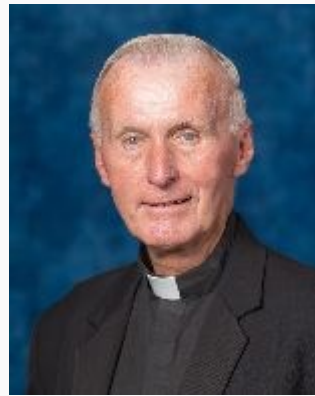




Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie
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July 15, 2026

Biography of Death Notice N. 8

The Province of the United States recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Lawrence SCHOETTELKOTTE**, priest, of the St. Leonard Community, Centerville, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on June 28, 2026, in Centerville, at the age of 87, with 67 years of religious profession.

Father Larry was a cheerful, dedicated Marianist with an easy smile. He spent three decades as a high school teacher, chaplain, and guidance counselor. In his later years, he served in parish ministry. Sometimes referred to as “Father Runner” by his friends, Father Larry was an avid runner most of his adult life, typically running for about two hours daily.

Lawrence Albert Schoettelkotte was born on August 17, 1938, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was one of four children in the family of Albert and Virginia (Stoeckl) Schoettelkotte. Young Larry attended St. John the Evangelist grade school and

Purcell (now Purcell Marian) High School, where he first encountered members of the Society of Mary.

“During my senior year of high school, I decided to be a priest or religious, and I was attracted to both the diocesan priesthood and to the Society of Mary,” Father Larry wrote in a personal reflection decades later. “After a real struggle and a lot of prayer, I decided on the Society of Mary, and I have been happy and grateful with this decision ever since.”

Larry entered the novitiate at Marcy, New York, and professed first vows there a year later, on September 8, 1958. He studied at the University of Dayton and earned a bachelor of science degree in education in 1961. The first year and a half of his teaching ministry was at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he taught Latin, religion, and world history. He professed perpetual vows on August 15, 1962, in Marcy.

Over the next few years, Brother Larry taught at St. James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania, (1963 – 1964) and Chaminade High School (now Chaminade Julianne, 1964 – 1965) in Dayton. As had long been his dream, he entered the Marianist Seminary at Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1966. He earned a STB degree from Fribourg University in 1968. He completed his seminary studies in St. Louis, Missouri, and was ordained to the priesthood on January 31, 1970, in Dayton. He was awarded a master’s degree in theology from Saint Louis University later that spring.

For the next nine years, Father Larry ministered as a teacher, coach, and chaplain at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio, and also served as director of his community there. Beginning in the autumn of 1979, he served at Monsignor Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained until August 1985.

Now 25 years into his ministry, Father Larry had earned a year-long sabbatical, which he spent studying at the Institute for Spirituality and Worship in Berkeley, California.

Beginning in the autumn of 1986, Father Larry was a guidance counselor, LIFE

moderator, and director of his community at Memphis Catholic High School in Memphis, Tennessee. He remained there until 1991, when he began a similar ministry at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he served for two years. “Larry had a soft heart for his students,” said Father Gene Contadino. “He displayed a playfulness that made an easy connection to the younger generation.”

After nearly three decades of serving in high schools, Father Larry moved into parish ministry, which he considered a career change. “This was a difficult decision as I really liked high school ministry. But I felt called to parish ministry and decided to make the change,” Father Larry later wrote.

In 1993, he began serving as associate pastor at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Portage, Michigan, where he remained for six years. Now in his 60s, Father Larry then returned home to Cincinnati and began ministry at All Saints Parish, where he became a much-loved figure.

“Larry especially enjoyed visiting with the students at All Saints Elementary School, and they loved him,” said Brother Bob Flaherty, who lived in community with Father Larry for many years. “Larry will be remembered as a faithful and loving priest, always available to help others in any way, shape, or form.”

During these years at All Saints, Father Larry also celebrated Mass at neighboring Archbishop Moeller High School from time to time, keeping a happy connection to high school ministry. And while he was no longer running, he kept the goal of walking for two hours every day. In August of 2023, he moved to the St. Leonard Community.

“Those who knew Father Larry knew a man who threw himself wholeheartedly into whatever was before him — whether it was teaching, counseling, or simply being present to those who came to depend on him,” said Brother Charlie Johnson. “He was a man of energy and movement, as much at home on a running route as he was at the altar. That same restless generosity carried over into everything he did.”

May he rest in peace.

