



BROTHER HOWARD HUGHES

Celebrating 75 years of Profession

While growing up in Baltimore attending St. James Grammar School, where the brothers taught boys grades 4 to 8, I first encountered the Marianists. Our family owned a neighborhood bar, and we lived on the floor above it. When my mother would see the brothers out on a walk, she would send me downstairs to get a pitcher of beer and send me out to invite the brothers upstairs. It was there that I encountered the brothers up close and felt the attraction to join the Marianists.

Upon entering the Marianists, I developed my interest in music and glee clubs, especially under the direction and inspiration of **Bro. Robert Holzmer**, who became my mentor. My interest in music and singing was nurtured by the Marianists, which enabled me to become a liturgical musician, as well as conduct glee clubs for Chaminade High School in Mineola, with performances at Radio City Music Hall in New York, in Marianist high schools and universities across the country, and Santa Susanna in Rome, where my choir sang for St. John Paul II.

I believe I may be the first Marianist to have played for a Papal Mass and played in St. Peter's Basilica. For our brothers who trot out the same tired line that they "can't sing," I say try again. There are very few people who are really tone-deaf. After all, you don't

have to be a concert artist. You work with what God has given you and use a little help from your friends. God doesn't make junk. Use the voice you have been given.