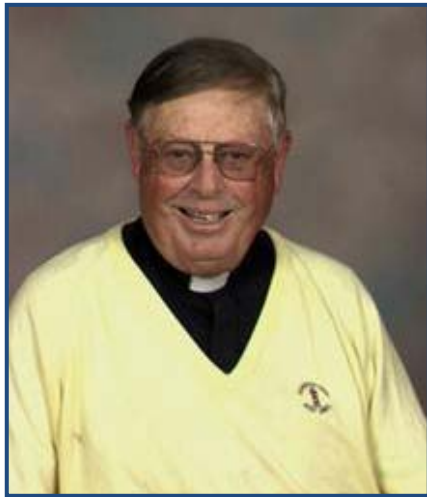


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Death Notice No. 11 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CYRIL MIDDENDORF**, priest, of the Mercy Siena Residence Marianist Community (Dayton), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 19, 2011 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, at the age of 87 with 68 years of religious profession.

Cyril was born on Aug. 12, 1923, in Bromley, Ky., to William and Emma Middendorf. He had five sisters and three brothers. He first came in contact with the Marianists at Covington Catholic High School in Covington, Ky., which he attended for three years before entering the postulate.

On June 28, 1940, Cy entered the Marianist postulate at Mount St. John in Dayton, Ohio. He entered the novitiate on Aug. 23, 1941, in Beacon, N.Y., and professed his first vows a year later on Aug. 25, 1942, also in Beacon.

After earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1944, Brother Cy taught at St. John's Home in Rockaway, N.Y., until 1947. While teaching in New York, he professed perpetual vows as a Marianist on Aug. 26, 1945.

Brother Cy taught at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland in 1947 and 1948. He returned to New York in 1948 to teach Latin and history at Holy Trinity High School in Brooklyn.

After several years serving the Marianists as an educator, Brother Cy entered the Regina Mundi Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. He was ordained a Marianist priest on July 12, 1953.

Father Cy returned to the United States and taught in two Catholic schools in Pennsylvania from 1954 until 1960 – St. James in Chester and St. John the Baptist in Philadelphia. He earned a master's degree in religious education from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1960.

For the next three years he taught and served as a chaplain at Purcell and Moeller High Schools in Cincinnati. He then served as an associate pastor at Emmanuel Parish in Dayton from 1963 to 1965.

Father Cy loved working with teenagers and young adults and enjoyed working in campus ministry and as a chaplain at the University of Dayton, where he served from 1965 until 1978. Father Cy lived in a dormitory while at the university.

“Coming to the University of Dayton and living in a dorm for 15 years at Stuart Hall was indeed a challenge,” Father Cy said in 1992. “I hardly think any other Marianist has survived that kind of living!”

Father Norb Burns, a longtime friend, said Father Cy believed that if somebody had a need, it was his responsibility to answer that need. “He didn’t believe in obstacles,” said Father Norb. “I don’t think he ever said no to anything in his life. No one was like him before and no one will be like him again. He was unique.”

While at the university, he founded many service clubs, including UD’s Summer Appalachia Program. He earned a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Ottawa in 1967.

Father Bert Buby remembers when Father Cy rode a donkey on Palm Sunday on the university campus. “He had a loud, hearty laugh,” said Father Bert. “Because of his strong voice and his love for singing at Eucharist, he got the nickname ‘Hy Fi Cy.’”

Father Cy served at Mary, Help of Christians parish in Fairborn, Ohio, in 1978 and 1979. Following this, he began working as a chaplain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Father Cy enjoyed serving at the base, but acknowledged in 1992 that it was not an easy job.

“Politics everywhere is long and heavy, and being surrounded by rank officers, colonels and generals is tough,” Father Cy said. “I have been told I am the only chaplain ever to remain for this length of service, and for this perseverance, I am grateful.” He spent nearly two decades working at Wright-Patterson.

Father Cy was involved with Lay Marianists for nearly 40 years. “He was dearly loved by a number of lay people for his pastoral care and for his empowerment of Lay Marianists,” said Father Jim Fitz.

In 1982, Father Cy’s Lay Marianist Affiliate group began sponsoring and staffing an interfaith counseling and religious book cart at the Salem shopping mall in Dayton. Father Cy spent many afternoons serving at the mall. Father Cy also served bread and hotdogs to the poor near the Dayton Public Library.

He moved to the Marianist Community at Mercy Siena in 2003, where he enjoyed his final years.

May he rest in peace.