



## **BROTHER RAYMOND FITZ**

*Celebrating 60 years of profession*

I joined the Marianists because of their commitment to educate leaders for the Society and the Church. Every day of my Marianist life has offered me exciting opportunities to work on this task of educating leaders. I have found working at University of Dayton a great environment for this work. The questions and challenges of students have kept me thinking of new ways to present the ideals of Christian leadership, whether in public service, the professions or in service to the Church. My colleagues at the University have been a great resource for growing in an understanding of our world and its cultures, and the richness of our Catholic and Marianist traditions of education.

As I reflect on 60 years as a Marianist religious, I am deeply thankful for the wonderful gifts I have received. My parents and family have provided an environment that shaped my early years. The gifts of striving for excellence, courage, generosity and compassion were given by my parents. I have been privileged to enjoy the rich set of relations with my brothers and sister, and my extended family. I am thankful for a very loving family.

My fellow brothers in our Marianist communities and the Province have enriched my life in innumerable ways. They have challenged me to develop my gifts and to appreciate and work to overcome my weakness. They have encouraged me to be patient with myself. I have been blessed to be brother with many outstanding persons — men striving to be persons of faith and prayer, builders of community, and a passion for justice and reconciliation. I am thankful for my brothers.

I have been blessed with great friends who have supported and challenged me to be true to my Marianist vocation. Friends have been a great joy. I am thankful for the gifts of love and friendship shared.

Every day of my Marianist life, especially at University of Dayton, has offered me exciting opportunities to work at educating leaders. The questions and challenges of students have kept me thinking of new ways to present the ideals of Christian leadership. My colleagues at the University have helped me appreciate our world and its cultures as well as the richness of our Catholic and Marianist traditions of education. I am thankful for the UD community.

I am thankful for a wonderful gift I have received from the children and families of our community who seek life in the midst of extreme poverty.