



BROTHER JOSEPH BARRISH

Celebrating 75 years of profession

After all these years, I am blessed to truly believe that my image of God is one in which He is continuously smiling and laughing. My life has been filled with both many graces and surprises!

I enjoyed my early years of formation and studies very much. I was fortunate to study both in the U.S. and Europe. Superiors and my fellow brothers have both supported and encouraged me in my artwork. Men like Mel Meyer and Cletus Behlman shared special times with me as, together, we experienced the gifts of our God's world.

I have been able to establish myself as an artist and have grown as a person and Marianist as a result of all the opportunities provided for me. I have been graced with good health and find our Marianist way of life very fulfilling.

My life has been filled with many blessings these past 75 years! I have no regrets at all about the decision I made as a young man in Cleveland, Ohio.

Throughout my years as a Marianist, something wonderful has happened to me. I have come to sense a presence — a benign, encouraging presence in my Marianist living. While I deal with my ups and downs, mistakes and failures seriously — this presence does not seem overly concerned about my less-than-perfect performance. I experience this presence in the icon of Mary and Jesus — a visual picture, which I have come to love. I have found, over the years, that this presence is not just contained in a specific room or building — it is found in a community of brothers, each who strives to become like Jesus. I have come to understand the following of Mary that was shared with all by our holy founder, William Joseph Chaminade.