



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



October 27, 2025

Biography of Death Notice N. 21

The Province of Meribah recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **Robert Anthony FACHET**, of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Community, Cottekill, New York, U.S.A., who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 8, 2025 in Kingston, New York, U.S.A., at the age of 83 with 64 years of religious profession.

Robert Anthony Fachet was born on May 19, 1942 to Anthony and Emma Marie (Carplick) Fachet in Chester, Pennsylvania. He was baptized on June 14, 1942 at Our Lady of Peace in Milmont Park, Pennsylvania, and later attended the parish school there along with his younger sister, Florence.

From the beginning of his more than six decades as a consecrated religious, Robert identified himself as a Brother and a teacher. How appropriate then that for most of those years, he was known by both his brothers and his students simply as "Frere." He acquired this sobriquet in his early days in the classroom teaching French and treasured it to the end of his life. "I was first attracted to the

Society of Mary while a freshman at St. James Catholic High School,” Bro. Robert wrote to the provincial in 1966 when requesting perpetual vows. “As a Brother of Mary, I saw a life devoted to God and the teaching profession, to which I also experienced attraction. I have, since my novitiate, desired the category of teaching brother in the Society, and it is my wish to remain so.” In ratifying that request, the provincial indicated that Bro. Robert is “devoted; manifests family spirit; possesses a sense of poverty and obedience. He is steady; very intelligent, has fine potential, conscientious, dependable, and reliable; a good community man.” Many years later another provincial would confirm that assessment when he wrote to Bro. Robert, “In a very real way, you are most expressive of the affectionate name that the community has always given you, Frere!”

Inspired by his initial attraction to his teachers at St. James, Robert entered Marianist Preparatory at Beacon, New York, in September of 1958. After completing his novitiate at Marcy, New York, Bro. Robert professed his first vows on February 11, 1961. During his scholasticate at the University of Dayton, he earned a degree in history and religion, with substantial credits in French and Latin. A few years later, he received a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Notre Dame. Bro. Robert professed his perpetual vows on August 20, 1966 in Baltimore, Maryland.

In January, 1965, Bro. Robert was assigned to the Chaminade-Mineola community and began his ministry in the classroom. Curious by nature, he was a lifelong learner as well as a dedicated educator. Bro. David Bruner, who first met Bro. Robert when they were postulants in 1958, recalled, “He was always a great reader of books from many areas of interest: spirituality, history, newspapers concerning current events His classes and homilies always showed well-read and well-thought-out ideas that were interesting and relevant. He was creative in weaving many diverse ideas from various areas of interest, all of which left you with an idea to hold onto. His presentations were both profound and simple. He was not an ostentatious person. Simplicity and kindness were the hallmarks of his personality.”

Bro. Robert served as the director of the Chaminade-Mineola community from 1982 to 1987 and as the Assistant Provincial of the Province of Meribah from 1985 to 1990. His heart, however, was always in the classroom both at Chaminade High School and later as a founding member of the community and faculty at Kellenberg Memorial High School. Bro. Timothy Driscoll was one of his

students during the 1970s. “Frere was both passionate and patient, creative and conscientious, whether it was carefully delineating the causes of the Thirty Years War or cajoling a bunch of unruly sophomores to apply thousands of tiny pieces of tissue paper to a homecoming float. He was one of the Brothers who inspired my own vocation as a Marianist and a teacher.” A former student remembers a more dramatic moment in Bro. Robert’s Church History class. During a lesson on the Christological heresies, Bro. Robert assumed an Athanasius-like persona, pounding on the blackboard with his fist while proclaiming, “How could you not see this truth about Christ!” As he shouted and gesticulated, the plaster crucifix hanging above the board fell to the floor and shattered into pieces. Bro. Robert reacted with an expression of equal embarrassment, fear, delight, and triumph. “The brother imparts a Christian lesson by every word, every gesture, and every look,” as our Constitutions of 1839 so memorably described our “privileged means of formation in faith” (RL 73) as Marianist educators.

Fittingly, Bro. Robert – Frere -- was born a short distance from Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. Although he spent his adult life away from the city, he remained a devoted son. He was an ardent supporter of Philadelphia’s baseball and football teams, and, more importantly of the hometown saints, the bishop St. John Neumann and St. Katherine Drexel, whose work with African Americans and indigenous peoples he especially admired and strove to imitate. “The religious brother reflects the face of Christ the Brother: simple, good, near to the people, welcoming, generous, and serving.” * On October 8, 2025, our brother died peacefully in his room in the community where he had spent his retirement and saw face-to-face Jesus, the Son of Mary, whom he had served so fraternally throughout his life.

*“*Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church*,” Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, 2015.
