



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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January 27, 2020

Biography of Death Notice No. 37 (2019)

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Thomas DEASY**, of the Marianist Community of Cupertino, California, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 18, 2019, in Cupertino, California, at the age of 83 with 64 years of religious profession.

Bro. Thomas "Tom" Deasy was a teacher, a librarian, and an archivist. He developed a deep appreciation of film and filmmaking which he taught. He embraced his vocation to live in community and to embody the spirits of Jesus and Mary in his life and the lives of others.

Erwin Thomas Deasy was born in San Francisco, California, on January 6, 1936, to Erwin and Teresa (O'Shea) Deasy. He had two brothers and one sister. Bro. Tom attended Our Lady of Lourdes elementary school in Oakland, California. Bro. Tom first met the Marianists as a freshman at St. Joseph High School in Alameda, California. On the occasion of his 60 jubilee of profession, Bro. Tom stated, "The Marianist brothers and priests who taught me had an effect on my life. Mary also had an effect on my life during my senior year. That is when I discovered that I had a vocation to be a Marianist."

Bro. Tom entered the Marianist Novitiate at Santa Cruz, California, on August 14, 1954. He professed first vows there on August 15, 1955. As a scholastic, Bro. Tom studied from 1955-

1959 at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He professed perpetual vows on August 25, 1960, in San Francisco.

Bro. Tom taught history and religion at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, California, for one semester in 1959. In August of 1959, he was assigned to be an assistant librarian at Archbishop Riordan High School, San Francisco. After receiving a master's degree in library science from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, he served from 1961-1973 at Chaminade College Preparatory at Canoga Park, California, as a librarian and taught film appreciation and film-making. While at Chaminade, he built a massive movie library. In 1973, Bro. Tom returned to Archbishop Riordan High School, where he served for 30 years as librarian, business office assistant, provided Audio/Visual support and served as archivist.

Bro. Deasy retired in 2003 to the Marianist Community in Cupertino, California, where he enjoyed reading history and watching historical movies.

Fr. Ted Ley remembers, "Bro. Tom and I met when he and his parents visited the novitiate. A quiet friendship began. Though enduring a lifetime of disabilities, he was respected and frequently consulted by faculty and students. In Marianist community, he was a dependable, affable and considerate confrere. I've always felt that the quiet men of our Society are our mainstays, who stolidly keep us going. The librarians, treasurers, secretaries, the older brother who acts as receptionist or supervises at lunchtime and knows each kid by name -- that these men have always been our greatest strength. Bro. Tom was one of them."

Bro. Tom wrote about his years as a Marianist, saying, "Most rewarding to me during these years as a Marianist has been living in community and working with my brothers committed to embodying the spirit of Jesus and Mary in their lives and the lives of others. When I accepted my vocation, I told Mary I was hers as long as she wanted me. Sixty years later, I believe Mary still wants me."

We thank God for his life and his dedicated service as a son of Mary as he joins her and Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in eternal grace. May he rest in peace.