



BROTHER LAWRENCE MCBRIDE

Celebrating 60 years of Profession

Reflecting on this jubilee celebration and the beautiful journey since taking my vows 60 years ago this August, I am washed over with peacefulness and gratefulness. I am peaceful because God's presence brings peace, and I have had the joy of dwelling in His presence. I am grateful for the opportunity and relationships I've been gifted along the way.

My faith journey began from the outset for me. My Mom, Dad, and sister Sharon started me on a disciplined yet loving road. My wonderful childhood included outstanding parents, friends, and education. I attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help (K-1), then St. Catherine of Alexandria (2nd-5th grade), St. Pius X (6th-8th grades), and McBride High School. I earned a BA in History from St. Mary's University and finished at St. Louis University with a MA in Historical Theology (1988). My education exposed me to countless brothers, teachers, and mentors who shaped me into who I am today.

I've been gifted the opportunity to serve at Chaminade College Prep High School as a teacher and Director of Resident Students and at Vincent Gray Alternative High School for eight years as Director. I write to you now from the place that has captured both my heart and the greatest bulk of my service to Christ—Mexico, where I've served off and on since 1989. I serve as Vocation Director, Community Director, teacher, and in many other ways. I've been able to walk alongside people in their lives, encouraging,

equipping, and supporting them as they grow in their own journeys and faith. In reality, I have given others very little, but have received from others an enormous amount of patience, knowledge, friendship, and love.

I give special thanks to those who went before me and set examples. The brothers I met in high school provided an altruistic and idealistic influence, and I credit them with being the ones who first inspired my desire to be a Marianist. While I've had so many dynamic influences through my faith life, Bro. Thomas Barber, Bro. Walter Ebbesmeyer, SM, and Bro. John Laudenback, SM, have been models and mentors, and occupy a special place in my heart.

Marianists are known for their family spirit; if I have given others anything, it is a taste of this sense of family. Jesus and Mary's presence has grown until I have finally learned to forget myself and love others. With peacefulness and gratefulness, I give thanks for the Marianist vocation. The patience and examples of my brothers and friends, which have helped me to love, are what I celebrate alongside you in this time of jubilee.