



BROTHER EDWARD LONGBOTTOM

Celebrating 60 years of Profession

I'm the fourth of eight children of Lawrence and Rosalia Longbottom, descendants of Irish, German, English, Protestants and Catholics who became Cincinnati neighbors near Madisonville, OH, and began a shared legacy. Family habits and values were frugality, appreciating the simple things, going to church, helping others, and sharing family meals and celebrations. With 15 aunts and uncles, being around family was the norm. Childhood included seven early years of small-town farming life near Owensville, OH, and church life at St. Louis Church, pastored by kind Fr. Jim Haley. Moving back to the neighborhood of my birth and to St. John Vianney parish, I met pastor Fr. Hoban, whose Mass I often served, and the good Sisters of Charity who taught there. At each daily school Mass, I read the prologue of John's Gospel from my missal, which became an anchor of my faith. At Purcell High School, I met the "Brothers of Mary" and admired them. During high school, the Marianist Superior General, a Frenchman, Fr. Paul Hoffer, addressed assembled students and then, unexpectedly, I had a personal conversation with him. He inspired me. Somehow, God and many people and events brought me to my Marianist life, including youthful friends who are now old friends.

Like all journeys, my Marianist journey was not always easy. I've always had some Marianist brothers encourage me to take risks or reject something, stick to a difficult but needed task, or correct something. I've never regretted my decision to follow what I heard; a call from God to Mary's mission of bringing Jesus to others. It led to experiences with many wonderful people in the USA and various countries, especially through work in Ireland and Mexico. Those who are different taught me how we are the same. I thank God for each day and look forward to many more blessings.