



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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January 23, 2019

Biography of Death Notice # 02

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Edward ZAMIEROWSKI**, of the Marianist Community at Siena Woods, Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 7, 2019 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 85 with 66 years of religious profession.

Bro. Ed was a high school teacher, professor, mentor and environmental advocate. Serving in both the United States and Africa, he inspired others with his vocation as a Marianist and his commitment to service and social justice. Bro. Ed believed in the power of relationships and creativity.

Edward Eugene Zamierowski was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 25, 1933. He was the third of four children (1 sister and 2 brothers) in the family of Joseph and Mary (nee Metro). He attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Catholic Central High School in Grand Rapids. Bro. Ed knew he wanted to be involved with young people in his life's work and was drawn to the Marianists when he learned about their work in education. Upon graduating in 1951, Bro. Ed entered the novitiate at Chaminade Preparatory in Marcy, New York, in September of that same year. Bro. Ed professed first vows on September 5, 1952. He then went to Dayton, Ohio, for his scholastic studies at Mount Saint John and earned his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton (UD). He professed perpetual vows at UD in August 15, 1956.

Bro. Ed began his apostolic work as a science and biology teacher at Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio (1955-1959). He then taught seminarians and university students at Pontifical College Josephinum and Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus, Ohio. He also served as a research

assistant in the OSU botany department while working on his master's degree in botany which he earned in 1960.

In 1961, Bro. Ed began nearly fourteen years of ministry in Africa. He began as teacher, athletics director, coach, and director of boarding at St. Patrick College in Asaba, Nigeria (1961-1966). He then taught biology for two years at Aquinas High School in Nairobi, Kenya (1967-1970). He then served as a professor at University of Nairobi (1970-1974). He earned his PhD in plant ecology from the University of Nairobi in 1972.

In 1974, Bro. Ed returned to the United States and began teaching at the University of Dayton. In 1976, Bro. Ed became the technical director for Strategies for Responsible Development at University of Dayton. Drawing from both his identity as a Marianist religious and his PhD in plant science, Bro. Ed would spend the next four decades dedicating much of his life to the international and community development efforts grounded in both Catholic social development and environmental science. From 1976 to 1980, Bro. Ed served as the technical director of Projet Tapis Vert (Project Green Carpet), an integrated rural development project working to reverse the processes leading to desertification and enhancing food security in Niger, West Africa. Later, he developed gardens in conjunction with UD's Edgemont Solar Garden and Grow with Your Neighbor community gardening projects. He served as a key leader in the development of the Dakota Center and mentored students to embrace unique pathways of civic engagement at the University of Dayton.

"Bro. Ed was a very dedicated religious," remembers Bro. Charles Gausling, "When he put his mind to something nothing could distract him. He was a very thoughtful person in all he did no matter what it was that occupied him at the time."

In 1994, Bro. Ed became the director of Serve with Energy and Talent (SWEAT), Ohio's first AmeriCorps program. In 2001, Bro. Ed further used his talents to help develop the Semester of Service Program. His vision was to design a program for UD students who were willing to spend a semester serving individuals in the Dayton community full time. Serving as director, Bro. Ed was a role model and mentor to more than 400 young adults and college students.

Fr. Bert Buby remembers, "Ed took pride in his novitiate group which was over 30 persons. He was the convener of our 1952 novitiate class. He always invited the Common Bond members who had left the Society of Mary and entered another vocation. He offered us a generous gift by taking the time to gather us together as a whole. He always had a smile on his face while doing this for our novitiate group."

In 2013, after decades of caring for and assisting in the development of others with gentle strength and deep conviction, Bro. Ed retired. He greatly enjoyed his community life at Marianist Community at Siena Woods in Dayton, Ohio. He also enjoyed gardening, playing the alto saxophone with the New Horizon Band for seniors at UD, enjoyed photography and working on a model train layout with two of his fellow Marianist Brothers. He followed UD football and basketball and attended as many games as he could.

“Bro. Ed was my mentor. We did everything together. When I asked Bro. Ed to be my mentor, he said that we weren’t going to sit around talking—so, we would walk. I had never walked so much in my life! I learned a lot from him.” says Bro. Paul Jablinski.

In reflecting on his 60th Jubilee, Bro. Ed wrote, “Not in my wildest dreams 60 years ago did I imagine that I would spend 14 years in Africa, learn to speak Swahili, coach track and basketball, earn three degrees and spend 43 years teaching and working at a university. It has been a wonderful life, for which I can only be extremely grateful. I was drawn to the Marianists because I thought that religious life would be a more certain way to ‘earn my heavenly reward.’ Through the years of formation, living the life, cultivating a prayer life and personal spirituality, I learned that I don’t ‘earn’ my way to heaven but live my life in such a way to be always open to God’s gifts that come in many different packages. “

We thank God for Bro. Ed for his faithfulness to his Marianist vocation, his life, his commitment to education, service and social justice.