



Bro. Jeffrey P. Sullivan, SM

Celebrating 60 years of Profession

My life as a Marianist actually started two years before I professed my First Vows, when I attended my brother Tim's First Profession in 1964. I saw something special and attractive about the brothers as they lived their lives together. In the short time I was there with my brother, I saw family spirit, hospitality, a deep sense of prayer, and a happiness that they shared with one another. These things, along with what he shared in the letters he wrote home during his novitiate year, confirmed my desire to follow in his footsteps and see if religious life was what God was calling me to do for my life's work.

I was born in Painesville, OH, in 1947 and attended St. Mary's grade school there, followed by St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, OH. After graduating in 1965, I entered the novitiate in Marcy, NY, and it was there that I felt I was called to become a working brother. I professed my First Vows on August 22, 1966, and soon moved to Mount St. John in OH, where I worked in mechanical maintenance while attending the University of Dayton, earning an associate degree in mechanical technology in 1971.

In 1973, I began teaching woodworking at Chaminade Julianne High School in Dayton and continued to teach for the next five years while also pursuing a bachelor's degree in industrial education at Miami University in Oxford, OH. I took one year off from teaching to complete my studies and received my degree in 1979, returning to Chaminade Julianne, where I taught until 1985.

In 1986, I moved to Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, OH, for two years, followed by another two years at North Catholic High School outside of Pittsburgh, PA. I then returned to the community at Mount St. John, where I performed mechanical maintenance work until 2024, when I moved to the St. Leonard community in Centerville, OH. There, I provide support for our older brothers and continue to help out at Mount St. John a few days per week.

I have always found my work to be very rewarding in knowing that I help maintain buildings that others use for their own work, programs, residence, and place of celebrating their relationship with God. When I was teaching, I felt very blessed to be able to help students learn and to appreciate the beauty of creating things, to work with their hands, and to create their ideas in wood.

As I look back over my 60 years as a brother, I see a life that has been filled with the gifts I noticed at my brother's First Profession. I have had a good life as a Marianist despite the struggles and trials that we all face. I often look at a plaque in my room when I face a challenge and remember that God, along with Mary, will always be there for me. The plaque is familiar and is known as "Footprints." My life has been blessed with a wonderful community of brothers, a work that I enjoy, and a continuing desire to deepen my relationship with God and Mary in all I do. As I continue to grow and help others in their lives and spread the message of Christ to all I meet, I know God will be with me in the future.