



The Marianists

Fr. Anthony Jansen

75 years of profession

I was born on May 13, 1924, the son of Bernard and Frances Elizabeth Kemethere Jansen. I had two sisters and a brother, and grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, where I attended Catholic elementary and high school. I met the Marianists through my cousin, Bro. John Jansen, S.M. I made first vows on Aug. 22, 1943, and perpetual vows on Aug. 25, 1946. After earning a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees, I entered the Regina Mundi Marianist Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, and was ordained on July 24, 1954.

I served as an educator in elementary and high schools for nearly 25 years, but began my major apostolic effort for the Marianists in 1969 as a teacher and chaplain in Lusaka, Zambia. For the next 40 years, I was involved in every aspect of the school, from teaching to sacramental ministries to sports to organizing lay groups. I also was instrumental in organizing a shrine to Our Lady in Lusaka.

Reflecting on my life experiences, I never found my life as a Marianist boring – from the moment that I entered, up to the present day. I always found myself surrounded by the possibility of personable relationships, never really felt alone or isolated wherever I went, and always felt welcomed, encouraged, directed and challenged by the tasks that were assigned to me.

The two great maturing experiences I had as a Marianist included studying for the priesthood in Fribourg, Switzerland; the other was teaching at our secondary school in Lusaka, Zambia. Both of these experiences immersed me within a cultural milieu that was precisely the experience needed to rise above the thought that the American way is the only way of doing something. These experiences deepened my respect for others and opened my mind and heart to learning. I have been humbled by my experiences as a Marianist.