



BROTHER KEVIN WHELAN

60 years of profession

Duc in altum (Launch out into the deep) was the motto I chose at the end of our novitiate year of 1959 in Marcy, New York, and it has been embedded in my consciousness my entire life.

I was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1941 to Katherine (Bauer) and John F. Whelan. A few months after my birth, the family moved to Mineola, Long Island, where I grew up with my two brothers, John and Dennis, now retired diocesan priests on Long Island, and my sister, Mary, who has been happily married for over 60 years to Jack Daley.

Upon graduation from Corpus Christi grade school, I enrolled at Chaminade High School in Mineola. There, I was impressed by the quality of life among the Marianists and their dedication to teaching — so much so, that in my senior year when Fr. Joe Lynch asked if I'd like to join the order, I simply said “Yes.” And that “Yes” has taken me on a journey that I never believed possible.

After completing undergraduate studies at University of Dayton, my first assignment was to St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania, serving as English teacher and dean of the freshmen division. After two years, I was assigned to Colegio San José in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, where I taught English in all grade levels for six years and was moderator of several clubs and activities. I returned to the States (New York) to teach English and counsel students at Most Holy Trinity High School in Brooklyn and St. Agnes Cathedral High School in Rockville Centre, Long Island. For 10 years, I ran an apartment for disadvantaged boys at St. John's Home in Rockaway, New York. During the summers and at night, I pursued my graduate education at St. John's University in New York and Queens College, where I earned master's degrees in English and in education counseling.

My next “launch out into the deep” found me back at Colegio San José, where I taught English and provided college placement counseling for seniors for nine years. For the next 15 years, I served as college placement counselor for juniors and seniors at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory. While in these ministries, I served as community director for six years in Rockaway, NY, six years in Puerto Rico and six years in Florida. I am in my 23rd year in sunny, warm Hollywood, Florida, and, as I reflect back upon these 60 years, I realize how blessed Marianist life has been to me — truly, I am grateful.

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