



**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**October 24, 2023**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 16**

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Albert George KUNTEMEIER**, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 13, 2023, in San Antonio, at the age of 92 with 75 years of religious profession.

Brother Al was a teacher, a counselor, a coach, a chaplain, a tennis player, and a joyful extrovert. Over the course of more than 60 years of ministry, he touched the lives of all those in his orbit with his friendliness, positive spirit, and dedication to the Blessed Mother.

Albert George Kuntemeier was born on October 21, 1930, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was one of four children in the family of Arthur and Regina (Peterman) Kuntemeier. Young Al attended St. Paul the Apostle school and went on to

Northside Catholic High School, where he first encountered the Brothers of Mary. He studied at Northside for just one year. On August 1, 1945, Al, who was not quite 15, entered the Maryhurst postulate in St. Louis.

Al finished his high school studies at Maryhurst and entered the Marianist novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, where he professed first vows a year later, on August 15, 1948. Brother Al earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1951. He began teaching that autumn at Eugene Coyle High School in St. Louis and professed perpetual vows on July 19, 1953, in Galesville.

Coyle High closed in 1960 and was replaced with the brand-new St. John Vianney High School, where Brother Al continued to teach for one year. He then spent a year (1961 – 1962) teaching at McBride High School, also in St. Louis. During this first decade of ministry, the energetic young Marianist taught religion, social studies, and business courses and coached football, soccer, track, and golf. He served as athletics director and moderator of various clubs. He was the treasurer for both his community and Vianney.

By taking summer courses, Brother Al earned a master's degree in business administration from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1962. He then spent a year in religious studies as a "second novitiate" before embarking on seven years as vocation director for the St. Louis Province. It must have been a challenging tenure, happening amidst the changes of the Second Vatican Council and the societal upheavals of the late 1960s.

"Brother Al Kuntemeier is one of the most impactful and charismatic men for working with young people that I have ever known ... He is highly idealistic and ethical ... he has been extremely successful as a secondary school teacher and coach." These were among the glowing words of Brother James Gray in recommending Brother Al for graduate school at the University of Notre Dame in 1970. Brother Al was admitted to Notre Dame and earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1972.

During this time, Brother Al returned to the classroom, spending a year (1971 – 1972) at Marian High School in South Bend, Indiana. For the next four years, Brother Al ministered as a teacher, counselor, and coach at St. Michael's High School in Chicago, Illinois.

“Brother Al’s presence and ministry was a blessing wherever he was assigned,” said longtime friend and fellow Marianist Father Jim Tobin. “He touched so many lives through his years as a counselor, coach, and teacher. He lived a full Marianist life.”

Brother Al began ministry at Bishop McGuinness High in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1976. He remained there for four years. In the autumn of 1981, Brother Al, now entering his fourth decade of ministry, began serving at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas, in what would be the longest stretch of a long career. He continued at Nolan as a teacher, senior guidance counselor, and coach of soccer and tennis until 2014.

“A true gift from God” is how Brother Al is described by Patty Lussier, who met him during his time in Fort Worth. “It is because of him that I have stayed with my Catholic faith. When there were times I doubted God, Brother Al was there to get me back on track,” Patty said. “Anyone who got to know him will never forget him. I know his spirit will live on and influence generations to come.”

At age 83, Brother Al retired from Nolan High to active service at the Marianist Residence Community in San Antonio. He served as chaplain to the tennis team at St. Mary’s University, a sport he loved and continued to play into his 90s. He was also able to travel and was particularly moved by a trip to Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a pilgrimage that increased his strong devotion to the Virgin Mary.

“Brother Al prayed so many rosaries,” said Terry Eversole, a Province employee whose father was a cousin of Brother Al’s. “Lots of his students, friends, and family were assigned particular beads, on which Al would remember them in prayer,” said Terry. “That he entered eternal life during October, the month of Our Lady of the Rosary, and specifically on the 13th, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, makes me smile as I imagine his joy at seeing her come for him, her faithful, adoring son.”

May he rest in peace.