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Death Notice No. 5 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **GERALD HYLAND**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 11, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 95 with 65 years of religious profession.

Brother Gerry was a teacher and artist. He entered the Society of Mary at age 30 after serving in the Army and sustaining serious injuries in World War II.

Gerald Joseph Hyland was born on June 27, 1922, in Nazareth, Texas. He was one of 15 children in the family of Joseph and Frances (McCormick) Hyland. The Hylands were a devout family; his siblings included a diocesan priest and three religious sisters.

Young Gerry attended public schools in his hometown, and began college at Texas Christian University. But World War II interrupted his studies. He entered the United States Army and was wounded in 1944. His injuries – which involved shell fragments in his right leg and left arm and leg – required a long hospitalization and plagued him for the rest of his days. He received the distinguished “Purple Heart” medal, awarded to those who suffer injuries at the hands of the enemy in wartime.

“I always admired how he carried his wounds from the war,” said Father Don Cahill, who lived with Brother Gerry for many years. “It wasn’t anything he ever spoke about, but his wounds were very serious.”

Upon his discharge from the Army in 1946, Gerry returned to Texas Christian University and earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in 1948. His father died that same year, and Gerry remained at home for a time, helping his mother.

“The idea of a religious vocation had been in my mind, in varying degrees, from early childhood ... In 1951 I set about finding the right order,” Brother Gerry later wrote. He said that the Society of Mary had the qualifications he preferred, particularly a devotion to Our Lady. He entered the Marynook Novitiate at Galesville, Wisconsin, in early 1951 and professed first vows there on January 22, 1953.

In his early ministry, Brother Gerry taught at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio (1954-1960). He professed perpetual vows on July 14, 1956.

In mid-1960, Brother Gerry moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to teach at St. John Vianney High School. St. Louis would be his home for the next five decades. Brother Gerry taught religion, art

and history, and he moderated the yearbook and art clubs. Most of ministry was at Vianney, but he also taught at St. Mary's High School (1963-1974 and 1975-1977).

Al Book, a long-time drama teacher at Vianney, was a student of Brother Gerry's at St. Mary's High School. "What I remember was how serious Brother Gerry was about his subject. He expected you to do your best at all times, and we worked for the fleeting nod of approval, or if you were really lucky, a smile," said Al. "I realized much later that more than an appreciation for art, Brother Gerry was instilling a strong work ethic in his students."

After Brother Gerry retired from the classroom, he continued to live at the school community while he worked as an artist at his "Rooster Gallery" on Vianney's campus.

Colleen Judge replaced Brother Gerry as Vianney's art teacher. "I have fond memories of Brother Gerry," she said. "I enjoyed his happy attitude toward life and his sense of humor. He used to say, 'When the cat's away, it's the *duty* of the mice to play.'" Colleen said she admired Brother Gerry's artwork, which included paintings, batiks, metalwork, printmaking and more.

"Brother Gerry was very meticulous as an artist," said Brother Brian Zampier, also an artist in St. Louis at the time. "He would take a long time to produce a piece that he was satisfied with." The art was sold at the Marianist Gallery in collaboration with another resident artist, the late Brother Melvin Meyer.

Brother Gerry also enjoyed cooking, and was a reliable chef for his community. For a number of years, he cooked every third Saturday for a St. Louis soup kitchen, producing a meal for about 70 people.

When Brother Gerry was 86, he was able to make a surprise visit to see his sister, Sister DeChantal Hyland, OSB, for her 102nd birthday in Arkansas. Another sister, Sister Francis Anne, 89, was able to join them. Although Brother Gerry was by this time quite hard of hearing, it was a treasured family reunion.

In 2009, at age 87, Brother Gerry moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio.

May he rest in peace.