May 7, 2018

Death Notice No. 12 (To all Unit Administrations):

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **EUGENE FRANK**, of the Marianist Community of Cupertino, California, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 22, 2018 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 86 with 59 years of religious profession.

Brother Gene was a gifted musician, scholar, and spiritual seeker. He was a beloved teacher, administrator, archivist and IT specialist in both the United States and Korea.

Eugene Nicholas Frank was born in Venice, California on May 23, 1931, the eldest of five children (2 boys and 3 girls) in the family of Nicholas Frank and Yvonne (Belanger) Frank. He attended St Monica's grammar school and high school in Santa Monica. The Marianists administered St. Monica's High School at the time and that is how Bro. Gene first came into contact with the Society of Mary.

Bro. Gene was greatly gifted in languages and music. He was fluent in French, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and German. "As a high school student, he was member of the Mount St. Mary's Symphony Orchestra," remembers Fr. Ted Lay. "We regularly played violin and piano together, and keeping up with him was a challenge because he liked to play the hardest works."

It was during a stint with the U.S. Navy that Bro. Gene decided to devote his life in the service of Mary, the Mother of God. Whenever he was in port at Pearl Harbor, he received spiritual direction from both Marianist Fr. Robert Mackey and Fr. Steve Tutas. "Eugene was a careful seeker with a great sense of wonder," recalls Fr. Tutas. After Bro. Gene was discharged, he entered the Marianist novitiate at Santa Cruz, CA, and made his first profession of vows on June 7, 1958. He made his perpetual profession on Aug 15, 1961.

Before entering the Society of Mary, Bro. Gene had already earned a bachelor's degree at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He received his master's degree in physics from UCLA in 1960 and his doctorate in plasma physics from Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1965. From 1960-1962, he was also teaching math and physics at Juniper Serra High School in Gardena, CA.

Upon receiving his PhD, Bro. Gene was assigned to teach physics and mathematics at Chaminade University of Honolulu. In 1966, he was sent to Dayton University to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in physics. Under the tutelage of Bro. Hugh Bihl, he worked with the Dayton Sodality, giving spiritual direction to sodalists and meeting with the members of the Marianist State. Bro. Gene returned to Chaminade University in 1971 as associate professor of physics and mathematics.

In 1975, he volunteered to go to Korea to assist in the formation of Korean brothers. While teaching electronic engineering at Songang University, he continued to work with the brothers and various Korean lay groups. During this time, the Marianist Sisters from Japan founded a community of Marianist Sisters in Korea. Bro. Gene felt privileged to assist in their education of Marianist spirituality and history. His final three years in Korea were spent as a principal of the Marianist high school in Mokpo.

"Bro Gene was a humble and genius saint who helped me so much with my transition to life in Korea," says Bro. Dennis Schmitz, who lived with Bro. Gene for several years in the Seoul Community in Korea. "He was one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. At the time, he was one of only two Americans to have a doctorate in plasma physics. He was so intelligent that he would get bored learning Korean, so he taught himself Chinese as a hobby. Still, he had a special ability to make the person with whom he was speaking feel like they were the most brilliant person in the world."

After dedicating 15 years in Korea, Bro. Gene returned to the United Sates in 1990. He then devoted five more years educating Catholic youth at Chaminade College Preparatory in West Hills, CA. There, he founded the computer studies program and the information systems department. His co-worker and friend, Yannis Grammatis, reflected, "Bro. Gene was a gentle soul with a discreet but intense disposition. Over the course of his life, he developed a great variety of demanding interests … He was very patient, methodical, organized and willing to learn new things at all stages of his life. A true Renaissance man! He was always willing to share his gifts with others and worked tirelessly behind the scenes. He will be missed by his friends, relatives, and Marianist Brothers."

In 1997, Bro. Gene went to Villa St. Joseph in Cupertino, CA, and invested his time and talents as province archivist. He retired to the Marianist Center in Cupertino but continued to spend much time in service to the brothers when they had computer issues. His life-long love of knowledge continued in his retirement.

In marking his 50th jubilee, Bro. Gene wrote, "The most rewarding part of my life as a Marianist was living in community." Bro. Tom Redmond reflected, "One of the greatest compliments, I believe, that we can give a fellow Marianist is that we enjoyed his presence in community. I had the joy of living with Brother Gene in four communities and in each of these he added much to our lives through the gift of himself. He brought into community life his unique personality along with his deep interest for learning."

We give thanks to God for his life as he enters the community of All the Saints in heaven.

May he rest in peace.