

EULOGY FOR BROTHER VINCENT MORIARTY, FMS

To begin with, I would like thank Brother John Healy for asking me to say a few words about our Brother, Vincent Moriarty. There are certainly others among us who could speak more eloquently about him than myself. Brothers Felix Anthony and Steve Kappes are classmates of his; over the years, Brother George Di Carluccio has gotten to know him well while vacationing with him by the sea shore at Hollywood Beach., and Lorraine Pall has come to know him personally through her interactions with him with him as a medical professional.

Like many of us, Brother Vincent completed his religious formation with the Brothers in the early '50's, prior to Vatican II with its strong emphasis on Community, the living of the three Religious Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and walking in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary as well as in those of our Founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Brother Vincent's first assignment was to serve as cook in one of our houses of formation. It matters little whether one has served in the classroom 35 or more years, but the skills learned during that one year would serve him well in community. He was always ready to prepare a meal for the Brothers on special occasions and was very good at it.

Brother served as teacher in many of our schools, particularly at Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Monsignor Pace High School here in Florida as well as in several other locations.

Brother Vincent served as a missionary in Japan for eight years.

More recently, he served as administrative assistant here at Columbus

Three years ago, he celebrated his 60th Anniversary as a Marist Brother.

However even more important than dwelling on his accomplishments as a Brother I would like to dwell, for a moment, on the wonderful person you and I have come to know as Brother Vincent.

Kahlil Gibran once noted that "Love knows not its depth until the hour of separation." One might also say that "Love knows not its depth until it resonates with another person".

When speaking of Brother Vincent, I find that one of the key aspects of his personality was his ability to relate to others on many different levels. He had a wonderful sense of humor which many of us have come to enjoy, but there was more to him than that.

It has been noted that there are different levels of communication beginning with #1 cliché conversation to speaking about things #2, deeper still, speaking about #3 our feelings and emotions and lastly, #4 what some call the "x experience", when one speaks on a spiritual on

the level of our deepest selves. I find that it was precisely in reaching out to us on the level of our deepest “selves” that Brother Vincent became most effective.

On a personal level, over the past several years, I really enjoyed driving Brother Vincent to his podiatrist in Doral. I enjoyed your conversation to and from his appointments and the restaurants afterwards.

Brother Vincent was not with me during my last visit to the podiatrist as he was in the Critical Care Unit at the hospital. When one of the technicians learned about this, she said to me: “Please tell Brother Vincent that Marisol is praying for him.” I was amazed at the level of communication Brother Vincent had established with her. “Love knows not its depth until it resonates with another. “Like Jesus, Brother Vincent had the ability to touch others on the level of their deepest “selves”.

It was love that brought all of us here today, and I hope that you will share with others similar incidents when Brother Vincent touched your lives.

If love, prayer and excellent medical care could have saved him, Brother Vincent never would have died.

However, God had other plans for him, plans for him to enter his true home in heaven. “Well done good and faithful servant...Come and share my happiness.” Mt. 28: 23

Karl Rahner, S.J. once noted:

“The great and sad mistake of many people...

Is to imagine that those whom death has taken,

Leave us.

They do not leave s.

They remain!

Where are they?

In Darkness?

Oh, no!

It is we who are in darkness,

We do not see them,

But they see us.

Their eyes, radiant with glory,

Are fixed upon our eyes...

**Oh, infinite consolation!
Though invisible to us,
Our dead are not absent...
They are living near us,
Transfigured...
Into light,
Into power,
Into love.”**

Finally, if Brother Vincent were to write his own epitaph, I think that it would be like the one Pope Damasus wrote for himself some three or four hundred years after the death of Jesus:

**“He who walking on the sea
could calm the bitter waves,
who gives life to the dying seeds of the earth;
He who was able to loose the mortal chain of death,
and after three days’ darkness could bring again to the upper world
the brother for his sister Martha:
He, I believe,
will make Damasus rise again from the dust.”**

May the soul of Brother Vincent Moriarty and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Amen.

Brother Charles Filiatrault, FMS