

March 12, 2026

Obituary Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother **Quentin Hakenewerth**, priest, of the Marianist Residence Community in San Antonio, Texas, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 4, 2026, in San Antonio at the age of 96 with 77 years of religious profession.

Father Quentin was a beloved spiritual director, author, administrator, formator, missionary, parish priest, teacher, and chaplain, who also served as the 12th Superior General of the Society of Mary (1991-96). He often expressed deep gratitude for his Marianist vocation, noting that his most rewarding life experience was “to discover the tremendous grace that God has given us through Blessed Chaminade in the Marianist Charism, and to have the privilege of living that charism – even so poorly – and to share it with others.”

Quentin Hakenewerth was born on January 9, 1930, in Old Monroe, Missouri. He was one of four sons in the family of Andrew and Wilhemina “Minnie” (Burkemper) Hakenewerth. Baptized at Immaculate Conception Parish in Old Monroe, Quentin attended school there through third grade before moving to St. Theodore’s Parish in Flint Hill and graduating from its school in 1944. At the urging of the Precious Blood nuns who taught there, Quentin then enrolled as a boarding student at Chaminade Preparatory in St. Louis, Missouri – where he first encountered the Marianists. After a year at Chaminade, young Quentin decided to devote himself to the Society of Mary. He entered the postulate at Maryhurst (in Kirkwood, Missouri) in 1945, and then, two years later, began novitiate at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin. Brother Quentin professed first vows at Marynook on August 15, 1948.

Beginning scholastic studies at Maryhurst, Brother Quentin would go on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Dayton in 1951. He then served at two St. Louis area high schools – St. Mary’s and Coyle – where he taught religion, English, and social studies, while also working with the sodality and choral groups. He professed final vows on July 19, 1952.

Called to the priesthood, Brother Quentin entered seminary studies at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained there on July 17, 1960, and then returned to the United States – serving as a teacher and chaplain at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at St. Michael High School in Chicago, Illinois.

After earning a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University (Chicago) in 1965, Father Quentin entered formation work for the Marianists – serving first as chaplain for the scholasticate at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, and then as the provincial assistant for the Office of Religious Life until 1969. Over the next ten years, Father Quentin served mostly in leadership roles, including two terms (1971-79) as provincial of the former St. Louis Province, and as vocation director (1980-81). When the Society of Mary gathered for its General Chapter in 1981, Father Quentin began a new and lengthy call to service at the Marianists’ *Curia Generalizia* in Rome. He was elected to two terms (1981-91) as assistant for religious life, and then at the 1991 General Chapter, Father Quentin was chosen as the Marianists’ 12th Superior General. He would later write, “Although I never aspired to be in administration, I spent 27 years ... in obedience to this call. [It] always brought unexpected crosses and un hoped-for blessings. The blessings far surpassed the crosses and, of course, are more lasting. I have most enjoyed discovering and trying to live the marvelous charism that is part of our Marianist vocation ... [and] giving time and service to passing this charism on to others.”

Father Quentin’s writing provided a particularly fruitful channel for exploring and spreading Marianist Charism throughout his ministerial career. His articles appeared in many national and Marianist publications, and he also authored several books that are

now considered classics of Marianist spirituality – including **Mary in Modern Spirituality** (Maryhurst Press, 1967); **The Grain of Wheat** (Maryhurst Press, 1967); **For the Sake of the Kingdom** (Liturgical Press, 1971); and **Growing in the Virtues of Jesus** (North American Center for Marianist Studies, 2008).

Upon his return from Rome, Father Quentin began an extended period of ministry in Mexico. His first posting was in Querétaro, where he served five years as novice master, director of pre-novices, and assistant pastor of the parish. He then moved to the house of studies in Puebla, serving as assistant pastor from 2011-17. Returning to Querétaro, he served as chaplain, assistant formation director, and assistant pastor – remaining active in ministry well into his 90s. While some might find such a life remarkable, it came as no surprise to Father Quentin. As he said in a 2018 interview, “You’re dealing with an infinite God – so you’re never finished. You just keep growing.” Upon receiving a diagnosis of cancer, he moved to the Marianist Residence Community in San Antonio in 2024.

Marianist Brother Ed Longbottom remembers Father Quentin as “a man in the moment and with a vision. His day was measured but full.” Virtually every habit spoke eloquently of Father Quentin. “Prayer and worship were daily and not skimmed,” Brother Ed recalls. “Butter and jam on bread were plentifully enjoyed, as were meal conversations and laughter. Reading, writing, and sharing had their moment; sacramental service shared time with sweeping the floor, cleaning the yard, answering the door, laughing with a neighbor, comforting the broken, encouraging one and all, but still finding the time to take a short nap.”

For Marianist Brother Juan Azamar, entering the novitiate at Querétaro was his initial encounter with Father Quentin. “I am grateful to Quentin because he trusted me, believed in me with my faults and qualities, never judged me,” Brother Juan says. “In the early stages, he led me by Mary’s hand to Jesus. After my novitiate, he accompanied me for five years from my temporary vows to my perpetual vows. He was

my spiritual director for 15 years. He was consistent and loyal, a father with deep charity. His very life speaks for itself.”

Father Quentin had a characteristic way of speaking about his vocation, according to Marianist Brother Lawrence McBride, who worked with him at the novitiate in Querétaro. When young men took part in “come-and-see” weekends and heard Father Quentin’s vocation story, “He would usually end his brief reflection with words like ‘...and I’m still growing,’” Brother Lawrence says. “This would always amaze them, because they thought that a man of Quentin’s age would be set in his ways. But Quentin wanted them to know that we are never finished growing – whether it is spiritually, mentally, or psychologically. Quentin was always humble enough to admit that he needed to grow, get closer to Jesus and Mary, and be a better Marianist.”

In the eyes of Marianist Father Al McMenemy, “Father Quentin was a living saint, a truly holy man. He lived out what he wrote about, ‘a grain of wheat must die before it bears fruit...Growing in the Virtues of Jesus.’” Father Al deeply values the insights he received from Father Quentin in spiritual direction. “So many times he would remind me of something rather critical, noting that at the end of my life, God will have only two questions for me: Did I do what God asked me to do? And, do I realize that I’m not to save the world, but He is!”

Marianist Brother Juan Pablo remembers – above all – the **simplicity with which Father Quentin responded to God’s call**. “He never sought recognition or prominence,” Brother Juan says. “His way of living the Gospel was humble, transparent, and authentic. Mary was not merely an ornament of devotion for him, but **a loving and living companion in the life of faith**. Prayer was the quiet center of his life. Father Quentin faithfully began each morning by placing himself before the Lord and closed each day in gratitude before Him. From that rhythm of prayer flowed the interior peace that marked his presence and touched those around him. We who lived and worked with him remember his **constant availability for service**. He seemed never too busy to listen, to accompany, or to help.”

Another long-time collaborator at Querétaro, Marianist Brother **Nereo Ramírez Hernández**, treasures the cordial and peaceful attitude that **Father Quentin brought to their daily interactions.** “It was normal to find him smiling – he rarely showed anger,” Brother Nereo says. “Quentin dreamed of staying in Querétaro forever. He loved the people and was very much loved by everyone.” In the early days of his illness, it was Brother Nereo who accompanied him to the doctor’s office. “I did not want to tell him that he had cancer,” Brother Nereo remembers, “but he said to me with a smile, ‘It is time to go and rest.’ Quentin already knew what he had, and it was not an obstacle to continuing his normal life. I believe that heaven has called home a saint and that he remains attentive to us even now, interceding for each one of us.”

May he rest in peace.