



## **BROTHER JAMES BURKHOLDER**

*Celebrating 60 years of Profession*

It has been a wonderful, grace-filled 60 years since my first profession. Many of my high school teachers and professors at St. Mary's University were outstanding Marianist educators who inspired me to do my best. My years in St. Louis brought challenges and growth, both professionally and spiritually, and there are parents and students I am still in contact with today. The assignment to San Antonio was another grace and growth opportunity. I have lived with many wonderful Marianists, including some former teachers. For the most part, community life has been a joy. I have a great appreciation for the value of a Marianist education after seeing its effects on my life and the lives of our graduates. Being in the area where my family lives has also been a great grace. I am grateful for the opportunities the Society of Mary has given me to develop and use my gifts and talents to support our mission. My summer work at Tecaboca has also been challenging and grace-filled.

My original decision to join the Marianists during my senior year in high school grew out of my Marian Sodality consecration. Sixty-one years later, I am sure that this is what God has called me to do, and I am grateful for the many graces and blessings I have received.

After retiring in 2020 from 53 years of teaching, I am finding more time for prayer and spiritual growth, as well as dealing with more health issues as I age. I am happy to be able to live in a Marianist Community, supporting and being supported by my fellow Marianists. May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary!