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Death Notice No. 14 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **RAYMOND KACIRK**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 6, 2010 in Detroit, Michigan, USA, at the age of 80 with 62 years of religious profession.

Raymond was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 13, 1930, the youngest of three children of Frank and Mary (Wopperer) Kacirk. Raymond said the “finger of Our Lady” helped direct him to attend the Marianists’ Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, where he remained two years. He then entered the postulate at Mount Saint John, due to the “grace of God and the aid of my homeroom teacher.” He expressed an interest in the priesthood from an early age.

His postulate year was followed by a year of novitiate and first profession of vows at Beacon, New York, in August 1948.

Raymond spent a year as a scholastic at Maryhurst in St. Louis until August 1949, followed by two years as a scholastic at Mount Saint John in Dayton. In 1951 he received his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Dayton. Raymond professed perpetual vows at the University of Dayton in August 1952.

From 1951 - 1956 he taught at Covington Catholic High School in Covington, Kentucky, and at Chaminade High School in Dayton, teaching Latin, English and German and working with the Sodality. He spent the next four years at the International Seminary at Fribourg, Switzerland, and was ordained July 19, 1959.

Fr. Ray returned to teaching at Covington Catholic High School in Covington as well as at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, and then served several years in Fulda, Germany, as a teacher, prefect and military chaplain for American troops stationed there, offering Masses, hearing confessions and officiating at weddings.

In 1965 Fr. Ray received a master’s degree from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

After several years in the late 1960s as the director of the community at Mount Saint John, Fr. Ray moved to Lansing, Michigan, to serve as administrator of *Holden House*, a halfway house for

recovering male alcoholics. He provided counseling, supervised social workers and secured grant funding for the operation.

He became certified as a licensed social worker in the state of Michigan and also attended Alcoholism Therapist Training at Detroit Harbor Light and the Rutgers School of Alcohol Studies.

In 1973 Fr. Ray established the *New Way In*, a residential facility in Lansing for adult offenders. He administered the budget, wrote grants, supervised a staff of 28, worked with the board of directors and established a volunteer program. He directed the facility for 17 years.

During this time he received his law degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, practicing law “pro bono.” Fr. Bert Buby said his law degree “helped him in his work with halfway houses, assisting those who were poor or imprisoned.”

In 1992 Fr. Ray taught troubled students at the Judson Eagle Program in Detroit and succeeded in transitioning most of them to regular classrooms.

For the last several years of his life he served as a chaplain for the Knights of Columbus and for hospice at Ford Health System in Detroit. Fr. Ray also served in parish ministry and as a chaplain for the youth group at St. Alfred’s Catholic Church in Taylor, Michigan.

Tim Faremouth of the Office for Youth Ministry at St. Alfred called Fr. Ray an artful conversationalist who read everything he could get his hands on. No matter what the topic, Tim said, Fr. Ray “had a way of getting people to see the truth of Christ’s teachings. Every visit with him had a lesson waiting to unfold.

“Fr. Ray taught me to keep things simple. His ability to teach and his gift of companionship is his legacy to our youth ministry. His witness to friendship in Christ is his legacy to all who knew him. We will always love him.”

May he rest in peace.