



**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**November 26, 2019**

### **Biography of Death Notice No. 33**

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Ralph NEUMANN**, of the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 6, 2019 in San Antonio at the age of 84 with 64 years of religious profession.

Bro. Ralph was a teacher, deeply dedicated to instilling the Marianist Charism in the hearts and minds of those he served. He was a brother of hope and joy. He served in Latin America for nearly three decades and then continued his mission in the United States tutoring English and Spanish.

Ralph Edward Neumann was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 6, 1935. He was the only son of Frank L. and Blanche (nee Jasinki) Neumann. He was baptized at St. Anthony Parish in Milwaukee on January 10 and on that same day was presented to the Blessed Mother by his godparents at Holy Hill Shrine. He attended Immaculate Conception grade school in Milwaukee. Upon his graduation in 1948, he entered Don Bosco High School. "My Marianist life began to germinate at Don Bosco High School when, in 1950, we students were given a copy of 'My ideal-Jesus, Son of Mary,' written by Fr. Emile Neubert, SM. I read it secretly and avidly from beginning to end, and the spirit of the Marianists became clear to me."

In January of 1954, Bro. Ralph entered the Marianist Novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin. He professed first vows on January 22, 1955. He went for his scholastic studies at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri and St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He professed perpetual vows at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 13, 1958.

His first assignment was as a teacher at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Illinois (1957-1958). He then moved north to Milwaukee to teach at Don Bosco High School for a semester before being assigned to Peru in 1959. Bro Ralph served as a teacher at Colegio San José Obrero in Trujillo until 1963 and then at Colegio Santa María in Lima for one year. In 1964, he was called back to the United States to teach at McBride High School in St. Louis from 1964-1965 and then returned to Lima, Peru, to teach at Asociación Marianista de Acción Social (1965-1968) and then at Colegio San Antonio in Callao (1968-1969). In 1969, Bro. Ralph returned to the United States to teach at Don Bosco High School (1969-1971) and Thomas More High School (1971-1975).

In 1975, Bro. Ralph moved to Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin. In 1982, he was assigned to Apaseo, Mexico, where he taught Spanish at Col. Carlos Navarro (1982-1988). He then taught at Parroquia Sagrado Corazon in Coatzacoalcos, Mexico (1988-1989), the Marianist Novitiate in Querétaro, Mexico (1989-1991), and then returned to Coatzacoalcos, Mexico (1991-1993). After he took a two-year sabbatical to care for his mother in Milwaukee, he returned to the Marianist Novitiate in Querétaro, Mexico, from 1995-2005.

Bro. Larry McBride, who served with Bro. Ralph in Mexico said, "'Hermano Rafa,' as he was known, was famous for his corny jokes. He told them with such joy that it didn't matter if we had heard them before or how corny they were. He loved to make Mexican handicrafts, especially what is called *los ojos de Dios* (eye of God), and would give them to anyone who wanted one. He communicated love and acceptance to everyone."

In 2005, Bro. Ralph returned to the United States and was assigned to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. In 2006, he moved to Holy Rosary Parish in San Antonio. He assisted with teaching Spanish to priests and religious working with Hispanic ministry as well as providing English lessons to religious from other countries. Bro. Ralph also taught Spanish at Haven for Hope, which provides transitional housing, resources and programming to transition individuals from homelessness to independence. St. Mary's University Ministry Office stated, "Bro. Ralph attended numerous music recitals, sports games, religious events and many other opportunities to cheer our students, staff and faculty. His warm smile and good spirits brightened many who greeted him each month at 'Meet the Brothers' in the University Center."

In 2011, he retired to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, though he never really retired. Bro. Jesse O'Neill writes, "Bro. Ralph was asked to serve at the Mexican American College in San Antonio. He began working in the gardens, but when they realized he was proficient in Spanish, they asked if he would consider being a tutor. Like our Blessed Mother when asked, Bro. Ralph said 'Yes' and assisted close to a hundred students. Bro. Ralph loved meeting people and assisting them whenever he could. He tutored there three times a week and brought much hope and joy to them. Bro. Ralph is a reminder to us all that our lives are to bring hope and joy to those we encounter until the day we are called home to God."

We thank God for his life and his tireless dedication to education which he offered in service as a true Son of Mary as he is united with her and her Son, Jesus.