the age of 81 with 61 years of religious profession.

Brother Don was a teacher and ministry business manager who also served in the juvenile justice system in Tennessee.

Donald Charles Schaaf was born on May 5, 1936, in Dayton, Ohio. He was the youngest of five children in the family of Fred and Vera (Meyer) Schaaf, having three older siblings and a twin sister. He attended St. Anthony grade school and Chaminade High School,

where he was taught by Marianists.

Young Don attended the University of Dayton for one year before entering the Marianist novitiate in Marcy, New York, in 1955. He professed first vows on September 8, 1956.

Brother Don finished a bachelor's degree in education at the University of Dayton in 1959. In his early ministry, he taught at a number of Ohio high schools including St. Joseph High School (1958-1962 and 1964-1965); Hamilton Catholic High (1962-1964); and Purcell High (1965-1966). He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1961, in Dayton.

In 1967, Brother Don completed a master's degree in business administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He spent another year (1967-1968) teaching at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Brother Don was called to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, where he served as business manager at Memphis Catholic High School. When a student there got into trouble with the law, Brother Don came into contact with local juvenile authorities. Eventually, he was employed by the court system, serving as a juvenile parole officer, deputy clerk of the court and coordinator of probation services. Brother Don later wrote that he frequently asked himself, "Who will speak for these kids?" He recounted the experience of being handcuffed to a boy so that he could escort him to a funeral Mass. The funeral was for the boy's mother, whom the boy had shot and killed.

"Whenever Don would talk about his years working in the juvenile court system his eyes would light up," said Father Tom Schroer. "He especially loved developing a relationship with troubled youth and accompanying them for an appearance in court. He loved the work and provided important support for these vulnerable youth," said Father Tom.

Brother Don served the court system from 1970 to 1978, while continuing his role at Memphis Catholic High.

Later in 1978, Brother Don returned to Dayton, where he was business manager at the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning for the following three years. He then served as a residence hall supervisor at the University of Dayton for another three years.

Brother Don continued to put his bookkeeping skills to work in the next phase of his ministry. From 1984-1986, he was business manager at St. Laurence College in Dublin, Ireland. He returned to the U.S. to serve in a similar role at St. John's Home in Rockaway Park, New York, from 1986-1993. He then returned to Dublin, resuming duties at St. Laurence College for five more years (1993-1998).

Now in his 60s, Brother Don took a year's spiritual sabbatical in Shrewsbury, England. When he returned, he served Marianist communities in the Dayton area as a bookkeeper, while also assisting with care for elderly brothers.

"Don was devoted to the Society of Mary and to his family. He went about his days doing his best to do the right thing, as he saw it," said Brother Alex Tuss, who lived with Brother Don for a time, adding, "Don was quick-witted, but delivered his wit in a quiet, unassuming way."

Brother Bob Wiethorn was Brother Don's community director in his later years. "Bro Don was a faith-filled man who loved to watch EWTN (a global Catholic TV network). When it became more difficult for him to get to the chapel for prayer, this was a terrific support for him," said Brother Bob. "I am willing to bet Mother Angelica (the network's popular, recently deceased founder) was up there to welcome him through the pearly gates."

May he rest in peace.