

**CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI**  
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia  
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406  
E-mail: [gensecsm@smcuria.it](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)

December 18, 2010

**Death Notice No. 19 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT HERTWECK**, priest of the Cupertino Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 10, 2010 in Cupertino, California, USA, at the age of 78 with 59 years of religious profession.

Robert William Hertweck was born in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, on May 25, 1932. He was the youngest of two boys born to Charles and Mathilda (Niehaus) Hertweck. Robert's older brother, Charles Jr., died in 1986.

Robert, who went by Bob, attended North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he first encountered the Marianists. He graduated from North Catholic in 1950 and entered the Marianist novitiate in Marcy, New York, later that year. He also began taking college courses through the University of Dayton. Bob professed his first vows as a Marianist on September 12, 1951.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in education in 1954, Bob served at Chaminade High School in Dayton, where he taught English, history and religion.

As Bob prepared to take his perpetual vows, one superior noted his "devotedness to the Society of Mary." He said, "The candidate is generous and has common sense – both of these to a high degree." Bob professed his perpetual vows at the University of Dayton on August 15, 1955.

Bob stayed in Dayton until 1959 when he moved east to serve at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York. A year later he entered the Marianists' Regina Mundi Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. While in Fribourg, Bob's professors described him as "devoted" and "generous." Bob was ordained on March 14, 1964, in Fribourg.

After completing the seminary, Fr. Bob entered the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, where he earned a master's degree in the history of religions in 1965.

Fr. Bob left the United States in 1965 to set out on the ministry of a lifetime – serving the Marianists in Africa. He began his service in Nigeria, where he worked as a teacher, chaplain and novice director at the Marianist preparatory school Ekpoma-via-Benin. Fr. Bob was the Marianists' first novice director in English-speaking Africa.

In 1970, he left Nigeria for Nairobi, Kenya, where he served at Aquinas High School. Fr. Bob stayed at Aquinas until 1974 before returning to Nigeria to minister as a chaplain at Loyola College in Ibadan until 1976.

Fr. Bob served at the Ujoelen School in Ekpoma, Nigeria, from 1976 until 1979 and at St. Paul's Seminary in Benin City, Nigeria, in 1979 and 1980.

Bro. Frank Damm served with Fr. Bob in Africa and recalled his passion for journaling. "I first met Bob when he was on the staff at the seminary in Benin, Nigeria," Bro. Frank said. "He was keeping the community journal in those days as, I believe, he did nearly everywhere he went. They made for interesting reading. I always thought that maybe the journals were a large part of the number of trunks he required to change communities."

Fr. Bob took a sabbatical in 1980 to study at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He returned to Nigeria in 1981 and resumed his service at St. Paul's Seminary, where he stayed until 1985.

Fr. Bob began a new chapter of his ministry in 1986 in the African country of Malawi, where he served at Chaminade Secondary School of Karonga until 1991. He then went on to teach at the Limuru novitiate in Nairobi, Kenya, until 2000.

Marianist Provincial Fr. Martin Solma served with Fr. Bob in Nigeria in the early 1980s, and later in Kenya. Fr. Marty remembers Fr. Bob as "thorough, responsible and a very dedicated teacher."

"He was easy to tease and took it well," Fr. Marty said. "The African brothers in Eastern Africa responded to him very well." Because of their affection for Fr. Bob, they gave him an African name.

"He was a real father to us and so (he) got a new name, Baba Babu," the African brothers wrote in a letter shortly after Fr. Bob's death. "His name will remain as a print in our hearts for the rest of our life. The Marianist life was all he had to offer each of us who met and lived with him, and he did it with his whole heart."

After 35 years in the region, Fr. Bob returned to the United States in 2000 and took a sabbatical in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to become reacquainted with American life. He reflected on his time in Africa, saying, "It was a pleasant challenge in trying to understand the African mind through teaching and faith formation work."

Fr. Bob had a passion for education and worked hard to become fluent in French. He also attended the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, in 2001.

Later in 2001, Fr. Bob was assigned to serve as an administrator at Chaminade University of Honolulu. Fr. Bob was able to spend the sunset of his life in the pleasant climes of the Pacific island before moving back to the continental United States in 2007.

Fr. Bob passed away at the Marianist Center in Cupertino, California. His Marianist brothers remember him fondly.

“What I remember most about Fr. Bob was his dedication to the Society of Mary and his love for Our Blessed Mother,” Fr. Marty said. “I think those served as the roots of his ministry.”

May he rest in peace.