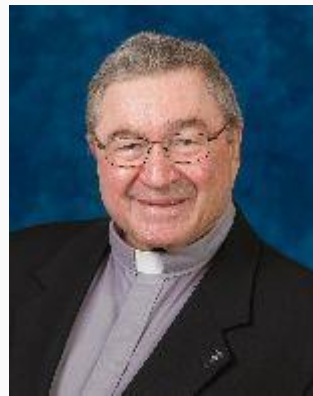




**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**November 27, 2024**

### **Biography of Death Notice N. 18**

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Timothy W. DWYER**, priest, of the Marianist Residence Community in San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 18, 2024, in San Antonio at the age of 89 with 70 years of religious profession.

Father Tim was a beloved chaplain, retreat director, religious formator, teacher, and provincial administrator. Remembered for his prudence, exemplary religious spirit, fraternal charity, warmth, and courage, he once wrote that he desired nothing more than “to lead others to God instead of seeking to have myself thought well of, to love Him more than myself.”

Timothy William Dwyer was born on October 15, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the only child of Timothy and Mary (Haley) Dwyer. Baptized as an infant,

young Tim first encountered the Marianists at DeAndreis High School in St. Louis. He was immediately impressed by the brothers and priests who taught there, noting that in addition to being excellent teachers, “they took a personal interest in us – in the kind of persons we were becoming. They were not only our teachers; they were our role models and our friends.”

When one of those Marianist Brothers asked Tim in a letter his senior year whether he’d ever considered a religious vocation, he noted that “the question surprised me, but after thinking and praying over it for a time, I felt that I should give it a try.” He worked with the brothers at a summer camp that year, and then entered the novitiate at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin.

Brother Tim professed first vows in the Society of Mary on August 15, 1954, at Marynook. He then began scholastic studies at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, before moving on to St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from St. Mary’s in 1957.

For the next six years, Brother Tim taught classes in religion, English, and Latin while also serving as Athletics Director at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, Texas. He then taught for a year at Villa St-Jean International School in Fribourg, Switzerland, before entering the Marianist Seminary there in 1964. He was ordained to the priesthood in St. Louis on August 4, 1968.

Following ordination, Father Tim continued high school work for four more years, serving as a teacher and chaplain at St. Michael’s in Chicago, Illinois, and at Nolan Catholic in Fort Worth, Texas. Then, beginning in the early 1970s, Father Tim branched outside the classroom to enter other vital areas of ministry including retreat work, religious formation, and provincial administration.

Father Tim served twice on staff at the Marianist Apostolic Center in Eureka, Missouri, for a total of seven years (1972–76 and 1989–92), both preaching retreats and acting as the facility’s director. He spent two years (1987-88) as associate director at the Institute for Pastoral Ministry in Kansas City, Missouri, an assignment that focused on spirituality and retreat work. In between these stints in retreat ministry, Father Tim guided religious formation programs for 11 years – first as Director of the Marianist Formation Center in San Antonio, and then as Rector of the Marianist Seminary in Toronto, Ontario.

Called to provincial leadership in 1992, Father Tim served three years as Provincial Assistant for Religious Life before then being named Provincial in 1995. He remained in that role until 2002, shepherding the former St. Louis Province through a process that would unite it with three other provinces to form the Marianist Province of the USA. He then stayed on for a time in leadership of the new Province, serving until 2004 as Provincial Assistant for Religious Life.

Other members of the Provincial Council praised Father Tim's skills at the helm during a time of significant change. "He's been a wise and prudent counselor," one said. "He asks good questions, focuses discussions, and is very open to new ways of doing things." Father Tim himself looked back on the time with great fondness. "The service of leadership has enriched my life," he wrote in a jubilee reflection. "It has broadened my understanding and appreciation of the Society of Mary worldwide and especially in the USA. It has helped me grow in appreciation of the rich variety of personalities, talents, and genuine goodness of our men, and challenged me to keep growing, to become a better person and Marianist."

Following this 12-year period in provincial administration, Father Tim took a sabbatical at the School of Applied Theology in Oakland, California. Then in 2005, he moved to San Antonio and returned to formation work for a time – directing the aspirancy program at Casa Maria until 2010. From there, he went to the Marianist Family Retreat Center in Cape May, New Jersey, to serve as chaplain.

Father Tim touched many lives for the better during his decades of priestly ministry, but there was at least a smidge of resistance to this calling in his younger years. Marianist Sister Gretchen Trautman, a long-time friend, remembers hearing the story he told of his vocation. "When Tim was 12 or 13 years old, he was asleep in bed and above on the wall hung a crucifix," she says. "In a dream, Jesus came down off the cross and stood in front of Tim, asking him to be a priest. Tim, in his own words, said 'I ran from the idea for years. I didn't want that.' And he kept running from the idea until Brother Bill Kennealy asked him the same question. With that, Tim followed Christ's invitation."

Although Father Tim was an only child, he hailed from a large and loving extended family whose members often shared stories about his younger years.

A cousin's daughter, Ellen Reynolds, remembers hearing tales of a mischievous streak in him. "When he was little, he'd fill his pockets with his cousins' toys to take home with him," she says. That memory always stirred a chuckle in family members, as did the report of him hopping a streetcar at the tender age of five to buy lunch at a neighborhood confectionery. Ellen remembers Father Tim's family visits with great fondness, noting that on one of those occasions he baptized her oldest son. And this familial affection was widespread: "My mother Tillie and her sister Jane would spoil Father Tim," she smiles, "They had a custom suit made for him, and would hand him money to buy 'good' socks."

Another relative, Anne Roth, has similar memories. "Tim was an only child, but as he liked to say, he never felt like one," she says. "He was a member of a boisterous extended family, and he reveled in it. When 30 of us joined Tim at the altar for a photo after one of his jubilee celebrations, the photographer announced that he only wanted immediate family members. And we all proclaimed, 'we ARE immediate family!' Quite simply, Tim was a devoted priest who was a gift to his mother and a blessing to his Irish Catholic family. We are so proud to claim him as ours."

Marianist Brother Stephen Glodek worked side-by-side with Father Tim in provincial administration for many years, in addition to their close encounters in other ministries and locations. "As an administrator and as a chaplain, Tim was overwhelmingly kind to each individual he encountered," Brother Steve says. "He ministered with compassion and competence. Tim absorbed in his body the tensions and the suffering of these roles. He stooped and carried the problems from the people he ministered to and cared for. Tim had a keen sense of humor in both his ministerial work and his homilies. I learned much from this good man and how he lived his Marianist life. I thank God for his presence and service as our brother." May he rest in peace.

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