



BROTHER LEO SLAY

70 years of profession

Having come from a family that has been involved in the restaurant business since 1911, I have been actively engaged in food service in the Society of Mary since 1949. In addition to being called upon as a consultant for all types of food-service operations over the years, I also have organized and directed numerous culinary institutes and workshops.

For nearly 60 years, I served as a food-service director at Marianist schools and communities, and from 1987-2015, I was director of the Marianist Culinary Service. Throughout a 25-year span (1970-1995) I was honored with many food service and restaurant industry awards including: St. Louis Food Service Executive of the year (1970), Missouri Restaurant Association's Professional Operator's Award (1972), St. Louis Restaurant Association's Man of the Year (1974), placement in Missouri Restaurant Association's Food Service Hall of Fame (1992), Chef Dubois Chen award from the Chef de Cuisine Association (1992), St. Raymond's Maronite Church's Cedars Award (1994) and was selected director of the year of the St. Louis Restaurant Association's board (1995).

On six occasions, I was chosen to travel to armed services bases and ships in various parts of the country and overseas to evaluate food service in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Beginning in 1962, I served for nearly five decades on the board of directors of St. Louis Community College's Hotel and Restaurant Technology Department.

Until my retirement, I served as food-service consultant to several institutions and directed Metro Food Service Co-op, which I founded in 1965. I also worked with Operation Food Search and Share Our Strength – Taste of the Nation to procure food and funds for those in need.

I have found that Marianist religious life is designed to help us give service to others. Even the prayer life of the community helps us to serve others. For me, as a servant, religious life has been and is a great way to live.