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Biography of Death Notice #27:

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Bernard Zalewski**, of the Marianist Community at Siena Woods, Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 10, 2018 in Dayton at the age of 81 with 63 years of religious profession.

Brother Bernard "Ben" Zalewski was a teacher, professor and software consultant who served at University of Dayton in Ohio and several Marianist high schools throughout the United States and in Africa.

Bernard Eugene Zalewski was born in Steubenville, Ohio, on May 4, 1937. He was the second of three boys in the family of Walter and Hedwig (nee Chilinski) Zalewski. His grandparents had settled in the Polish community of Steubenville after emigrating from Danzig (Gdansk), Poland. His paternal grandfather helped build the town's St. Stanislaus Church where Bro. Ben attended grammar school.

Bro. Ben entered the postulate on September 1, 1951 in Beacon, New York followed by novitiate on August 17, 1954 in Marcy, New York. He professed first vows on September 8, 1955. In a letter requesting first vows in 1955, Bro. Ben wrote, "Since the earliest years, I have felt the call to serve God in a special way but did not consider the priesthood as God's will for me. In February of 1951, I was given a postcard from the sister at my school. This was Our Lady's finger pointing me towards the Society of Mary. The word "brother" awakened my curiosity. I thought, perhaps, this was where Our Lord and His Blessed Mother wanted me."

He received his bachelor's in biology from the University of Dayton in Ohio in 1958. His first assignment was as a teacher at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1958-1964). He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1961. In 1964, he continued his teaching ministry at Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio then returned to North Catholic High for a year in 1968 before being assigned to Cathedral Latin High

School in Cleveland (1968-1972). He received his master's in education from Case Western Reserve University in 1971.

In 1972, he was assigned to Mangu High School in Kenya, Africa as a teacher. His assignment was cut short when he contracted malaria and had to return to the United States. After recovering, he returned to teaching at Cathedral Latin for a year in 1975 and then Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was then assigned to the University of Dayton for two decades as an assistant professor, professor and software consultant in various departments. Having developed an interest in computers, he studied management information systems (MIS) at Bentley College. These studies began his path as a consultant for software at University of Dayton School of Business.

In 1999, Bro. Ben again returned to Lusaka, Zambia, Africa to teach, tutor and to assist with computer needs for the brothers as well as the Diocese of Lusaka. Again, his assignment was shortened by illness and he returned to the United States. Bro Bernard Ploeger, assistant provincial for the Marianist Province of the US remembers "Bro. Ben was very saddened when he contracted a tropical illness which made him very sick. He was heartbroken that he would not be able to return to Africa. Bro. Ben's students admired and revered him as a science teacher. His students excelled in their Cambridge tests which made a tremendous impact on their future lives and placements."

Bro. Ben retired to the Marianist Community Mercy Siena in Dayton (2002-2005). He moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, Texas (2005-2007). In 2008, he returned to the Marianist Community at Mercy Siena. "Bro. Ben was always pleasant with me and usually had a humorous quip despite health issues that severely limited his social interaction. He loved working with model trains and especially helping younger children with their train sets," said Fr. Thomas Schroer, a former community director of Bro. Ben.

Fr. Thomas Thompson, a classmate said: "Bro. Ben had many interests but I remember that he was instrumental in encouraging the foundation of the classical music radio station in Dayton. He collected long-playing records to help begin the collection."

We give thanks to God for his life, for his faith and for his devotion to Mary.

May he rest in peace.