



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



**December 11, 2020**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 35**

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Victor Michael FORLANI**, of the Siena Woods Marianist Community of Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 2, 2020, in Dayton, at the age of 77 with 58 years of religious profession.

Brother Victor, known for his ready smile and hearty laugh, served in a number of roles in the Society of Mary. He was a teacher, school administrator, and president of the Bergamo Center in Dayton, Ohio. He may be best remembered as a lecturer and the Marianist-in-Residence at the University of Dayton's School of Business Administration, where he ministered for more than 20 years.

Victor Michael Forlani was born on May 31, 1943, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the oldest of four children in the family of Michael and Sabina (Rossi) Forlani. He attended his parish school and went on to nearby Cathedral Latin School. Inspired by the Marianists at Cathedral Latin, young Vic entered the postulate at Beacon, New York, at age 16. He remained at Beacon for novitiate studies and professed first vows there on February 11, 1962.

Brother Vic moved to the Marianist Scholasticate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, and earned bachelor's degrees in education and business administration from the University of Dayton in August of 1965. For the next two years, Brother Vic taught business courses at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He professed perpetual vows on August 28, 1966, in Dayton.

For the 1967–1968 school year, Brother Vic was sent to his alma mater, Cathedral Latin, where he ministered as a teacher and business manager. He was then called to Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was assistant principal and business manager of his community for two years. In the autumn of 1970, Brother Vic returned to Cathedral Latin, where he taught and was director of development (fundraising) for the next five years. By taking summer classes during this time, he also earned a master's degree in education administration from Syracuse University in 1973.

With his leadership and management skills now well established, Brother Vic was sent to Monsignor Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1975. He served there as principal, community business manager and a member of the diocesan pastoral council for the following five years. A glowing letter from the Hackett faculty senate commended Brother Vic upon his departure, noting his outstanding performance, dedication to students and staff, and his success in creating a spirit of community at the high school.

In the autumn of 1980, Brother Vic moved into a different type of ministry as the president of the Bergamo Center for Christian Renewal in Dayton. He ministered at the facility, known now as the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning, for eight years. Brother Tom Giardino, who had known Brother Vic since high school, said his friend was a natural for a ministry focused on strengthening faith and community. "Victor had a way of blending the gifts of his Italian-American heritage with those of his Marianist vocation," said Brother Tom. "These came together in his talent for fostering relationships."

In 1988, Brother Victor spent a sabbatical year earning a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He spent the following year at the University of Dayton as assistant vice president for advancement (fundraising). Perhaps this year at UD gave Brother Vic a vision for his future. He returned to student life, spending the next four years earning a doctorate in business

administration and management from Boston University.

Now age 52, Brother Vic returned to the University of Dayton in 1995 as a lecturer in management and marketing. As a religious brother in the school of business, he provided a distinct perspective. He pushed students toward business careers guided by faith, ethical behavior and a deep sense of personal responsibility. He established the Center for the Integration of Faith and Work within UD's school of business. The center's goal has been to bring faith to faculty, students and the businesses of the Dayton area, promoting commerce as a calling and using Catholic Social Teaching as guidelines.

Brother Vic pushed his students to put business ethics into practice. In 2001, he challenged students in his management class to work with local credit unions to help families in poverty avoid the exorbitant fees charged by "payday lenders." The result was a lending program called StretchPay, which has since been implemented by scores of credit unions in multiple states. It saves borrowers millions of dollars each year in interest and fees while creating new credit union customers.

In 2009, Brother Vic was named the first Marianist-in-Residence of UD's School of Business Administration. As part of this role, he organized six "Walk the Talk" sessions each semester, bringing together students and local business professionals to discuss the role of faith and ethics in commerce.

"Bro. Victor was beloved across campus and did such valuable work in the School of Business Administration for many decades. He will be much missed," said UD Provost Paul Benson. UD President Eric Spina called Brother Victor "an extraordinary blessing to UD."

Brother Victor retired from the University of Dayton in 2016. Still, he continued to live on campus and enjoy the company of the countless friends and associates he had cultivated over the decades. "Victor always had time to chat about almost any subject, from cooking to politics and anything in between," said Brother Ron Overman, adding that Brother Vic was a great cook. "He was such a good friend for 38 years," said UD colleague Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS, "He, (Father) Jerry Chinchar and I often cooked together, sharing wonderful evenings."

Others described Brother Victor as "a gentle soul," "a good man and loving presence," and "a wonderful friend and colleague."

Because of health issues, Brother Vic moved to the Siena Woods Community in October 2019.

May he rest in peace.