

**CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI**  
**Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia**  
**Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406**  
**E-mail: [gensecsm@smcuria.it](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)**

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**Death Notice No. 21 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JOSEPH BARRETT**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 7, 2018 in San Antonio at the age of 93 with 75 years of religious profession.

Bro. Joe was a beloved teacher, guidance counselor, vocation director and mentor serving in Marianist schools, colleges, and communities.

Joseph Francis Barrett, son of Joseph and Catherine (nee Hochberg) Barrett, was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1924. He and his sister, Ann, moved with their family to Detroit, attending Holy Redeemer Elementary and High School. In high school, Joe was involved with sports and was the senior class president. In his four years at Holy Redeemer, he was mentored by Marianist Brothers and was constantly interested in religious life. In his senior year, his father gave him permission to enter Marynook Novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin. He made his first profession on Dec. 8, 1943. His final vows were taken there on July 16, 1947.

Bro. Joe earned a bachelor of arts degree in social studies from the University of Dayton in 1946 and a master of arts degree in guidance from the University of Notre Dame in 1968. His teaching career began in January 1946 at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas. His next assignment was St. Michael's in Chicago; he was there from 1946 to 1953 and then returned there in 1971 to 1972. From 1952 to 1957, Bro. Joe was at Chaminade Preparatory in St. Louis where he worked with the residential students. He was then assigned to Marynook as assistant novice master from 1957 to 1963. Two one-year stints followed, one at St. Mary's University and the other at Chaminade Prep. In 1965, he began a two-year assignment as assistant vocation director at Maryhurst in St. Louis. From 1967 to 1971, he was a director and teacher at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Bro. Joe served the Province as a member of the formation committee in the late 1960s and as an elected Provincial Chapter delegate. Fr. Oscar Vasquez remembers, "Bro. Joe Barrett, to me, was always a positive and optimistic brother. He was devoted to ministry. He gave of himself and wanted to further the cause of the province mission. Joe was a man on a mission, Mary's mission."

In 1972, Bro. Joe embarked on a 20-year ministry at Daniel Gross Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Dorothy A. Ostrowski, President of Gross Catholic High School, writes, "Bro. Joe helped to provide our school with a solid foundation from which we were built, and he continued to love us and support us throughout his life. The relationships he built are very strong and he was a positive influence in the lives of many." During his years in the classroom, Bro. Joe taught religion, social studies and English. He moderated student council and the band; he was prefect of resident students; and he served in the guidance office.

When the Marianists withdrew from Gross in 1992, Bro. Joe went to the Casa Maria formation community in San Antonio, with ministry in counseling at St. Mary's University. Jenee Margo Gonzales recalls, "I met Brother Joe nearly 25 years ago as an undergraduate student at St. Mary's University. Instantly my heart gravitated to him; his gentle smile and jovial nature put a first generation student at ease on a university campus."

In 2004, Bro. Joe retired to the Marianist Residence community in San Antonio. During his retirement he took on a special assignment, a "ministry of gratitude." He called more than 40,000 donors to simply say "thanks." Bro. Al Kuntemeier writes, "I cannot find words to adequately describe this fabulous man, this Marianist Brother, whom I truly loved so much. His faith, his dedication and perseverance, his love and devotion to Mary, his patience and acceptance of his physical limitations, and his tremendous sense of humor, had me in awe."

In school and community, people would be regaled with his teasing and humor and would know he was always cheering for his alma mater Notre Dame. On the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee, he wrote, "As a counselor for 55 years, so many of my 'gifts' have unwrapped their lives before me, and have allowed me to learn from their joys, successes, failures, and frustrations. From the weakest, I have learned the most. From the unexpected, I have received my greatest thrills."

When Bro. Joe was a guidance counselor, he first started his "Wall of Love." Visitors would walk into his office and see the wall covered with photos of students who came for guidance. He continued this practice throughout his life, hanging photos of friends and loved ones on his office wall. Bro. Joe explained, "Each face is a gift. What a powerful influence my displayed friends have had on me and, hopefully, they have caught a fleeting glimpse of Jesus in their contacts with me. I salute you, friend on my walls. You are loved by me. We shall share an eternity – without walls."

We give thanks to God for his life and his incredible dedication to nurture Mary's children on earth and to see the face of God in others as he joins Communion of Saints in heaven.