

United States Province Heritage Project



1986 American Centenary — see next page for names

September

2018

“To be forgotten is to Die”

Author Unknown



1 Br. Stephen Schlitte

2 Mr. William Buckley

3 Br. Robert Sammon

4 Br. Henry Hammer

5 Mr. Ralph Danelli

6 Mr. Dermot Healy

7 Br. Thomas Long

8 Mr. Raymond Page

9 Mr. James Foley

10 Mr. John Ventorella

11 Br. Michael Flanigan

12 Br. James Vagan

13 Mr. Patrick O'Reilly

14 Br. Richard Carey

15 Mr. Kenneth Ward

16 Br. Owen Ormsby

17 Mr. Michael Marsan

18. Mr. Frank Portada

19 Br. Donnell Neary

20 Br. Michael Mullin

21 Br. Robert Clark

22 Br. Patrick McNamara

23 Br. Brice Byczynski

24 Br. Joseph McAlister

25 Br. Gerald Doherty

26 Br. Philip Robert

27 Fr. Larry Evans

28 Mr. Sal Sapienza

29 Fr. George Witt

30 Mr. James Carger

31 Mr. Donald Godwin

32 Mr Lawrence Tuskiy

33 Br. Patrick Hoga

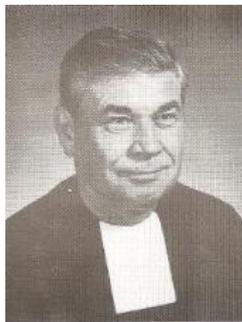
SEPTEMBER

September 2, 1938 Bro. Alfred Eugene Beaumont—Group of 1896, Age 60



Born in 1878, Alfred entered the novitiate in Canada in 1895. Five years later he traveled to the U.S. for the first time to take up a teaching assignment in New York. Somewhere between 1900 and 1905 he must have returned to Canada, since Province records have him entering the U.S. in 1905 for a second time to teach in Haverhill, Massachusetts; he then moved to the New York area once again where he spent the rest of his years. [Archive fact card]

September 4, 1985 Bro. Paul Octavius Stokes—Group of 1943, age 60



Paul was born in New York City on May 25th, 1925. He earned a B.S. degree from Fordham University in 1950 and completed his Masters there five years later. Paul's teaching assignments included Saint Helena's High School, Saint Ann's Academy, and Bishop Dubois High School,

all in New York City.

In 1957, at Marist College, he was appointed Dean of the Lay Students. Paul was remembered as being strict but fair and compassionate with his charges. He is also credited with establishing the "Red Fox" as the College's mascot.

Following his years at Marist, Paul was assigned as Assistant Principal and teacher at Marist High School in Chicago. From 1972 to 1975 he served as Vice Provincial to Bro. John Malich and in 1975 he continued in that position with Brother Roy Mooney. Subsequently, he served as a guidance counselor at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1981 he returned to Marist High School, Chicago and died there four years later.

September 5, 1989 Bro. Kieran Thomas Brennan - Group of 1935, Age 71



Kieran grew up in New York City and attended Saint Agnes Boys High School, then located on East 44th Street in Manhattan. He earned his B.A. degree from Fordham

University and received his M.A. in English from Columbia University.

He served as a teacher in Savannah, Georgia, and later at Saint Ann's Academy and Cardinal Hayes High School in New York City. Subsequently he was named Master of Scholastics at Marian College, later Marist College, where he was known to never play favorites. If he absentmindedly gave a Scholastic permission to learn how to drive, he would be loath to refuse permission to anyone else who requested the same opportunity. At that time, incidentally, it was quite uncommon for young brothers to have permission to drive.

Kieran was elected Provincial of the Poughkeepsie Province in 1965 and served in that capacity until 1972. These were years of great upheaval and radical change in religious life; a time when an enormous number of brothers left the Institute. Throughout it all, Kieran never lost his positive outlook on the future as well as his extraordinary kindness. During his final years, he served as a guidance counselor at Mount Saint Michael Academy where he was known to enjoy a good game of golf as well as an occasional evening of square dancing. [1985 Jubilee Booklet—edited]

September 6, 1985 Bro. John Malachy Hoffmann—Group of 1948, Age 55



John was “the epitome of kindness and thoughtfulness.” Throughout his life, he never ceased to encourage young people—be they young brothers experiencing difficult times in the classroom or questioning their Marist calling or the less gifted students in class and the physically and intellectually challenged young swimmers who spent time at the summer camps in Esopus. John affirmed them all.

Perhaps because he was born with a cleft palate and spoke throughout his life with a nasally toned and high pitched voice, John had a special place in his heart for the underdog. He earned a Master’s degree in Library Science from Saint John’s University and served as librarian at Saint Ann’s Academy in New York City. He was also for a time Registrar and Director of Admissions at Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

Following his Second Novitiate in 1964, John began his teaching career which continued over the next twenty-one years. He served at Saint Joseph’s High School in Trumbull, Connecticut, Central Catholic High School, Wheeling, West Virginia, Marist High School, Chicago, and for twelve years at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He had just moved to teach at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx when he died suddenly as the result of a heart attack. He is remembered by all who had the good fortune to know him with great affection and gratitude for “this beloved man brought out the best in all he met.” [Br. Martin Ruane and Br. Brice Byczynski]

September 6, 2001 Bro. Lawrence Joseph Poirier—Age 94



Larry was born on September 2, 1907 in Haverhill, Massachusetts to Antoine Armand and Eliza Marcoux. After entering the Institute, he amassed an impressive record of personal and professional achievements, too many to be listed here.

Certified as a psychologist in the State of New York, he was the recipient in 1965 of the Freedom Foundation Award and was the co-founder of a number of professional groups.

Diagnosed with Addison's disease near the end of his life, Larry retired to Florida where he looked forward to his daily ritual of two chocolate chip cookies and a glass of Rhine wine at 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. He never ceased to insist that both had been prescribed by his doctor. [Eulogy by Br. Charles Filiatrault]

September 6, 2014 Bro. John Bantz—Group of 1959, Age 76



John first met the Marist Brothers while a student at Mount Saint Michael Academy. While he later taught at schools such as Cardinal Hayes High School and spent several years serving in Flint, Michigan, he was to establish a relationship with the

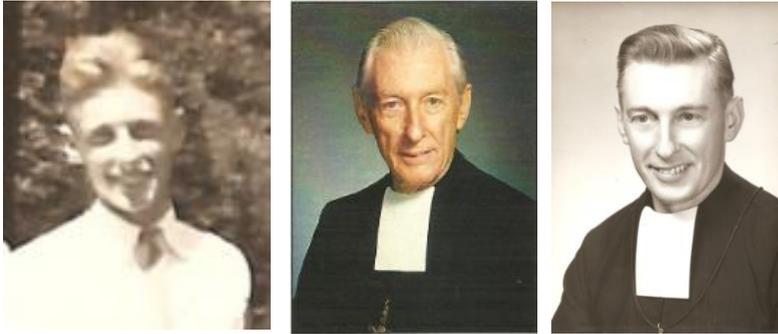
Mount that would last his entire life. Ultimately, he was to give the school thirty years of consecutive service.

Beginning in 1984 John served as Principal of the Mount's Junior High School and later held the position of President of the Mount for 9 years. Immediately thereafter and up until his death, he worked in the school's development office.

During the final years of his life, John also served as guest master of the Pelham, New York community. Both his presence and service were extraordinary gifts to all who passed through the place. He loved his family deeply and was a "faithful, life-long and true friend" to many.

An excellent cook, he also loved to play golf and did so whenever the opportunity presented itself. A devoted fan of the New York Yankees, he loved sports and was skilled at many of them. As a teenager, he was a Golden Gloves fighter and expressed pride in the fact that during his middle years he was able to run and finish in decent time Florida's Orange Marathon. He engaged in a courageous but long, painful and discouraging battle with cancer. John was a fighter until the end. [Eulogies—edited]

September 8, 2003 Bro. Stephen Urban Minogue—Group of 1938, Age 83



Steve was known and remembered for his sense of humor, joyful spirit, gentleness and the inspiration he provided at every turn. He was full of energy, dynamic in

the classroom, vigorous on the ball field, a master at directing Minstrels, and full of fun at social gatherings, regaling everyone with his harmonica or by singing “Granada”

Steve was also active on student retreats and encounters and continued to work with young people into his eighties. Not surprising since he was and remained young at heart throughout his life.

After a few years in the classroom he was named Master of Juniors, and later was assigned to direct the Second Novitiate, then located in Fribourg, Switzerland. From 1976 through 1985, he traveled the world as a General Councilor. A man of prayer, Steve loved everyone and was, in turn, loved by all. [Br. Phil Robert]

September 9, 2008 Bro. Luke Driscoll—Group of 1933, Age 93



Luke entered the Juniorate in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1931. He later went on to serve the Province as a teacher, community director, and principal. From 1958 through 1965, he was Principal of Saint Joseph’s High School in Laredo, Texas and oversaw the transfer of this institution from the jurisdiction of our Mexican brothers to that of the Esopus Province. At the

time there were sixteen brothers among the staff of the school.

A substantial portion of Luke’s life, though, was spent in houses of formation. He taught at Saint Ann’s Hermitage in Poughkeepsie and Marist Prep in Esopus, New York and St. Joseph Novitiate in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. From 1973 to 1979 he was director of the English speaking Second Novitiate Program in Fribourg, Switzerland; he later taught at the Marist Novitiate in Nigeria. In 1982, Luke was named Director of the Novitiate Community in Calumet Park, Illinois. During his later years he ministered in Wheeling, West Virginia and as chaplain at St. Joseph’s hospital in Augusta, Georgia. [Newspaper articles—edited]

September 13, 1967 Bro. Carlos Sierra—Group of 1954, Age 31



Carlos was born on September 24th, 1936 in San Juan, Puerto Rico to Dominic and Josephina Sierra. He first met the Marist Brothers at St. Ann's Academy in New York City and entered the Juniorate at Esopus in 1951.

Carlos taught at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, West Virginia and Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx. While on the staff of Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, he died unexpectedly in his sleep; the cause was later determined to be pulmonary edema. Well-liked by his Marist Brothers and students, Carlos was active in sodality as well as with Catholic Action movements and inter-faith conferences. [Newspaper articles – edited]

September 13, 1987 Bro. Florent Augustine Pinard—Group of 1936, Age 68



“Pop,” as his brothers called him, was known for doing good quietly and without fanfare. Though he grew to maturity during the years prior to the Second Vatican Council, he embraced the changes that came forth from that gathering. Daily Mass and his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament were two practices that kept him anchored. “He exhibited the serenity and peace of heart that always marks a man who is close to his Lord and his brothers.”

Augustine entered our Marist Brotherhood from École Hevey in Manchester, New Hampshire. In 1936 he was invested in the Marist habit at Saint Anne's Hermitage, Poughkeepsie, New York and completed his Scholasticate in 1939; he made the vow of stability in 1957. A teacher for many years at Marist schools in Poughkeepsie, New York City, Chicago and Lawrence, Massachusetts, Pop also served as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, New York and Central Catholic High School in Lawrence Massachusetts and as Dean of Discipline at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx. He was known, too, for his exceptional talent in mathematics and computer science. [1986 Jubilee Booklet—edited]

September 13, 1993 Bro. John Berchmans Raiche—Group of 1927, Age 85



Berchie,” as he was known to his brothers, was the perfection of Prefects, having spent thirty-six

years as Prefect in province formation houses. For him the key word was PRESENCE. He guided, encouraged, corrected, and respected the young men entrusted to his care.

Though he never taught in a classroom, Berchie’s entire life was a lesson about the three Marist virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty. He was an excellent skater and hockey player as well as an acrobat, known to be able to balance objects like a lawn chair on his chin. He was deeply loved and admired his entire life. [Br Phil Robert]

September 14, 1985 Bro. Francis Mary Beaulieu - Group of 1923, Age 79



Francis was born Joseph Napoleon on August 5th, 1906 in Lawrence, Massachusetts to Frank Beaulieu and Lydia Gagne. He first met the Marist Brothers at St Anne’s

Elementary school.

As a Brother he taught at St. Joseph’s School in Haverhill as well as St. Joseph’s School in Lowell. He also served at École Hevey in Manchester, New Hampshire, Saint Jean the Baptiste in New York City and Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx. During the 1940s and 50s, he also served as a treasurer and earned the nickname “Chief” or “Captain.”

In 1950, though only in his forties he was christened with the name “Pappy” since he was always willing to take care of the needs of the brothers—a fatherly friend. Francis retired in 1966 and suffered a stroke a year later. [eulogy by Br. John Herrmann and Provincial Newsletter—edited]

September 15, 1928 Bro. Austin Mary Burke—Group of 1910, Age 42



Born in County Mayo, Ireland, Austin was the only Irish born brother in the U.S. Province at the time it was established in 1911. The circumstances that brought him to the States are unknown. We do know, however, that he was invested in the Marist habit during his novitiate in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Austin's first assignment was to Saint Michael's in Montreal, Canada where the pastor was on record as preferring brothers with good English skills; he was also known to be critical of those with a French sounding name.

Later Austin came to Saint Peter's in Poughkeepsie; he also served at Saint Ann's Academy as well as Saint Ignatius Loyola and Saint Jean the Baptiste schools in New York City. For a period of time he was Province vocation promoter. Following another stint in Montreal, he returned to Saint Ann's Academy as Librarian and studied Library Science at Fordham University. Diagnosed with a heart condition, he passed away soon thereafter. [Br. Leonard Voegtle notes—edited]

September 15, 1999 Bro. Daniel Andrew Kopecky—Group of 1931, Age 87



A native of Czechoslovakia, Danny taught for forty-five years, many of them at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx. Subsequently he served as

Director of the Audio Visual Center at the Mount for an additional eleven years. He also spent many summers at Camp Marist in Center Ossipee, New Hampshire.

Danny was recognized by the Mount's Athletic Department for his ardent support of their programs and received the Valley Forge Freedom Medal. An unassuming and quiet man, Danny's kindness, willingness to lend a hand, and loving spirit were evident to all whom he met. He, in turn, was loved by all. [1991 Jubilee Booklet and personal story—edited]

September 16, 1961 Bro. Aloysius Mary Cote—Group of 1894, Age 86



Born in Manchester, New Hampshire, our second Marist foundation in the U.S., Aloysius Mary was known for his artistic handwriting as well as his skills in carpentry. At our formation house in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, he crafted all of the altars and the altar railing including its Gothic filigree and imitation marble façade. He was also responsible for the reliquary that housed our founder's missal that today can be found in the chapel at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx.

Aloysius Mary was a kind and gentle soul, who provided inspiration to all who knew him. For a number of years he was the sub-Master at the Tyngsboro Juniorate and taught music. [Br. Paul Ambrose]

September 16, 1985 Bro. Philip John Cote—Group of 1928, Age 74



Phil was born in St. Perpetue, Canada. His father was a Doctor, and his brother a Marist Brother—Br. Athanasius Norbert.

Phil came to know the Marist Brothers at École Hevey in New Hampshire and in 1929 at the age of 14 entered the Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Juniorate.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Fordham University in 1937 and went on to earn a Masters in mathematics at Columbia University. Phil taught at several primary and secondary schools. He also served as a principal, school treasurer, and headed up maintenance.

Later in life he lost both legs to diabetes and was confined to a nursing home from 1974 until the time of his death nine years later. John Herrmann who was among the brothers with him at the time of his death reported that a few hours before dying, Phil said, “My death, my wish, it is finally here. Mary, my Mother, be praised, my Lord, my God. I can feel myself on my way home. It is not hard to die.” [Eulogy by Thomas Simmons—edited]

September 16, 1979 Bro. Paul Stratonc Lelievre—Group of 1908, Age 78

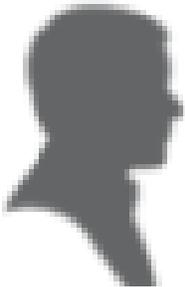


During 62 years as a Marist, Paul served as Assistant General (1942—1948) and as Provincial of the United States Province (1937—1942).

Previously, he had been director of several Marist communities and schools including Boy's High School in Savannah, Georgia, Saint Ann's Academy in New York City. He was also the founding Director at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, West Virginia. For several years he was Master of Juniors in Poughkeepsie, New York.

In 1958 Paul celebrated his Golden Jubilee with 5 others from what was known as the North American Province who had been the first to receive the habit in Poughkeepsie. By that time he was teaching in his native Canada at the Scholasticate in Valcartier, just north of Quebec. Subsequently, he retired to Chateau Richer where he died. [Br. Brice Byczinski]

September 19, 1909 Bro. Charles Camille Girard—Group of 1902, Age 23



Born in 1886 in France, Charles Camille was invested in the Marist habit at L'Hermitage. He was first assigned to Canada as a student. In 1904 he began his ministry as a teacher in Montreal.

Charles Camille also taught at Saint Jean the Baptiste in New York City and Saint Peter's in Poughkeepsie. In 1909 he was appointed Assistant Novice Master.

Shortly thereafter, he began to complain of severe headaches but neither he nor others thought that he was suffering from a major illness. Unfortunately, he was eventually diagnosed with meningitis. His was the first death in the new United States Province and Charles Camille was the first to be buried in what would become, for the next forty years, the Brothers' cemetery in this country. Today this place of rest lies near the McCann Center on the campus of Marist College. [Br. Leonard Voegtle notes—edited]

September 19, 1941 Bro. Alphonse Victor Boutin—Group of 1902, Age 57



Alphonse was born on December 2nd, 1884 in the village of St. Evariste in Quebec, Canada. A short while later, his family moved to Lewiston, Maine; it was from there that he joined the Brothers at age 17.

From 1907 to 1923 Alphonse taught at Saint Joseph's School in Lowell and Saint Anne's in Lawrence, Massachusetts and at Saint Ann's Academy in New York City. He also taught at two schools in Manitoba, Canada as well as at Saint Michael's in Montreal.

Alphonse was described as "regular, almost to a fault." He suffered too from a slight stutter which became noticeable when he was nervous; he was known never to criticize others.

One day, following his first period, a class in religion, Alphonse asked to be replaced and went to the school Office to rest. Ten minutes after arriving in the Office, he passed away due to heart failure. [Province Biography—edited]

September 20, 1985 Bro. Walter O'Clare—Group of 1936, Age 67



Some brothers easily could have found success in the world of entertainment. Walter O'Clare was one of them. With little to no effort, he held his own with the likes of Maurice Chevalier, belting out the words of the somewhat

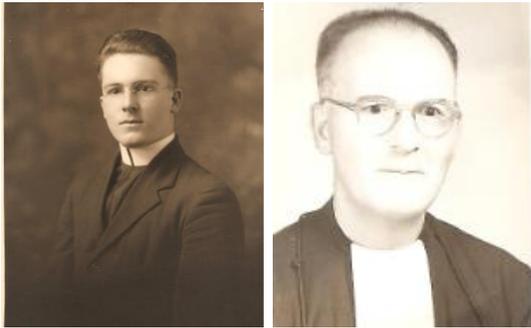
risqué song entitled Valentine.

Walter was also a hit during the years that he lived and ministered in Kobe, Japan; his was a familiar face in the pubs of that city.

But Walter was at his best as a magician. During many a faculty show at Camp Marist in New Hampshire, the attention of the youngest campers was riveted on him. Following several misses, he would finally smash Big Ben's wristwatch to smithereens and then promise to shoot himself if he couldn't make it whole again. After solemnly intoning his "abracadabras" and sprinkling "iddy biddy pin pin" powder over the watch's last remains, all to no avail, he would confess: "Okay, like I promised, I'm gonna shoot myself!"

Walter would then disappear into the cabin, and following several moments of suspense, he would pull the trigger on a starter gun. Gasps of horror could be heard among the campers. To the delight of all, he would then emerge and shout, "Shucks! I missed again!" At this point he would dash-off, with some sixty screaming kids in pursuit; he was a Pied Piper to them all. [Br. John Francis story—edited]

September 23, 1984 Bro. Leo Stratonc Beauchesne—Group of 1921, Age 81



Born in Gently, Minnesota on June 8th, 1903, Leo Stratonc came to be known affectionately as “Minn.” He taught at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, West Virginia and later served as treasurer at Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, New York.

During socials brothers would get him to sing something called “The Bear Song.” He did so to the delight of his audience. Legend has it that while stationed at Saint Ann’s Academy in New York City, Minn would get so upset when viewing a baseball game on television that he decided to stop watching.

Described as an ideal ‘Marist monk’ and teacher, Minn retired to the novitiate in Tyngsboro where he cared for the flowers; he died there of a heart attack a few years later.

September 24, 1933 Bro. Cesidius Bruyere—Group of 1860, Age 88



Born on August 15th, 1845 in the southeast region of France, Cesedius entered our Marist Brotherhood at Saint Genis Laval. Following formation and for the next twenty-six years he taught

in France. This period included seven years as Director in Andance and two years serving on the staff of the Scholasticate.

On his fortieth birthday in 1885 Cesidius led a group of six Brothers who set out for North America. They sailed from Le Havre, France to New York City and then moved on to St. Athanase parish in Iberville, Canada.

For the next 48 years Cecidius served as the founder, director, treasurer, visitor, and General Chapter delegate for the new region of North America. From 1885 through 1903 he was Provincial. During that time he established the custom of the thirty day Ignatian exercises for brothers preparing for final vows as well as the practice of the Second Novitiate.

After 1903 he served as Vicar-Provincial, Provincial of Canada and then as Novice Master. At age 76 years in 1921 he retired to the Provincial House at Iberville. [Br. Brice Byczinski]

September 24, 1986 Bro. Michael Norbert McDermott—Group of 1926, Age 93



Following a successful career in business in his home state of Ohio, Michael Norbert entered the Marist novitiate in 1925. He was in his thirties.

In 1928 he was assigned as a teacher in Savannah, Georgia, followed by six years at Saint Peter's School in Haverstraw, New York.

Subsequently, he spent a number of years at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx where he impressed his students with his love of prose and poetry. His keen interest in baseball also won their hearts. In 1977 Mike became a member of the retirement community at Leeds Terrace in Lawrence, Massachusetts. [1986 Jubilee Booklet—edited]

September 26, 2007 Bro. Denis C. Caverley—Group of 1951, Age 74



Denis was a man who lived simply and had few, if any, airs about him. He did, though, have his share of idiosyncratic behaviors, among them his love of smoking a pipe resulting in small burn holes in his sweaters due to flying tobacco.

He taught at a number of Marist schools including Mount Saint Michael Academy, Saint Agnes Boys' High School and Bishop Dubois High School, all in New York City and at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts and Marist Chicago. Dennis was always very accepting of whatever life sent his way.

September 27, 1995 Bro. William Mielke—Group of 1959, Age 58

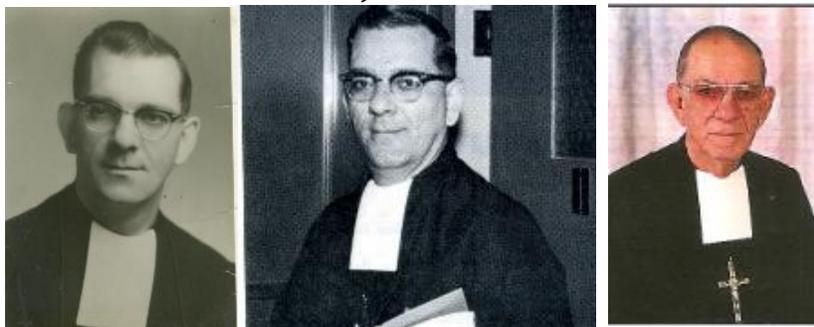


Bill was born to Frederick Mielke and Mary Kinane in Mineola, Long Island on June 23, 1937. His father was a carpenter.

He attended New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute in Farmingdale, New York before entering our Marist Institute. While playing softball during his novice year, he was struck in the eye by a ball; the accident cost Bill his sight in that eye.

In 1963 he began teaching at Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, New York and in 1982 he moved south to take up a teaching assignment at Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, Florida. Ten years later he completed his work at Columbus and moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts where he took a sabbatical at the Weston School of Theology.

September 27, 2000 Bro. Martin Thomas Cote—Group of 1951, Age 69



“Mendez,” as he was known to generations of brothers, was born in Gardner, Massachusetts and attended the public high school in that city. He entered novitiate in 1950.

In 1961, he became a member of the staff at Saint Mary’s High School in Manhasset where he taught religion and history. He was also moderator of the school’s newspaper and Alumni Association. Later he taught for a period at Saint Helena’s High School in the Bronx.

While studying for his Master’s degree at Saint John’s University, Mendez wrote a history of the brothers in the United States and in 1967 established the Marist Secretariat of America Information Office where he served as Director of public relations for the four branches of the Marist Family. He was also a member of the editorial board of Marist Magazine. [Saint Mary’s Parish Bulletin—edited]

September 30, 1995 Bro. Francis Solano Desrochers—Group of 1950, Age 64



The Brothers always referred to him by his second name, Solano. He was but 14 years of age when he and his older brother, Paul, with their mother's encouragement entered the Juniorate. At that time in many French-Canadian families it was more or less customary that someone from the family would be given to the Church to serve as a priest, brother or sister. Following his first year, Paul chose not to return to the Juniorate but Solano did. He often said that he thought to himself, "if the brothers don't kick me out, then this must be where I belong?"

As a person, Solano was a shy, quiet, and self-effacing man and while his formal education was not extensive, he was skilled in finance and aptly handled the books in the community, school and at Camp Marist, sometimes all at the same time. He was a close friend of his nephew, Robert, and Brother Kenneth Roberts, both of whom wrote moving eulogies for him at the time his death.

Solano loved being at Camp Marist where he was often the first to arrive and last to leave. He was very involved in the building and decorating of the Log Cabin at Camp and also spent time decorating a trailer situated by the lake; the latter eventually became his summer home.

Near the end of his life, Solano began to deteriorate. He suffered two heart attacks, the second occurring in 1988. During the last summer of his life, he had root canal surgery and unfortunately developed an infection. Waiting two weeks before seeking treatment stressed his system greatly. His condition improved enough to allow him to return to Saint Mary's on September 4th. One evening, however, he had suffered a final heart attack and died while resting in his easy chair watching television. [Eulogy—edited]