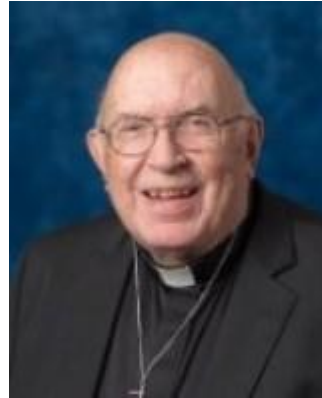


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Biography of Death Notice #28:

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **WILLIAM BEHRINGER**, priest, of the Casa Maria Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 20, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 86 with 69 years of religious profession.

Fr. Bill was a teacher, chaplain, pastor, administrator, missionary, author and a Marianist formator. In his more than 69 years of dedicated religious profession, he served as provincial, master of scholastics and director of novices.

William Ralph Behringer was born in Dayton, Ohio, on Dec 28, 1931, to the family of Ralph and Myrtle (nee Lukaswitz) Behringer. He had one older sister. He attended grammar school in Dayton at Holy Angels, Emmanuel and, finally, at Sacred Heart Latin. He then attended Chaminade High School where he was taught by the Marianists. Upon graduation in 1948, he entered the Marianist novitiate in Beacon, New York, and professed first vows on August 23, 1949. As a scholastic, he studied at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, and Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio. He received his bachelors in education from the University of Dayton in 1952. He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1953.

Fr. Bill's first assignment, in 1952, was to teach at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1957, he went to the seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, and was ordained on July 17, 1960. He returned to the United States and served as a chaplain and teacher at Covington Catholic High School in Covington, Kentucky (1962-1965) and then, at his alma mater Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio (1965-1966). During this time he authored the book *Mary and the Beatitudes* which was published in 1964. He was called to serve as master of scholastics at Mount St. John in Dayton, Ohio (1966-1968).

Fr. Bill returned to teaching in 1968 at Memphis Catholic High School in Tennessee. In 1973, he was appointed to serve as provincial of the Marianist Province of Cincinnati. He then returned to teaching at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh where he also served

as chaplain (1982-1985). In 1985, he returned to formation ministry serving as director of novices at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio. Bro. Tom Wendorf writes, "Fr. Bill was our novice master, I remember his steady, wise, paternal presence. His focus was on the novitiate community and the novices, and he never gave the impression that he ever needed or wanted to be anywhere else. His presence and availability were, then and after, a witness to me of our vow of stability." Bro. Bob Donovan writes, "Fr. Bill was my novice master and a fine mentor. He was a Marianist through and through."

In 1989, he began a decade of ministry in Eastern Africa. He was first assigned as chaplain and teacher at Brother Vincent House in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1992-1999 he served as director of novices and master of scholastics first in Makadara, Kenya (1992- 1994) and then in Limuru, Kenya (1994-1999). Fr. Martin Solma writes, "I have known Fr. Bill for over 50 years. I was with him in initial formation and during his time as provincial. But it was during his time in Eastern Africa that I came to know him best. Three characteristics describe this wonderful Marianist: generosity, availability, and love for Mary. A very holy man who touched many lives by his goodness."

In 1999, Fr. Bill returned to the United States and was assigned to St. Aloysius Parish in Cleveland, Ohio. There he served as associate pastor until 2010. In 2010, Fr. Bill moved to the Marianist Casa Maria Community where he ministered to his fellow Marianists as the director of the community and assisted with formation. Bro. Dennis Bautista writes, "As a formation community, Casa Maria was blessed to have Bill model for us what it means to live a life dedicated to prayer and in service to Our Blessed Mother. Fr. Bill always told our aspirants and contacts, 'If you're interested in growing spiritually and personally, then Marianist religious life is for you,'—and I believe that Fr. Bill exemplified that statement his entire life."

Fr. Jim Tobin writes, "Fr. Bill lived a life of deep love and gratitude for his vocation as a Marianist priest. His commitment, fidelity and service was an inspiration to me. He always responded wholeheartedly when asked to serve in pastoral ministry or in leadership positions for his brothers. His courage in accepting his diagnosis of terminal illness was a reflection of his deep faith and trust in the Lord.

In reflecting upon his Marianist journey on his 60th jubilee of profession, Fr. Bill wrote, "I expected to be working in high school all my life and never traveling much out of Ohio. As I look back, I can see how God just exploded that vision. Due to my various assignments and positions, I have travelled and lived all over the world. These experiences have called me to grow in new ways and to take on responsibilities I never thought of doing. I have come to know Mary in a deeper and personal way. And every time I said 'yes,' I have grown."

We thank God for his life, for saying 'yes,' and for sharing the light of Christ with this world as he joins Our Blessed Mother, her Son, and all the Saints to live in eternal joy with God.