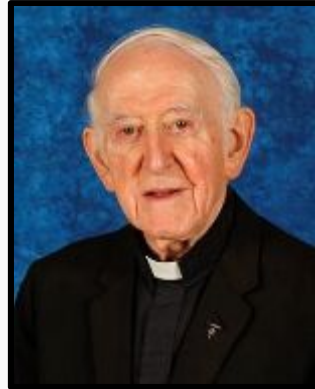




Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



April 12, 2019

Biography of Death Notice # 14

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Paul REICH**, priest, of the Marianist Community at Siena Woods, Dayton, OH, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 4, 2019 in Dayton, OH, USA, at the age of 90 with 72 years of religious profession.

Fr. Paul was a teacher and chaplain in several Marianist high schools. He was an associate pastor for nearly three decades where he fortified the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church through his parish ministry and dedication to adult religious education.

Paul Ambrose Reich was born on December 15, 1928, in Pittsburgh, PA. He was the second child in the family of Alma (nee Thoma) and Ambrose Reich. He had one sister and one brother. Two of his uncles were Marianists and three of his aunts were Sisters of St. Francis.

He attended St. George Catholic grammar school. He enrolled in North Catholic High School which the Marianists had just opened in 1939. Fr. Paul had already become familiar with the Marianists through his uncles (Fr. George Reich and Bro. Michael Reich) who were often guests at his home when travelling.

From an early age, he entertained the idea of becoming a priest. So, when the Marianists at his high school invited him to join the novitiate in Marcy, New York, he said "yes." After completing three years of high school study at North Catholic, he entered the novitiate at Beacon, New York in August 1945. On August 18 of the following year, he professed first vows. He then completed three more years of study and formation first at Maryhurst (St.

Louis) and then at Mount Saint John (Dayton, Ohio). He received his bachelor's degree in education from University of Dayton in 1950.

His first assignment was teaching Latin at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York (1949-1951). In 1951, he was sent to St. Joseph High School, on the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio. He was there for one year and then was assigned to teach at Cathedral Latin High School closer to downtown Cleveland (1952-1954). He moderated the band, taught math and Latin. In 1954, he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland to begin seminary studies. He was ordained on July 14, 1957.

His first priestly appointment was at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, where he preached high school retreats, helped with confessions in local parishes and took some courses at the University of Dayton. In 1959, he returned to St. Joseph High School in Cleveland as a teacher and chaplain. He was then assigned to Chaminade High School in Hollywood, Florida (1961-1963) and then St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania (1963-1968). While there he earned his master's degree in education from Villanova University in 1968.

Bro. Jesse O'Neill remembers, "Fr. Paul modeled for me our vow of obedience. He always had the disposition to go and serve where he was needed. Always the needs of the Province before his own. He had such a meaningful balance in how he viewed the Church. He had one foot planted in the deep traditions of our Church and one foot always planted toward the future. He saw the Church as the work of the Holy Spirit among the people, always alive and always open to growth and change."

He returned to Hollywood, Florida in 1968 to, once again, teach and serve as chaplain at Chaminade High School. He also served as the director of the Marianist Community. In 1980, he returned to Chester, Pennsylvania where he returned to teaching at St. James High School and also worked at the Marianist Center in a program of adult education directed by Fr. Paul Landolfi.

In 1986, he was asked to become associate pastor at the St. Joseph's Catholic Community in Eldersburg, Maryland. This assignment began nearly three decades of parish ministry which, on his golden sacerdotal, he would later refer to as, "the most rewarding experience of my Marianist life." He served as associate pastor and taught adults in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) group.

Fr. Dave McGuigan writes, "For nearly 30 years, Fr. Paul served as associate pastor at St. Joseph's supporting four Marianist pastors. He would say, 'I always thought of myself as a good number two man.' It is certainly true that the Lord came first in Paul's life. His love of the Scriptures and deep spirit of prayer bore fruit in preaching that was as deep as it was pastorally aware and down-to-earth.

Deacon Vito S. Piazza, of St. Joseph's Catholic Community, writes, "Fr. Paul formed me as a Marianist Affiliate over a period of three years and we worked as a team for 12 years. He was a priest who lived a life consecrated to our Blessed Virgin Mary to the fullest, always living his perpetual vows in all the circumstances of life, whether it was being a consummate

teacher of his beloved RCIA program, preaching or fulfilling the call of Jesus in his work as a parish priest. He lived his vows as a member of the Society of Mary every day and his life was a model of faith, (“Do whatever he tells you”) for all of us in the Marianist Family.

In 2010, Fr. Paul transitioned to the Fairhaven Home in Sykesville, Maryland. He served as chaplain there and continued to work part-time at St. Joseph’s. In 2016, Fr. Paul retired to the Siena Woods Community in Dayton, Ohio.

Fr. Ted Cassidy, who ministered with Fr. Paul at St. Joseph’s for ten years, remembers, “They were very happy years for both of us. We sought to build a community of communities. Fr. Paul loved meeting the families. He was a superb homilist—you couldn’t wait to hear what he would say. Paul was a person who was at peace. It was part of his very soul. He loved life and was deeply integrated with who he was. Up until the day he died he was gracious to the nurse caring for him. Paul was someone you just loved. “

We thank God for Fr. Paul’s rich life given with great love in service to the Blessed Virgin Mary as he joins her in the divine presence of her Son with all the angels and saints.