



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



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### **Biography of Death Notice N. 21**

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Lawrence CADA**, of the Siena Woods Marianist Community of Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 27, 2020, in Dayton, Ohio, at the age of 82 with 63 years of religious profession.

Brother Larry will be remembered most for his scholarship and passion for Marianist Studies. Yet he held a doctorate in mathematics and a master's degree in philosophy, and taught both at the university level. He was a storyteller, a "people person" and a founder of the North American Center for Marianist Studies. He believed firmly that the many successes of his life flowed from his great love for the Blessed Mother.

Lawrence John Cada was born on September 4, 1937, in Cleveland, Ohio. He and a sister, Georgine, were the children of James and Alice (Dusek) Cada. Larry's parents were first-generation Czech-Americans, and the family spoke both Czech and English in the home. Young Larry attended Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, and was quickly drawn to the idea of a vocation with the Society of Mary. He entered the Marianist Novitiate at Marcy, New York, in 1955.

Brother Larry professed first vows on September 8, 1956, in Marcy. He attended the Marianist scholasticate and the University of Dayton, where he received a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1959. He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1960, in Dayton. Recognizing his exceptional abilities, his superiors encouraged him to continue his studies. Thus, he earned a master's (1961) and a doctoral degree (1964) in mathematics from the Catholic University of America. During this time, he also began teaching mathematics at the University of Dayton (1963-1967) and working to establish adult sodalities, known now as Marianist Lay Communities.

For the next year and a half, Brother Larry, the mathematician, split his time between Dayton and New York, where he earned a master's degree in philosophy at Fordham University in 1968. "I remember many conversations Larry and I had when we were both graduate students in New York City," said Brother Ray Fitz. "Larry shared his great love for Father Chaminade, our Marianist Charism, and the importance of the Marianist Family. I count these conversations as one of the great blessings of my Marianist Life."

From 1969-1971, Brother Larry served at UD as assistant to the dean of the school of business and as assistant provost, while also ministering as director of aspirants for the Cincinnati Province. For the next six years, Brother Larry was back in his hometown, where he taught mathematics, philosophy and religion at Borromeo College and at Cleveland State University.

In recognition of his passion and aptitude for Marianist Studies, Brother Larry was granted permission in 1977 to study French in Paris and to study Blessed Chaminade's manuscripts at the Marianist archives in Rome. When he returned to the United States in 1978, he was sent to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he taught mathematics at Western Michigan University, and continued his ministry with adult sodalities. And, as he had in Dayton and Cleveland, he served as community director.

Brother Larry then responded to a call to Nairobi, Kenya, where for two years (1983-1985) he taught Marianist candidates through a University of Dayton extension program. During much of the 1970s and 1980s, he also was involved with the influential Marianist Studies program. And so, by the time he returned from Kenya, he was well-suited to step into a role with the North American Center for Marianist Studies (NACMS).

For the next ten years, Brother Larry served as director of NACMS, guiding the organization as it grew into a valued resource. He created a number of programs and publications, including the “Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies.” The book emerged from Brother Larry’s many years of teaching Marianist history to novices, according to friend and colleague Brother Tom Giardino. “The handbook is, in effect, an encyclopedia of Marianist studies and a remarkable resource for the ages,” said Brother Tom.

For many decades, Brother Larry was involved in ministry in the gay community, both within the Society of Mary and in the larger U.S. Church. At the time of his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee, he wrote that his work in helping “neutralize the hostile and damaging attitudes toward homosexuality” in the Church and society in general had been one of his most rewarding experiences as a Marianist.

In view of the call of recent General Chapters that the Society expand its missionary presence, St. John Paul II’s desire to reestablish the Church in the formerly communist countries of Eastern Europe, and with the encouragement of then Superior General, Fr. Fleming; Brother Larry threw himself into a fresh and unusual challenge. At age 60, he began ministry in his ancestral homeland, the Czech Republic, hoping to establish a Marianist Lay Community there. Despite his methodical efforts over the course of seven years in Prague, Brother Larry’s mission did not succeed. He contented himself with having served the Czech Church and embracing more closely his ethnic roots.

He returned to NACMS in 2005 and continued his work as a researcher and author in Marianist Studies. He remained on staff at the organization until the pandemic struck in March 2020. His last great project was updating Father Joseph Simler’s biography of Blessed Chaminade. He had finished 26 of 37 chapters, with detailed footnotes.

“Larry Cada stands as a giant in the field of Marianist Studies. His true passion for the work has greatly enriched the world’s understanding of the Marianist charism and will do so for future generations of the Marianist Family,” said George Lisjak, current director of NACMS. “We will miss his stories, his humor, and his love for all things Marianist.”

May he rest in peace.