



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



April 21, 2021

Biography of Death Notice N. 6

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Edwin SHIRAS**, of the Marianist Community of Cupertino, California, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 2, 2021, in Cupertino, California, USA at the age of 86 with 67 years of religious profession.

Bro. Edwin was a working brother who dedicated his life to serving in maintenance, construction, and technology roles in Marianist schools and ministries. He found great joy in working with his hands and dedicating his life to God and Mary through service to others.

Everett Edwin Paul Shiras was born on October 9, 1934, in Long Beach, California. He was one of five children (3 girls and 2 boys) in the family of Russell and Wilmar (nee House) Shiras. Bro. Ed attended Sacred Heart Grade School in Oakland, California, where he graduated in 1948 and then St. Joseph High School in Alameda, California. He transferred to Chaminade High School in Santa Cruz, where he first expressed interest in religious life as a Marianist.

Bro. Edwin entered the Marianist Novitiate in Santa Cruz in July of 1952 at the age of

[Type here]

17. He professed first vows there on August 15, 1953. He served as a math teacher at Saint Louis High School in Honolulu, Hawaii (1956-1957) and then on the maintenance staff of Chaminade College, Honolulu (1957-1958). He returned to Santa Cruz, where he served as a cook and a farmhand at Villa St. Joseph. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, in 1958. In April of 1959, he professed perpetual vows in Santa Cruz before being called to serve as a staff member at the Marianist General Administration in Rome.

Upon his 60th Jubilee as a Marianist, Bro. Edwin reflected, "I entered religious life because I saw in the brothers a life of service through education. My life as a Marianist has been one of service wherever God chose to send me. God gave me many diverse skills, and my joy was in using those skills for the benefit of others." Bro. Edwin fulfilled his aspiration of serving others throughout his life as a Marianist. In 1962, he returned to the United States to serve at Villa St. Joseph in Cupertino, California. Over the next few decades, Bro. Edwin served in various positions in construction, maintenance and audiovisual technology. His ministry assignments included: Villa St. Joseph, Santa Cruz, California; Chaminade College Prep, West Hills, California; Marianist Center, Honolulu; Chaminade College, Honolulu; Saint Louis School, Honolulu; Archbishop Mitty High School, San Jose, California; Commercial Employment, San Anselmo, California; Newman Center, Santa Cruz, California; Archbishop Riordan High School, San Francisco, California.

Bro. Tom Redmond wrote, "Bro. Ed had an interest in technology that spanned decades; given that he was involved in technology beginning in the 1950s, he kept up with the pace of change. He was also involved in the construction of the Marianist provincialate in Cupertino in 1968. He did a lot of the electrical wiring. Once the provincialate construction was completed, he moved to Honolulu and was involved with all levels of maintenance on the campus of Saint Louis School and Chaminade University."

Bro. Edwin honed his skills by taking many classes over the years in auto mechanics, drafting, computer programming, welding and AV/Repair. He also had an interest in psychology and earned his master's degree in Marriage and Family and Child Counseling degree in 1992 from San Francisco State University. He enjoyed singing, reading and needlecrafts.

He wrote in his 60th Jubilee statement, "My years as a Marianist have passed swiftly. Little did I know when I entered the novitiate that I would see so much of this world from

[Type here]

Rome to Hawaii. Making 'plans' never worked out, and I learned to depend on God for direction and His will for me. I went where I was told, did what I was asked to do, and continued learning to better help others.

I am grateful to God that I was able to cook, to repair things, to build new things, and to help teachers by building closed-circuit TV in classrooms. Now that I am retired, I am pleased to still be of service to my fellow brothers and hope to be able to do so for years to come."

Bro. Edwin retired to the Marianist Community in Cupertino, California

We thank God for Bro. Edwin and his dedicated and faithful service in honor of Mary. May he rest in peace.