



Bro. Edward Loch

60 years of profession

I was born in Milwaukee in 1939 on the feast of St. Edward the Confessor. The name Edward means guardian of property, land, goods. As the archivist of the archdiocese, I am playing out the role of my name.

When I graduated from grade school, it was a natural progression to go to Don Bosco High School, where I had the Brothers of Mary as my teachers. My freshman homeroom teacher, Bro. Charles Sontag, promoted vocations; Bro. George Montague interrupted our algebra class to teach us mental prayer from his new pamphlet. This was my introduction to prayer. During high school, I worked at my father's hardware store where I learned small business, retailing and merchandising. It was there that I really first saw the poor and the immigrants. When I was a senior, Bro. James Donovan asked me and at least four others to join the Society of Mary, and we did. I said "yes" because I greatly admired my teachers, and I saw teaching as a way of helping people move up in life.

On my father's birthday, I arrived at Marynook where Fr. Charles Neumann was our novice master and a really wonderful teacher and spiritual man. I made the novitiate with six Peruvians — my real introduction to Spanish. After the novitiate, 31 of us went downriver to St. Louis, where Bro. Mel Meyer was the scholastic master. I completed my studies at St. Mary's University with a major in social studies and enough hours to teach Spanish. I received an NDEA grant to study at Rice University and began a master's degree at St. Louis University, completing it at Notre Dame, along with a summer at Anahuac University in Mexico City.

I taught in Victoria, the first year Nolan was in existence, then at Chaminade College Prep (St. Louis) and Assumption (East St. Louis). In 1973, I was shifted back across the river to St. Mary's High in south St. Louis. I loved the outdoors, and it was here that I became involved in caving. Eventually I became a Missouri cave commissioner and became involved in what has become Mastodon State Natural Area. After a sabbatical, I was sent to Central Catholic to build a football field. When the football field was

finished, I taught another year and then was hired as archivist for the Archdiocese of San Antonio where I have served 31 years. I am now on my third archbishop and have gone through about 11 auxiliary bishops. I was a player in the Papal Visit of 1987 and shook hands with John Paul II.

I have spent the same 31 years working in the evenings at the Youth Drop-in Center in the basement of St. Mary's Church downtown and at the juvenile detention center as well as nine and one-half summers at Tecaboca as the first patrol leader.

I enjoy cooking, stamp-collecting, photography and classical music. I also am the editor for the San Antonio section of the *Kenedy Official Catholic Directory*, the basis for the tax-exempt status of the Roman Catholic Church. For 16 years, I have been on the Bexar County Historical Commission, and I am a member of the Southwest Archivists Association, Catholic Diocesan Archivists Association, San Antonio Regional Archivists Association, Texas Catholic Historical Society and emeritus member of the Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. I maintain a large email correspondence, and I read voraciously.