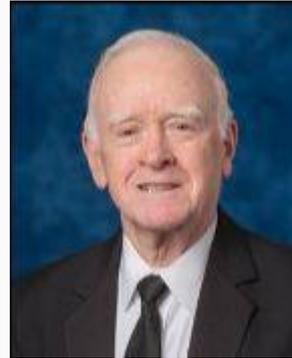




Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma



June 10, 2020

Biography of Death Notice No. 12

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Raymond Michael KANE**, of the Marianist Community of Mineola, New York, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 27, 2020, in Little Neck, New York, at the age of 81 with 62 years of religious profession.

Brother Ray was a high school teacher and guidance counselor who ministered in the eastern United States from his native New York to Florida, with many stops in between. Although he struggled with anxiety for much of his life, he is remembered as well for his thoughtfulness, caring and humility.

Raymond Michael Kane was born on September 1, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of three sons in the family of Raymond and Margaret (Hickey) Kane. His Marianist journey began at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, where he was instantly impressed with the brothers who served there. A visit to the Marianist novitiate at Marcy, New York, in his senior year validated his vision of a future as a religious brother in the Society of Mary.

He entered the Marcy novitiate and professed first vows there a year later, on September 5, 1957. He attended the University of Dayton and earned a bachelor's degree in history in 1960. During the following year, he attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., doing graduate studies in history and political science.

Brother Ray professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1961. A few weeks later, he began serving at St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he taught history and religion. In 1963, Brother Ray returned to his alma mater, Chaminade High School, where he taught and was a guidance counselor for the next seven years. Colleagues noted that Brother Ray was especially kind to students who were ignored or left behind by their peers. "If you knew Ray, you knew a man who, though seemingly more comfortable being in the background, always seemed to show up when someone needed prayers, support, or genuine concern," said Brother Tom Trager.

Brother Ray taught for a year at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore, Maryland, (1970-1971) before returning to Chaminade High School for the following two years. During this time, he earned a master's degree in education counseling from St. John's University in Jamaica, New York.

In 1973, Brother Ray was called back to St. James High School, where he served for most of the next two decades until the school closed in 1993. In addition to serving as a teacher and guidance counselor at St. James, Brother Ray moderated student council, the photography club and sodality, and coached track and field. He deeply enjoyed track events, even as a spectator in his later years. "The young brothers loved to tease Ray that track was not a 'real' sport. Ray had some withering words in response," said Brother Stephen Balletta, of the Province of Meribah. "Ray had a sharp wit but an even kinder heart. He was reserved with his wit but generous with his gratitude," said Brother Stephen.

Punctuating his long time at St. James was a stint at the Marianist Center in Folsom, Pennsylvania (1986-1988), and a brief term in ministry at St. John's Home in Rockaway, New York. He also earned a master's degree in religious education from Seattle University in 1982.

Upon leaving his beloved St. James High School in 1993, Brother Ray was on staff at the Marianist Family Retreat Center at Cape May Point, New Jersey, for a year before returning to high school ministry at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory in Hollywood, Florida. He served at Chaminade-Madonna from 1994 to 1996, and again from 2001 to 2009. In between, he ministered mostly at St. John's Home, a residential foster care facility for at-risk boys. He later wrote that working at St. John's Home "showed me that it is with the poor and marginalized that the Church has a special mission."

Brother Ray returned to the St. John's Home Community in 2009. Now in his early 70s, and having suffered a stroke, Brother Ray served his community in a variety of administrative and housekeeping tasks. When the Marianists withdrew from St. John's in 2012, Brother Ray lived for a time at the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. But he was unhappy there and returned "home" to New York to live with the Mineola Community at Chaminade High, where his Marianist journey had begun.

Although Brother Ray was a member of the Province of the United States, he was also loved and welcomed in the Province of Meribah, which was a gift and a blessing for all.

Brother Peter Francis Sennert of the Province of Meribah called Brother Ray a man of "exemplary humility." "Even as an older and infirm man, he worked every day in the dish room to clean up after meals – it was an extraordinary act of sacrifice," said Brother Peter Francis. "I particularly think of the last couple months when he needed more hands-on care and, while ashamed of needing help, he allowed us to do what we needed without complaint or argument."

"Brother Ray Kane was a beloved teacher and counsellor, perhaps because he had a particular room in his heart for the stragglers, the outcast and the sad," said Brother Stephen Glodek. "Throughout all the years, Ray was very aware of his weaknesses before the Lord, yet he was a good and generous brother to all of us. With his usual quirky smile, Ray could say with St. Francis of Assisi: 'I have done what little was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours to do.'" May he rest in peace.

