

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **JAMES JOSEPH CHRISTIANA**. He died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 7, 2025, in St. Louis, MO at the age of 72, with 34 years of religious profession.

James Joseph Christiana was born on July 11, 1952, in New York City, New York. He was the only child of James and Mary (Addimando) Christiana. He was baptized at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in the Bronx, New York, where he also attended grammar school. He attended Mount Saint Michael High School in the Bronx and graduated in 1970.

Brother James or Jim, as he preferred to be called, enrolled in Herban H. Lehman College in New York, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1974. He earned his master's degree in sociology from Columbia University in New York in 1977 and his doctorate in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1985. While at Berkeley, Brother Jim worked with Dr. Robert Bellah (author of *Habits of the Heart*, 1985) and assisted him with his classes on the sociology of religion. While working with Dr. Bellah, he met Marianist Sister Laola Hironacka, secretary to Dr. Robert Bella. "Both Dr. Bellah and Sister Laola became profound sources of Christian inspiration to me," he wrote in a letter seeking permission to enter into the Marianist aspirancy program in 1988. He described in that same letter that he felt the calling to religious life from an early age, "The image of Mary—a mortal who is called upon to serve without fully understanding the design and mysteries of God—has been a source of inspiration to me throughout my life." Jim was accepted into the aspirancy program in the Marianist Pacific Province. He entered Novitiate at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio in July of 1989. He professed first vows on August 19, 1990, at the Marianist

Provincial Residence in Cupertino, California and professed perpetual vows in Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 12, 1993.

Brother Jim was passionate about American foreign policy. In the 1970s, he had worked for the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. During the Reagan/Bush administrations, Christiana, along with a group of sociologists/historians, served as consultants for several agencies within the United States intelligence community. This work allowed him to travel extensively throughout the world before entering the Aspirancy program.

After making his first vows, Brother Jim was assigned to teach at Chaminade University in Hawaii. He taught philosophy and religion. He touched the lives of many students and he was voted teacher of the year on several occasions. Fr. Tim Kenney, a good friend of Bro. Jim indicated that he spoke with numerous former students on the death of Bro. Jim and all of them commented on the impact that he had on their lives. Mark Fagiano, a former student and Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Washington State University dedicated his book, Practicing Empathy to Brother Jim, calling him the “perfect form of a friend ...the most profound and wondrous being in the cosmos!” In August, 2009 Bro. Jim took leave of his teaching responsibilities due to health issues. His condition did not allow him to return to ministry. Bro. Bernie Ploeger, who was the President of Chaminade University at the time, said, “Bro. Jim was one of the most beloved teachers at Chaminade University. He always received the very best ranking in student assessments. Sadly, he had to withdraw from his teaching assignments after realizing his health would not allow him to continue. Brother Jim had an infectious personality, a hearty laugh, and a brilliant mind. He was a voracious reader and was excellent at being present with people.”

In 2010, Bro. James retired to the Marianist Community in Cupertino, California. In 2017, he moved to a special facility in Saint Louis that would better meet his medical needs.

May he rest in peace.