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**Death Notice No. 12 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **FRANCIS SINGLER**, of the Marianist Residence Community (San Antonio), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 21, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, at the age of 94 with 72 years of religious profession.

Francis was born on October 10, 1916, in St. Louis, Missouri, to William and Marie (Stoppe) Singler. He was the youngest; he had three older brothers and an older sister.

Francis was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Brothers of Mary in grade school and attended McKinley High School in St. Louis, where he was a talented basketball player.

Francis entered the novitiate on August 13, 1937. He wanted to join the Society of Mary earlier, but said the depression hit his family hard.

“I did not broach the fact to my parents, because I thought they could not afford to send me away,” Francis later said.

Francis professed his first vows as a Marianist on August 15, 1938, at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis.

After graduating from the University of Dayton with a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1941, Francis spent two years teaching at Holy Redeemer in Detroit, Michigan. During this time, he professed perpetual vows on July 16, 1942, at Maryhurst.

Bro. Francis then moved south for a two-year stint as a teacher at Central Catholic in San Antonio, Texas, from 1943 until 1945. He taught religion and business courses during his career as a Catholic educator.

From 1945 to 1960, Bro. Francis taught at four Marianist high schools in his hometown of St. Louis: Northside, DeAndreis, St. Mary’s and Chaminade. While teaching at these schools, Bro. Francis attended Saint Louis University as a part-time student and earned a master’s degree in

economics in 1957. He used his business knowledge to serve as a community treasurer for many years.

After teaching for one year at St. Joseph's High School in Victoria, Texas, Bro. Francis returned to the St. Louis area and taught at Assumption High School in East St. Louis, Ill., until 1963. Following this, he served for three years as the Provincial Secretary at Maryhurst.

Bro. Francis spent another year at St. Joseph's before teaching at McBride High School in St. Louis from 1967 until 1971.

Bro. Francis then settled in for a long and productive tenure at St. Mary's High School. He would remain there until retiring in 1996.

Some Marianists who attended St. Mary's while Bro. Francis taught there said he was an excellent teacher; they remember him for teaching them to type.

In 1998, with his health declining, Bro. Francis moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. Fr. John Leies got to know Bro. Francis well.

"He was a kind, gentle person," Fr. John said. "He always said thank you to everyone. He was appreciative for everything done for him.

"He was a quiet person, a very prayerful man. If you asked Francis for a favor, he was always willing to help out in any way. We were good friends."

Bro. Les Kaehler, director of the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, also described Bro. Francis as a prayerful man. "You could always count him being in the chapel for prayer," Bro. Les said.

Bro. Francis had many interests outside of teaching, including the fine arts. He had a deep appreciation for ballet and attended whenever he had the opportunity. Bro. Francis also loved to read, particularly *The New York Times*.

May he rest in peace.