



BROTHER RICHARD SCHRADER

Celebrating 70 years of Profession

Thank you for my Marianist vocation, where I have been able to serve in schools and parishes. My greatest blessing was community life, where I lived with many wonderful and supportive brothers.

I was born in 1935 to Joseph and Marie Schrader on a small farm near Cahokia, Illinois. In 1943, we moved to East St. Louis. My sisters and I went to Holy Angels Church and school. Religion became a big part of my life with daily Mass, Benediction, Rosary, The Way of the Cross, and being an altar boy.

I went to Central Catholic High School, where the Marianist taught me. In April of my sophomore year, three of us were asked if we'd be willing to spend a weekend at the Marianist Postulate in Saint Louis. I felt a sense of joy, peace, and belonging. I guess the others did too, since the three of us were there in autumn. The time passed quickly with prayer, study, and recreation. Twelve of us got on a train to go to the Novitiate. After prayer, the study of religious life, and the Marianist rule, 24 of us took First Vows in 1953. We got our college degrees from St. Mary University.

In January of 1960, I sailed for Callao Santa Maria, Lima, Peru and spent five years teaching at Collegio Santa Maria.

I returned to the United States and taught at McBride High School. During the next five summers, I got a master's in English at Notre Dame. In 1971, I moved to Vianney High

School, where I taught English and coached freshman football. In 1976, I was assigned to Gross Catholic High School in Omaha with a similar schedule. My summers were spent cutting grass, painting, and other little jobs around the house and school.

In 1982, I took over the maintenance at Nolan High School in Fort Worth, TX. Three years later, I moved back to Vianney and was in charge of the grounds. In 1988, I began parish ministry with 12 years at Pillar in St. Louis and 17 at Rosary in San Antonio. I was in charge of maintenance and involved with RCIA and small Christian communities. In 2017, I retired to Saint Louis to be near my sister Mary.