



## **BROTHER JOHN PATRICK DEMPSEY**

*Celebrating 60 years of profession*

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, to James Dempsey and Mary Graham (both offspring of Irish immigrants), I am the fourth of six siblings — three of whom have died since 2017. We all attended Catholic schools from K-12 and are grateful to the Ursuline nuns of Cleveland, our elementary school educators. My father graduated from Marianist Cathedral Latin School in 1923, as did all his sons.

I truly believe that the word “vocation” is a *calling* because that is how I became interested in religious life. At various times, I was invited to consider becoming a vowed religious, and I discerned my Marianist vocation with Brothers Chris Conlon, Joe Bischoff and George Dury. At our senior retreat at a Cleveland Jesuit Retreat House and preached by Fr. Karl Wilhelm, I resolved (on St. Patrick’s Day) to become a Marianist vowed religious. By July 15, I had joined other pre-novices on the train from southern Ohio to the Marianist Novitiate in Marcy, New York.

In the *Novitiate 1962 Souvenir* booklet, I quoted St. John the Apostle, my patron saint, “Let us not love in word, neither with the tongue, but in deed and in truth,” which happened to be the motto of Cathedral Latin School: “Opere et Veritate.” For me, living this motto is ideal — *yet a daily cross*—to personally practice what I preach.

After graduating from University of Dayton, I provided service to youth, primarily as a secondary school counselor for 56 years at Marianist secondary schools in Cleveland (1966-78), Hollywood, Florida (1978-79), Pittsburgh (1979-2000), a return to Cleveland (2000-2010), and my current position in Los Angeles, at Chaminade College Preparatory High School (2010-present).

I had some very interesting summer experiences: working with disadvantaged youth at St. John’s Home, Rockaway Beach, New York; teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at St. Laurence College, Dublin, Ireland, to Marianist

students from Spain; and assisting an Italian youngster from Rome who came to Pittsburgh with her parents for a successful liver transplant.

In 1967, when I applied to our Superior General in Rome for perpetual vows in the Society of Mary, I stated, “I would like to more explicitly and perpetually profess the Marianist life of total consecration and service to the people of God.” I wanted to “dedicate myself to the Church, as Marianist religious, leading souls to Mary’s Son.” I am happy to again renew this dedication at our jubilee celebration. I especially want to thank my deceased parents — both active Legion of Mary members — who created a loving Catholic environment that nourished my calling to the consecrated life.