



## Bro. Paul Jablinski, SM

### *Celebrating 70 years of Profession*

I was born and raised in Dayton, OH, where I attended St. Adalbert parish school, followed by Chaminade High School. It was during these years that I received my vocational calling to religious life. I completed my first year of studying art in college before entering the novitiate in Marcy, NY, where I professed my First Vows on September 8, 1956, and my Final Vows on August 15, 1960.

Throughout my ministerial career, three assignments remain prominent in my mind. The first is my time teaching at St. Joseph International School in Japan, where I enjoyed not only being an educator but also experiencing the international flavor of the community. It was a blessing to invite the Japanese Marianist Brothers and Sisters for Mass, dinner, and a day of celebration during the holiday season. While there, I studied art history at Sophia University in Tokyo and also learned the art of Japanese flower arrangement (ikebana) on Saturdays. Unfortunately, my assignment ended when I received word that my father was dying, but those first years in Japan influenced my life greatly.

Several years later, I returned to Japan for the second time after earning a master's in School Counseling from the University of Dayton. Following several years of service as a counselor, I was asked to develop and teach an English as a Second Language (ESL) program for elementary students. This project took just over a year to construct and consisted of reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, listening, and speaking with instructions, recordings, and tests. My class of 12 students--each with a minimum IQ of 120--excelled and, after one year of instruction, each made the honor roll in English during the following years. I felt very blessed by this accomplishment.

My third and final special assignment was an opportunity to study ESL in Hawaii and, upon graduation, teach ESL at the University of Dayton. Upon my return to Dayton, however, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and began treatment immediately. Soon after, the September 11 attacks took place, and the ESL program was put on hold. Despite those setbacks, I was able to enjoy many years of fellowship in the Siena Woods Marianist Community in Dayton and am blessed to live in my current residence, the St. Leonard Marianist Community in Centerville, OH.