



## Brother John Habjan

### *Celebrating 60 years of Profession*

I became impressed with the Marianists while a student at Cathedral Latin School. They were a very happy community of Marianists. I can remember them standing on the porch of the Marianist residence laughing. I was thinking of joining the Marianists when a brother encouraged me to do so. I joined a group of students who talked with the Marianists about joining. The rest is history, I went to novitiate in July 1963.

I have enjoyed my life as a Marianist. I have taken on responsibilities I never thought I would. I have enjoyed Marianist community. I appreciate the kindness expressed to me as I learned to live Marianist life. I can look back and express my thankfulness for the challenges in ministry offered me.

I'm from Cleveland, Ohio. I attended St. Vitus Elementary School and sang in the choir. At Cathedral Latin High School, I first encountered the Society of Mary. The Marianists witnessed a life of prayer, living a community life of sharing and laughter, a ministry of education, and they played practical jokes on each other.

I entered the novitiate in Marcy, N.Y., on July 8, 1963. On Aug. 15, 1964, I professed my First Vows. We were asked to choose a scripture to remind us of our commitment. I chose "Serve the Lord with gladness" from Psalm 100. It's been a guide for me. Sometimes, I've forgotten it and its meaning. During these last years, "Serve the Lord with gladness" has taken on a new meaning.

My ministry has been primarily in secondary education at Moeller High School, where I moderated the band and karate club. At Chaminade-Julienne High School, I was a teacher and administrator. I also served on a national committee to help school personnel understand and implement the Characteristics of Marianist Education. Working with this group, I've come to understand the contribution that Marianist education makes in the lives of students, faculty, the Church, and society.

I served as assistant director of education for the Marianist Province of the United States. We collaborated to develop new and creative ways to deepen the Marianist Characteristics of Education. We're blessed with committed educators. I've served at the Marianist Archives, helping others learn about our Marianist history and contributions. I currently serve in the Marian Library at University of Dayton since 2016.

I know I still have a lot to learn, a lot to share with my brothers. I am extremely grateful to Mary and to my brothers for all I have learned through my years as a Marianist.