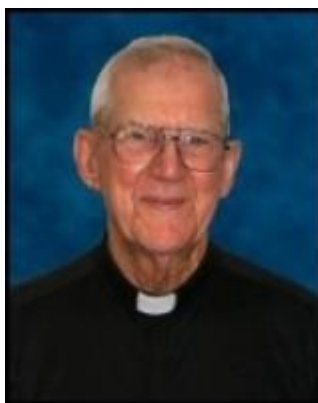


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Death Notice #26:

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, DONALD COWIE, priest, of the Central Catholic Marianist Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 8, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 89 with 69 years of religious profession.

Fr. Don was a beloved teacher, chaplain and novice master serving in many Marianist schools, communities and ministries.

Donald Thomas Cowie was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 13, 1929, to the family of Sylvester and Mary (nee McKenna) Cowie. He was the third of 11 children. He attended Immaculate Conception grammar school. He first met the Marianists while attending Coyle High School (presently St. John Vianney). Its friendly, small campus and Marianist Brothers first attracted him to the school. He entered St. Louis University in 1947 on a four-year scholarship. After one year of studies, inspired by his religion and philosophy classes and realizing his deep admiration for the Marianists and their work, he entered the Marianist novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin. "They were doing something good for the world, so I decided to join them," he recalled during an interview for *ALIVE Magazine* in 2016.

After first vows on August 15, 1949, Fr. Don continued his education in St. Louis at Maryhurst and in San Antonio, earning a bachelor's degree in English from St. Mary's University. His two pre-seminary assignments were as a teacher at McBride High School in St. Louis (1952) and Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1956). On July 19, 1953, he professed perpetual vows.

In 1957, he went to seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland and was ordained on July 16, 1961. After ordination, he was assigned to return to Don Bosco as a teacher and chaplain for four years. At this time, he also began summer studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., for his master's degree in religious education which he achieved in 1968.

Fr. Don was given formation duties during the difficult post-Vatican II years. First, he served at the scholasticate in San Antonio (1966-68) and then he was assigned to the novitiate in Galesville to serve as the Novice Master (1969 -1973).

In 1973, he resumed his ministry as teacher and chaplain which would last another 45 years. First, he was assigned to Thomas More High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for one year. In 1974, he was assigned to Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas. His long summer career in chaplaincy at Tecaboca, a Marianist camp and retreat ministry, in Mountain Home, Texas, also began at that time. For the rest of his life, Fr. Don dedicated every summer offering Mass at Tecaboca and serving as guest chaplain for 6 other area camps. Kay Tally-Foos, executive director of Tecaboca, writes, "Is there a greater word to describe impact than the word 'legacy'? If there is, that's what Fr. Don is to Tecaboca. We've been flooded with men and women of all ages sending beautiful statements of what he was to each one, from our youngest boys who altar served with him last summer, to old guys who still use his secret popcorn recipe!"

Fr. Don returned to his home town in 1980 to teach at St. John Vianney (successor to his alma mater Coyle). Fr. Don noted, "My 14 years at Vianney were like a home-coming, and providentially coincided with my parents' last years."

In 1994, he was reassigned to Central Catholic where he would continue his beloved role as teacher and chaplain until the spring of 2018. He taught religion classes and offered a short prayer communion service at the beginning of each cafeteria shift. He also served as director of the Central Catholic Marianist Community (1995 – 2001). Sr. Nicole Trahan, who worked with Fr. Don at Central Catholic recalls, "Fr. Don's kind and gentle guidance of our theology department – his wisdom and wit – his love of teaching, of Mary and of each and every person who was in his presence were a true gift in my life."

Paul Garro, president of Central Catholic stated, "Fr. Cowie left a profound impact on the Central Catholic community. His life was tremendously full and overflowing with joy and he graciously shared his joy with all. Father Don was still making a difference by teaching religion to our boys at the age of 88. His prayer life was unceasing, personal and was a catalyst for all those who knew him to grow closer to God through daily prayer."

Fr. Don expressed great joy in his role as a teacher. Over the years, he taught religion, English, Latin, and math. He also moderated speech, sodality and student council. He was the founder of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Association of Student Councils. On the occasion of his 60th jubilee, Fr. Don wrote, "These many years have been a great adventure, an apostolate that seems to me to be 'where I have always belonged.' The fact that the years have passed so quickly suggests that my long involvement with high school students has always remained meaningful and valuable. To me, the human and Christian education of teenagers will always be one of the pivotal services of humanity, of the Church, and of the Society of Mary."

Marianist Provincial of the United States Province, Fr. Oscar Vasquez, recalled, "Fr. Don was an example of what it means to be Marianist and what it means to be a Marianist priest within the Marianist Family. He was first and foremost an educator. He took the statement 'to teach by every thought, word and deed' seriously. He was always teaching whether he was in the classroom or in daily life. His quiet demeanor taught us to be a person of faith in action. As a priest, he was always willing to anoint a sick person, to hear a confession or preside at Mass. His demeanor helped to make all of us around him just a bit more peaceful and confident, his presence an experience God's love."

On the occasion of his 25th jubilee, Fr. Don wrote, "Gratitude fills my mind and heart, gratitude for the brotherhood of hundreds and hundreds of Marianists, gratitude for a thousand students in St. Louis, Milwaukee and San Antonio. I hold dear all of these persons and believe we will rejoice in God together forever." We give thanks to God for his life as he joins the Communion of Saints in heaven.
