



Brother Philip T. Aaron, SM

Celebrating 75 years of Profession

The journey that started with a train ride to Dayton, OH, at age 15 continues. As in Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, the hero finally achieves the boon and takes it back home to share, only to start a new adventure. He is not stuck in the past, has no regrets, and is always looking forward to a new beginning for which help will come as long as he takes the first step.

I was born in McKees Rocks, PA, and grew up in nearby Pittsburgh, where I attended Resurrection Grade School and North Catholic High School before taking that first step to relocate to Mount St. John in OH and earn a BS from University of Dayton. I then earned my MS at Saint Louis University and a PhD at Case Western Reserve. My career included 20 years of service as a teacher and principal at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, OH, in addition to teaching at McBride High School in St. Louis, MO (1964), and serving as Director of Secondary Education for the Cincinnati Province (1974-76) before returning to North Catholic High School as principal (1976-79). My time in secondary education was followed by 35 years at University of Dayton, where I was a faculty member in International Studies and Campus Ministry as well as Director of the Ethos Program in the School of Engineering.

Much has changed since that initial journey and my First Profession on September 8, 1950. Now retired, I am thankful for the many people who have accompanied and supported me in so many ways. Life today is very different, and I am hopeful that the future will continue to open new pathways for other young men who begin similar journeys.

Entering my tenth decade was a very sobering time as I observed younger friends who were not in good physical condition and wondered why I was still functioning well and enjoying life. I changed the name of my blog to "Moseying Though My Nineties" and started to explore the topic of evolution rather than just post photos of nature after gaining interest in Pierre Teilhard du Chardin during the pandemic of 2020.

"Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" is an appropriate theme song for my life. Despite some big storms in my career, I feel optimistic about how my life continues to progress. My eyes are not turning red even though I left important jobs earlier than I had intended and did not get some of the coveted positions and recognition that I sought. I don't cry because I feel free and have led a free life of little worry.