



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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January 30, 2019

Biography of Death Notice # 07

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Richard WOSMAN**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 21, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, at the age of 59 with 37 years of religious profession.

Fr. Richard was many things—a teacher, a scholar and an administrator. Through his many years devoted to Catholic Education, he sought to instill the presence of God in the hearts and minds of all he served.

Richard Gerard Wosman was born on September 29, 1959 in St. Louis, Missouri, to the family of Adrian Francis and Mary Elizabeth (nee Vollmer) Wosman. He was the youngest of 6 children (3 sisters and 2 brothers). He attended grammar school at Immaculate Conception (1965-1966) and St. Anthony of Padua (1966-1973). He went to St. Mary's High School where he first met the Marianists. He entered the novitiate in Dayton, Ohio, in August of 1979 and professed first vows in August of 1981. In 1982, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

His first assignment was to return to his alma mater, St. Mary's High School, as a teacher and part of the campus ministry team (1982-1985). He professed perpetual vows in August of 1985 and was assigned to teach and coordinate campus ministry at St. Boniface Diocesan High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (1985-1989). He entered the Marianist Seminary in Toronto, Canada in August of 1989 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1993. He received his master of divinity from University of St. Michael's in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. During his time in the seminary, he

also served as religious life coordinator for the Youth Leadership Program in the Marianist Province of St. Louis.

Fr. George Cerniglia writes, “I was the rector of the seminary when he was a seminarian. Fr. Richard was a very quiet and private person, a true introvert. But at the same time, he had a huge heart. He was an excellent writer and homilist. He had a way of putting into words what everyone was feeling or thinking. He had an amazing capacity for work. If you asked him to do something, you knew it would get done and it would be done to perfection. He never said ‘no.’”

His first priestly assignment was as a teacher and director of campus ministry at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas (1993-1994). He was then assigned to St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis. He served as principal for one year before becoming the president.

Mike Loyet, President of Vianney, writes, “Fr. Richard had a profound impact upon Vianney in his eight years of service. He spent endless hours striving to improve the experience for all students and instilling a spirit of service throughout our community. On a personal note, Fr. Richard is the person who invited me to leave the classroom and become an administrator. That alone has changed my life forever and I am forever grateful for his invitation.”

Fr. Richard left Vianney in 2002 to pursue his masters degree in educational leadership at St. Louis University which he earned in 2003. In 2004, Fr. Richard was assigned to St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas where he served as the director of the Catholic School Leadership Program, assistant professor of education and co-director of the Marianist Forum. In 2012, Fr. Richard was assigned to Central Catholic High School in San Antonio where he served as president.

Fr. Ralph Siefert, President of Chaminade College Preparatory in St. Louis, remembers, “Fr. Richard was passionate about Catholic education. I think his greatest gift was his ability to teach about education and help others see its importance. He was a gifted speaker and, using his wealth of experience, he could help other educators bridge the gap between theory and practice. He truly made a significant contribution to the growth of Catholic education.”

Bro. Jim Eppy writes, “Fr. Richard was dedicated to the education ministry of the Church. He was always devoting his time to the school, whether administratively or directly related to kids— helping them on homework, working with them on a play or on music for a Mass, watching their sporting events or talking to them one-on-one about their personal lives.”

Fr. Oscar Vasquez, Provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States, writes, “Richard was a musician, an English teacher, a scholar and a person who loved the arts. At the bottom of his email signature Richard always included the expression ‘Bidden or not, God is always there.’” This line, found in the writings of Erasmus, speaks to Fr. Richard’s vocation as an administrator in Catholic education. He always strived to help students realize God’s presence.

During his nearly four decades of ministry, Fr. Richard was a member of the Provincial Chapter and

served as an active member on numerous boards, committees and organizations related to Catholic education on both local and national levels.

In 2014, Fr. Richard sensed a new calling in his religious journey. With the blessing of his Marianist Brothers, he began the incardination process to become a member of the St. Louis Archdiocese. Thus, Fr. Richard returned to St. Louis in 2015 to serve in the St. Louis Archdiocese as president of John F. Kennedy High School (2015-2017) and associate pastor of St. Alban Roe Parish (2015-2018). His most recent position was director of faith formation for secondary schools for the St. Louis Archdiocese Office of Catholic Education and Formation.

We thank God for Fr. Richard's life, his devotion to Catholic education and for helping to establish the reign of God on Earth as the angels lead him into paradise. May he rest in peace.