



**Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Société de Marie**  
*Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma*



**September 30, 2019**

### **Biography of Death Notice # 30**

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **David SCHMITZ**, of the Marianist Community at Siena Woods, Dayton, Ohio, USA, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 15, 2019 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 89 with 68 years of religious profession.

Bro. Dave was a working brother. He strived to accept each assignment prayerfully and cheerfully. He served as a cook, a business manager and a computer lab manager. He also built many buildings and a chapel in the Marianist missions in Eastern Africa.

David Lawrence Schmitz was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 24, 1929. He was one of 6 children (2 girls and 4 boys) in the family of Augustine and Elenora (nee Gerhart). He attended Our Lady of the Angels parish school and Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland. He was a member of 1945 and 1946 champion football teams at Cathedral Latin. During his freshman retreat, Bro. John Blank discussed religious vocations and he noted the three categories of vocations within the Marianist order: priests, teaching brothers and working brothers. The concept of brothers working and praying together appealed to Bro. Dave.

After graduating in 1947, Bro. Dave enlisted in the Naval Reserves in Cleveland and began employment at Midland Ross Steel as a factory clerk. In September 1950, with recurring thoughts of a vocation as a working brother, Bro. Dave entered the Marianist Novitiate at Marcy, New York. He professed first vows on September 8, 1951, at Marcy. He then went for his scholastic studies at Mount Saint John, Dayton, Ohio. He professed perpetual vows at the University of Dayton on August 15, 1955.

Bro. Dave began his apostolic work in the construction field and as a cook in several different communities. He helped remodel St. Ann's Novitiate at Mount Saint John which became the Marianist Retreat House. He also served as the food manager and chef at the retreat house.

In 1961, Bro. Dave was assigned to Nkata Bay, Nyasaland, to help with the design and construction of classrooms, faculty houses and other projects. He was then assigned to Karonga, Malawi, where the Marianists took over a two-year secondary school to enlarge it to a four-year boarding school. In addition, he was the business manager in Karonga. Bro. Kenneth Thompson remembers, "Bro. Dave was one of my heroes in the Marianist's missionary efforts in Eastern Africa. Bro. Dave built the chapel at Chaminade Secondary School in Karonga and used local help and employed many volunteers. The workers loved Bro. Dave as a kind and knowledgeable construction manager. I taught at Chaminade Karonga in the 1990s and we used the chapel every day."

After 18 years in Eastern Africa, Bro. Dave returned to the University of Dayton and earned a degree in business administration in 1981. From 1982-1984, Bro. Dave worked in the Dean's Office at the University of Dayton and from August 1984-1998, he served as the supervisor of the School of Business Administration computer laboratories. He received a presidential citation on his retirement from the University of Dayton, "During the 14 years he managed the computer labs, many students gained a few extra hours of lab time by coaxing Bro. Dave into opening the labs early or staying late. He supervised the student lab monitors like family, taking every opportunity to teach about computers, life and faith."

Bro. Dave reflected, "I have tried to accept every new assignment prayerfully and cheerfully. I have been blessed living with some exceptional men, in some very good Marianist communities over the years."

Bro. Dave retired in 1998. Fr. James Russell, who professed first vows with him, stated, "Bro. Dave was a sincere, prayerful religious, willing to be of help in any way. He was a cheerful, generous person, as faithful at prayer as in attending UD basketball games. Bro. Dave was an exemplary religious, known and loved by many at UD."

Fr. Oscar Vasquez, Provincial, stated, "One of the things that I greatly admired about Bro. Dave was that, even in his retirement from active ministry, he was still very active in the life of the University. He attended many different events on campus."

We thank God for Bro. Dave and his dedicated and faithful service in honor of Mary as he joins her in witnessing the divine love of her Son, Jesus Christ.