

**Remarks at the Funeral Liturgy of Lawrence Cada SM –
3 September 2020 Queen of Apostles Chapel, Dayton Ohio**

Larry Cada is thought of as a Marianist studies guru...and he was. Yet, finally, he was a people person. When you were with him, often in looong conversations, you knew you were important to him. I'm sure this quality came from his love of Mary. As a novice, an article in the Constitutions of the day captured his attention, because it stated that a Marianist is someone, "who finds his happiness in bearing the name of Mary". Larry was first and foremost, a Marianist.

Lawrence John Cada was born on September 4, 1937 in his beloved Cleveland, Ohio. His parents, James and Alice Ducek Cada had one other child, Larry's sister Georgine, now deceased. We are grateful that her two daughters Cathy Breneman and Karen Curren [and their families] are here with us today.

Larry discovered his vocation at Cathedral Latin School where he graduated in 1955. A few months later, Larry entered the Novitiate at Marcy, New York and professed his first vows on September 8, 1956. After his Scholasticate in Dayton, Ohio, he made his perpetual vows on August 15, 1960, also in Dayton.

Larry graduated from UD majoring in mathematics. His brilliance was recognized early and he immediately went on for a masters and a doctorate in mathematics at the Catholic University of America.

After his graduate studies, Larry was assigned to UD as a professor from 1963-65, where we first met. He was deeply involved and influential in the UD Sodality with Hugh Bihl. He then moved on to Fordham to get a masters in Philosophy. He returned to UD as a professor for the years 1967-1971. In 1971, he moved to Cleveland where he continued his work with Marianist Lay Communities, while teaching at Cleveland State University and Borromeo Seminary.

Marianist Studies were the love of Larry's life beginning with his days in the Scholasticate. He spent 1977-78 school year on a sabbatical in Europe, to learn French and to study Father Chaminade's original manuscripts and other materials at the archives at the Marianist General Administration in Rome.

Larry and I lived together in Kalamazoo where we shared animating the Mustard Seed Marianist Lay Community. He also taught math at Western Michigan University. In his own words, Larry was in favor of "the great indoors," but it was in Kalamazoo that we ran a 5k race together...and it was actually outdoors!

Larry responded to a call to move to Kenya and taught in the then UD extension program for Marianist candidates in Nairobi from 1983-85.

After Kenya, Larry was involved in the beginnings of the North American Center for Marianist Studies or NACMS, where he was director from 1986-1993. However, he was then happy to turn over the administration to Carol Ramey whom he valued immensely as the right person at the right time to move NACMS forward.

Larry was involved with many of the influential Marianist Studies Programs from 1970-1987. Over the years, he prepared numerous publications and offered countless programs for NACMS.

From 1997-2005, he worked in Prague, in the Czech Republic attempting to found a Marianist Lay or Marianist Religious Community. I was the liaison with him from the General Administration and visited him often. I could see how he loved being in deeper touch with his ethnic roots as a Czech American. He spoke Czech fluently. The effort to start a Marianist Community did not succeed. However, he diligently served the diocesan Church in that country that had a small number of churchgoers.

Upon return to the United States, Larry continued his work on the NACMS staff. Larry's many publications include a significant work on early members of the Society of Mary, which exhibits his meticulous editing of the detailed information about the first twelve-hundred members of the Society. He also wrote an important book called "A Short History of Marianist Spirituality."

One of the most important resources that Larry developed emerged from his teaching the Marianist History course to novices for many years. Out of that came the "Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies". He was helped in organizing that by Patti Gehred of the NACMS staff and, of course, his friend and most trusted researcher, Teresa Trimboli. In effect, it is an encyclopedia of Marianist Studies and a remarkable resource for the Marianist ages.

As a people person, Larry was involved in Social Justice matters throughout his life. He was especially concerned with inclusiveness. He said in his Golden Jubilee remarks that, starting in the 1980s, he had various involvements with Gay ministries both in the SM and the larger Church. He found that to be one of his most rewarding experiences as a Marianist and that in this regard the SM had been wonderful.

In the late 70's, Larry and I did a course for the Novices on Marianist Studies called "Who's Who in Marianist Studies." In it, he enumerated those persons who were the main interpreters of Father Chaminade's thoughts. Larry was a list maker so he constructed the Big Five, the Second Echelon and the Lower 48. In his humility, he did not put himself in any of those categories, but I am sure he should be in the second echelon along with Neubert, Verrier, Vasey, Armbuster, Steffanelli and Fleming.

We have lost three giants in the last 6 months in the areas of Marianist Studies and Marianist Lay Community advocates...Dave Fleming, Hugh Bihl and Larry Cada. Larry and I were long-time friends and companions on this Marianist journey. In our conversations, we believed that the next ten years would be crucial in the development of the next generation of lay and vowed religious Marianist Scholars and Marianist Lay community guides. We spoke of our hope with what is developing.

Larry's last great project was the updating of Father Simler's life of Chaminade. He had finished 26 of 37 chapters with detailed

footnotes, revising Simler with the knowledge we have gained since that important work. I believe that I can speak for Larry in saying that this is a vital project still worthwhile to complete and ask, who is going to do that?

Larry was also deeply interested in the larger picture of religious life and was one of the writing team for the book published in 1979 entitled, *Shaping the Coming of Age of Religious Life*. Larry wrote the chapter on a historical model in the evolution of Religious Life. It is still referenced and used today as an important resource in understanding our history.

The second part of Article 305 of the Constitutions that inspired Larry as a novice and until his day of death says, "...he journey's onward occupying himself with the affairs of his heavenly Father, laboring for the glory of his mother and doing good to his fellow brothers."

Larry, your earthly journey has completed. We will miss you, but your legacy is secure. We believe that you will continue doing good to us, your fellow brothers, and the larger Marianist Family in the company of the Trinity and our Mother Mary.... Amen

Thomas F. Giardino, SM