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**Death Notice No. 10 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JAMES DROSTE**, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 14, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 83 with 62 years of religious profession.

In the more than six decades of service that Brother James (“Jim”) prayerfully devoted to our Blessed Mother, he dedicated more than 20 years as a high school teacher and administrator. Later, he served in parish ministry, maintenance and grounds keeping.

“Bro. Jim Droste's life was a life open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.” says Father James Tobin, who was a friend and in the same vow group. “He listened to that Spirit as a young farm boy in Rock Falls, Illinois. He gave himself generously to God's call to follow Jesus and serve Mary for his entire life in fidelity to his Marianist vocation. He expressed his gratitude for these blessings in a sentence he wrote on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee: ‘I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all my brothers who have so warmly accepted this farm boy from Illinois and truly made me feel I am one of your brothers.’”

James Edwin Droste was born Sept 25, 1934, in northern Illinois. He was one of 6 children (4 boys and 2 girls) in the family of Bernard and Catherine (Wirth) Droste. His family farmed around Tampico and Rock Falls. He attended Catholic elementary school and high school in Sterling, IL.

It was through his high school science teacher, Sister Carlos Marie Lubbeck, S.L., that he became connected with the Marianists. Unbeknownst to Bro. Jim, she contacted the Marianists on his behalf believing it would be a good fit. He began receiving information about the Marianists which gently prompted his discernment of religious life. When he arrived at Marynook in Galesville, WI in 1954, to enter the Postulate, Bro. Jim had only met two brothers – the recruiters who signed him up. It wasn't until after he had professed perpetual vows that Sister Carlos revealed her involvement.

In his letter requesting first vows, he wrote, “I know that I am far from the goal of perfection outlined for us by Father Chaminade. This knowledge has served only to make this desire more ardent, and, with the help of God's grace, I will endeavor to live up to the glorious title of a Brother of Mary... Mary has shown me this past year that true happiness is to be found only when working for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, striving to honor her more and thus achieve the salvation of my soul. United with this is my wish to serve my fellow Brothers and to bring the love of Jesus and Mary to youth by Catholic education”.

After Bro. Jim professed his first vows and completed scholastic studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX with a bachelor's degree in Physics, he set out to follow the vocation he had outlined in his letter for vows. From 1958 to 1982, Bro. Jim was a high school teacher striving to bring the love of Jesus and Mary to youth. He taught classes in religion, math, physical science, and

physics. His first ministry assignment was to teach at St. Joseph's School in Victoria, TX. One year later, he was off on a 'grand tour' of the Marianist high schools with assignments to McBride (St. Louis), St. Michael's (Chicago, IL), Nolan (Ft. Worth, TX), Chaminade (St. Louis), Villa St. Jean (Fribourg Switzerland), and Vianney (St. Louis). In 1965, he earned his master's degree in Physics from Purdue University.

In 1982, Bro. Jim was assigned to the community at Our Lady of the Pillar parish in St. Louis. This was quite a change from the classroom but he enjoyed the chance to work with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and other adult programs. In 1988, he was assigned to Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio with similar duties.

From 2000 to 2017, Brother Jim served at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center in Eureka, MO. There he had taken on several duties including administration, maintenance, grounds keeping, and cooking. "Brother Jim was so quietly effective: whether preparing a meal for the community, looking after guests at Marycliff or taking care of the property," writes Brother Joe Markel. "He was a model of kindness and gentleness. A man at peace with himself."

In 2017, Bro. Jim moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio.

For a farm boy from Illinois, Bro. Jim's life of service in the name of Mary has touched generations of Catholic youth. We give thanks to God for his life of generosity and quiet fidelity.

May he rest in peace.