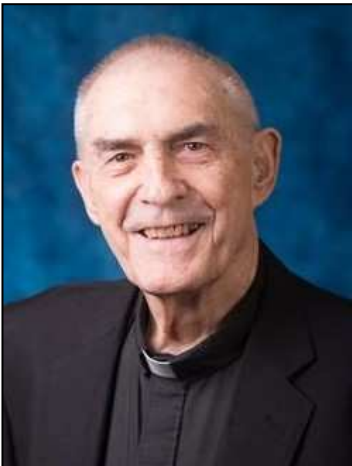


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January 26, 2018

**Death Notice No. 2 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RICHARD LOEHRLEIN**, priest, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 21, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 87 with 68 years of religious profession.

Father Richard was a teacher, chaplain and missionary. He is credited with establishing vibrant Lay Marianist communities in Malawi, where he served for nearly two decades.

Richard August Loehrlein was born on December 1, 1930, in Fulda, Indiana. He was one of eight children – four boys and four girls – in the family of Edward and Bernice (Koenig) Loehrlein. One brother, Sylvester, became a diocesan priest in Indiana. His sister Marcy, who died in 2015, was a Marianist Sister.

After attending parish grade school, young Richard followed his brother Sylvester to St. Meinrad Seminary in 1945. Yet before long he found himself called instead to life as a Marianist. He entered the postulate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, at age 16. He continued on to the novitiate in Beacon, New York, and professed first vows there on August 23, 1949.

Brother Richard earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1952. He spent his early years as a teacher at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1952-1954), and at Chaminade High School in Dayton (1954-1958). He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1953.

In 1958, Brother Richard entered the Marianist seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained on July 11, 1961, in Basel, Switzerland. He remained in Europe for an additional year of theological studies in Rome.

Father Richard then taught for a year (1963-1964) at Purcell High School in Cincinnati. In July 1964, he was called to serve in a role he had long desired. He joined other Marianists as a teacher at Mangu High School in Thika, Kenya, where he taught French and Bible studies. He also served a mission station among the Kikuyu people at nearby Kamwangi. It was in this role that Father Richard said he “began my charismatic experience, learning the real presence of the Holy Spirit.” He wrote that he was made an elder of the Kikuyu for his work at Kamwangi.

Provincial leadership called Father Richard to return to the United States in early 1970, and he served in campus ministry for two years at a community college in Lansing, Michigan.

The next stage of Father Richard's ministry found him in Dublin, Ireland, where he was a teacher and campus minister at St. Laurence College until 1981. During this time he continued involvement

with the charismatic renewal movement. He often traveled to Northern Ireland and prayed with Protestants and Catholics alike, joining the effort to bridge the historic gap between them.

Upon returning to the States, he attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and completed a master's degree in spirituality in 1982. He returned to Michigan for the next several years, ministering at St. John Church in Albion, St. Catherine of Siena in Portage, and as chaplain at Monsignor Hackett High School in Kalamazoo.

In 1990, Father Richard was asked to return to Africa, this time to Malawi. For the next 12 years, he taught religion at Chaminade Secondary School in Karonga. When he left the classroom in 2002, he continued to serve Chaminade by fundraising and conducting seminars for the teaching staff. He is credited with helping Chaminade double its enrollment from 300 to 600 students.

“Richard made great contributions to Chaminade Secondary,” said former Marianist Peter Daino, who served in Malawi with Father Richard. “His team built many teacher houses and developed income-generating activities like the maize mill, the pigs, and the chickens. He was also a great chaplain to the students of Chaminade and a real mentor for them,” Peter said. He added that many at Chaminade considered the priest to be “indestructible,” as Father Richard had survived trials including a plane crash, a fall through a roof onto concrete, and an attack by a spitting cobra.

Father Richard was instrumental at propagating the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*, not only at Chaminade, but – with the permission of the local bishop – at other area Catholic schools as well. During these years in Karonga, Father Richard also took great pleasure in helping establish Lay Marianist Communities, which he saw as part of his contribution to “helping Mary grow her family.”

“In the many years he worked in Malawi, Father Richard used to say that he met many ordinary folks who were saintly and taught him a lot about faith,” said Father Gabriel Kirangah, regional superior of Eastern Africa.

In 2008, Father Richard, now age 78, was called to Mombasa, Kenya, to serve as assistant pastor at St. Martin de Porres Parish. He again worked in Lay Marianist formation, was community director and celebrated Mass at the parish and at an outstation.

After nearly three decades of service in Eastern Africa, Father Richard, age 82, returned home to the United States at the end of 2012 for health reasons. But his missionary spirit was undaunted. Upon reading that University of Dayton was opening a campus in China, he volunteered, at least half seriously, to go there to serve at the chapel.

In his final years, Father Richard was a great friend and support to his fellow brothers at the Marianist Residence. And he continued his lifelong dedication to prayer.

“Richard told me many times during my service as provincial that he was praying for me, for the council, and for the province,” said Father Martin Solma. “In his later years especially he was a man of prayer, spending many hours in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament,” said Father Martin. “Now he can pray for us for all eternity.”

May he rest in peace.