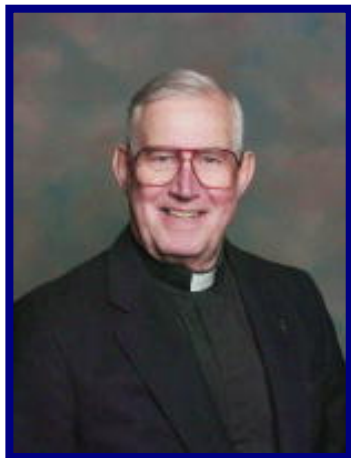


CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gencomm@smcuria.it

October 1, 2006

Death Notice No. 27 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ROBERT HOEPER**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 25, 2006, in Dayton, Ohio in the 88th year of his age and the 70th year of his religious profession.

Robert Hoeper was born March 9, 1919, in Dayton, Ohio, to John and Philomena (Beesten) Hoeper. He attended St. Anthony grade school and Chaminade High School in Dayton. In his junior year at Chaminade, Fr. Robert was encouraged by Bro. Fred Hartwich, Chaminade principal, to join the Society of Mary. He entered the postulate at Mount Saint John in 1935 and professed first vows in 1937 and final vows in 1941.

In 1940, Fr. Robert received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton. His first assignment was in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he taught Latin, science and algebra for five years at St. Louis College. During this time, Fr. Robert witnessed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The brothers' community house overlooked the harbor, and Fr. Robert liked to tell the story that when the United States military first approached the brothers, they suspected them of directing the Japanese planes to the targets. When the military found out they were brothers, they used the school as a hospital for the wounded.

After St. Louis College, Fr. Robert spent one year at St. Anthony High School in Wailuku, Maui, before entering the seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1947. Fr. Robert was ordained in 1951 and returned to the States to teach for nine years at Covington Catholic High School in Covington, Kentucky.

Fr. Robert spent the next nine years in Cleveland. In 1961, he taught religion, served as chaplain and was moderator of the Mother's Guild at St. Joseph High School. From 1962 to 1967, he served as a teacher, guidance counselor and chaplain at Cathedral Latin School. Also during this time, he organized the Diocesan Association of Religion Teachers (DART). In 1967, Fr. Robert began a three-year assignment with the Diocese of Cleveland, serving as a religious education consultant for high schools and academies of the diocese. He was also on the committee for the Ohio Catholic Education Association Convention.

In 1970, Fr. Robert transferred to Pittsburgh and served as principal of North Catholic High School for six years. After a one-year sabbatical at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Fr. Robert began the first of two assignments (1977 to 1982) and (1984 to 1987) as a religion teacher and chaplain at St. Paul's College in Altona North, Australia. In 1987, Fr. Robert returned to North Catholic High School and served as chaplain for four years. His next assignment took him to Rome for one year to become director of the Generalate community. Fr. Robert returned to the United States in October 1992 and served as chaplain at the Clinton Avenue community in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He retired to the Governor's Island community in Huntsville, Ohio, in 1995.

“He was well loved by the people who lived near Governor’s Island for his cheery greetings and conversation,” said friend, Bro. Don Smith. In 2001, due to failing health, Fr. Robert was transferred to The Franciscan at St. Leonard Care Center near Dayton. Bro. Don remembers the good cheer Fr. Robert brought to St. Leonard. “On one visit I was told about a notice in the staff lounge pointing out that Fr. Robert was a patient, not part of the clerical staff at St. Leonard,” said Bro. Don. “He was being so kind and helpful—visiting with others, pushing wheelchairs—that people thought he was an employee.”

Suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, in 2002 Fr. Robert moved to the Mercy Siena healthcare center in Dayton. In September 2006, Fr. Robert suffered a mild stroke and his condition continued to weaken.

“Fr. Bob was the ‘salt of the earth,’ said friend, Fr. Bert Buby. “He was always very pleasant and kind and had a great devotion to Mary.”

May he rest in peace.