



The Marianists

Brother Howard Hughes

70 years of profession

Marianist influence began early in my life — my grand-uncle was a Marianist and is buried in Hilo. At St. James Parochial School in Baltimore, I had Marianist teachers from fourth to eighth grade. Recognizing my musical interests, Bro. Robert Holzmer became my musical mentor, working with me at the piano and organ. By 15, I already had played the pipe organ for services in the community chapel. Along with the usual academic studies over the following years, I continued studying organ music. After graduation, I entered the Marianist postulate at Mount St. John in Dayton, Ohio.

At age 20, I began teaching seventh grade at Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. At the end of that first year, I graduated with my class from University of Dayton with a bachelor of science degree in education and was assigned for the next six years to St. Joseph High School in Cleveland. I taught religion, Latin and English, and started a glee club, which by the end of my six years, was considered the best male glee club in the city.

I studied at University of Fribourg in Switzerland and returned to teach French at Chaminade High School in Mineola, Long Island, for the next 11 years, once again conducting glee clubs, as well as singing with the New York Philharmonic as a member of The Collegiate Chorale. Following the Second Vatican Council, I began composing liturgical music in English and, in 1964, my first musical composition, “Mass for Peace,” was published by World Library Publications in *The People’s Mass Book*. Since then, I have published a long list of works through International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), GIA Publications, Inc., Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) and several other publishers.

In 1971, I moved from New York to the provincial house in Baltimore where I was organist for the liturgies, occasionally visiting other communities across the country to give workshops in liturgical music. I graduated from Catholic University in Washington with a master’s degree in liturgical music in 1988 and taught for two years

at St. Mary's University in San Antonio and served as community director at the Curia Generalizia in Rome where I was organist/music director of Santa Susanna. Two highlights of my time in Rome included playing for the Papal Mass in Santa Susanna and being invited to play for a wedding in St. Peter's Basilica.

I returned to Baltimore as organist and composer until December 2006 when I was welcomed to the Marianist Center in Cupertino, California. Currently, I am the community organist, continue to compose liturgical music and correspond regularly with several prison inmates, two with whom I have been writing for 12 years.

I am blessed to have always had work that I love—teaching, composing, serving as organist and receiving letters from inmate friends, most notably, one who had been taken off of death row.