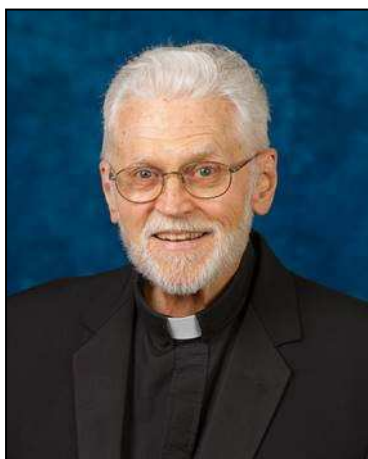


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July 20, 2018

Death Notice No. 18 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RICHARD KUHN**, priest, of the Eldersburg/Rosedale Marianist Community of Baltimore, Maryland, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on July 5, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, at the age of 90 with 71 years of religious profession.

Fr. Richard was a beloved teacher and chaplain who inspired many with his devotion to Mary and apostolic focus on family through his retreat ministry.

Richard Vincent Kuhn was born in Jamaica, Queens, New York, on April 4, 1928. He was the oldest of six children in the family of Violet (nee Oberle) and Vincent Kuhn. After graduating from Our Lady of Lourdes grammar school in Queens Village, New York, he entered Most Holy Trinity High School, in Brooklyn, New York. During this time, his youngest brother, Eddie, died. This tragedy deepened his faith and initiated his discernment of religious life. Two Marianist teachers at Most Holy Trinity, Bro. Wilbur Dunsky and Fr. Lewis Wiesner, had a special influence on his desire to enter the Society of Mary.

Fr. Richard remarked on his Golden Jubilee of ordination that, “On entering the novitiate at Beacon, New York, in August, 1945, I was brought into a new world—strange and wonderful, seductively filled with God’s presence. And I knew that Mary was close by.” Fr. Richard was 18 when he made his first profession of vows on August 18, 1946. He graduated from University of Dayton, Ohio, in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in education. He later earned his Master’s degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina (1972).

Fr. Richard professed his perpetual vows on August 15, 1953 in Dayton, Ohio. In his early ministry as a Marianist, Fr. Richard served as a teacher in several high schools including: Hamilton Catholic, Hamilton, Ohio (1948-1951); North Catholic, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1951-1953); Mount Saint John Postulate, Dayton, Ohio (1953-1954) and Chaminade, Dayton, Ohio (1954-1955).

Fr. Richard attended seminary at Regina Mundi in Fribourg, Switzerland, from 1955-1959 and was ordained on August 20, 1958. In 1959, Fr. Richard returned to the United States and began his priestly ministry by teaching the scholastics at Mount Saint John. In 1960, he returned to high school teaching with added chaplain duties at St. James Catholic High School in Chester, Pennsylvania. This was followed by 25 years of ministry in Marianist high schools including: Holy Trinity in Brooklyn, New York (1961-1963); Chaminade, Hollywood, Florida (1963-1967); Charlotte Catholic, Charlotte, North Carolina (1967-1968); Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore, Maryland (1968-1976) and St. James, Chester, Pennsylvania (1977-1985). Bro. Jesse O’Neill considered Fr. Richard a dear friend and mentor. He was also one of Fr. Richard’s high school students. Bro. Jesse wrote, “When you were with Richard you just felt good about yourself. He was so transparent

and affirming. He was a genuine reflection of God's love. His greatest gift to us all was his witness of a deep faith rooted in Jesus and His Mother Mary!"

In 1985, he was assigned to the Marianist Family Retreat House in Cape May, New Jersey. In 1999, he was assigned to continue his family retreat ministry at Christian Family Living Center in North Topsail Beach, North Carolina. "Family was a central theme in Fr. Richard's life. He spent many years in family retreat ministry and was very happy in that role. Fr. Richard was very generous with his time. He was also a patient listener and gave you his full attention when he was speaking with you," writes Bro. Frank O'Donnell who had known Fr. Richard since he had been ordained.

When the Topsail Retreat Center closed in 2007, Fr. Richard was able to continue his work with families in Baltimore, Maryland, and also helped launch the *Hearts of Fire Marianist Lay Community* in 2008. Tina Bauman, a dear friend and founding member of *Hearts on Fire*, remembers, "Fr. Rich educated and inspired us. He adopted us as 'family' and we him. We became spiritual companions, meeting every week as a Marianist faith-sharing community. He encouraged us to become better versions of ourselves."

Bro. Tom Trager wrote, "During this past year or so, since he was no longer driving, I was Richard's primary wheels. We spent many hours together. He was wonderful to be with. He was a man you loved to love; and many, many people did just that."

This year, Fr. Richard had been celebrating his 60th year of ordination. In the remarks he prepared for his jubilee, he wrote, "Life on Earth is about getting ready for family living with God in eternity. The Holy Trinity is family, and God invites us into His life. I am most grateful to my God, to Mary, my Mother, and to all the wonderful companions God has given me on the journey."

Let us thank God for the gift of his life. Let us thank Mary Our Mother for the gift of his perseverance as he joins his eternal family in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May he rest in peace.