

Eulogy of Maurice Joseph Beyer

Maurice Joseph Beyer, better known simply as Max, was born September 5, 1914, in Pittsburgh. He was the son of the late Frank and Amelia Beyer. He was preceded in death by his brothers Francis and Fred Beyer, as well as his sisters, Rose Cavanaugh and Sr. M. Maurice Beyer, OSF – a Franciscan sister. She took her brother's name as her religious name – surely as an act of honor and respect for him. He is survived by his sister, Ann Klein of Pittsburgh. Because of ill health she was unable to make it today but her two sons, Jack and Paul, are here with their wives.

Max attended St. George elementary school and was in the first graduating class of St. George High School in 1933. After high school Max worked for three years as the secretary to the owner of a maintenance company in downtown Pittsburgh.

He then entered the Society of Mary and professed first vows on August 15, 1935, at Mt. St. John and perpetual vows on August 19, 1941, at the chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the University of Dayton. Max graduated from the University of Dayton in 1940 and after the war returned to Pittsburgh to receive his master's degree in business education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Max began his teaching career in 1940 at Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y., and continued at Holy Rosary grade school in Dayton and Purcell High School in Cincinnati.

From 1948 until 1958 he served as secretary to the provincial – John Elbert, SM – at Mt. St. John. Myron Achbach, a scholastic during that period in the mid 1950s at the Mount and a close friend of Max over the years, was unable to make the funeral because he is taking care of his grandchildren in Los Angeles. However, he related a story to me about Max during those years. Myron remembers that the scholastics lived separately from the professed at the Mount at that time – mid 1950s – and the quality and quantity of the scholastic's food evidently was quite inferior compared to the professed.

However, Max, cognizant of that reality, would save leftovers from the professed meals and put them in a special refrigerator and would inform Myron. Then at night, Myron and the other growing young boys/scholastics would sneak down

into the kitchen and have a substantial midnight snack. And thus was formed the basis of a life long friendship – according to Myron.

Beginning in 1962 Max was also the secretary to the first provincial of the former New York Province, Fr. John Dickson and later, Fr. John Mulligan. In 1961 Max worked for the Marianist Mission in its very early stages when it was housed on the UD campus in the quonset huts where the parking lot is just north of St. Mary's building.

His teaching ministry (which included social studies, English and business courses) took him to both Colegio Ponceno and Colegio San Jose in Puerto Rico, as well as St. James High School in Chester, Penn., and Cathedral Latin High School in Cleveland.

He received training in nursing and became director of the Marianist health center in Baltimore from 1976 to 1981 and then served until 1984 as a nurse at the University of Dayton Health Center. He worked at the Marianist press in Dayton from 1984 to 1998 until he was 83 years old. Quite an accomplishment, of which he was justifiably proud.

His career of service was certainly diverse – but always characterized by service and a unique smile and cheerful spirit. He continued to live at Alumni Hall and root for the Flyers, until recently when illness took him to Mercy Siena. We thank the Alumni Hall community for its care and support of Max, especially Bro. Dave Schmitz, his dear friend. We thank the staff of Mercy Siena for their compassionate care of Max during his recent illness.

We thank Judy Moehl, our medical coordinator, and Kim Evans, her associate, for their care.

We thank the Marianist community at Mercy Siena, including Bro. Nick Rufo, for its fraternal support of Max.

May he rest in peace. And may all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Fr. Tom Schroer, SM