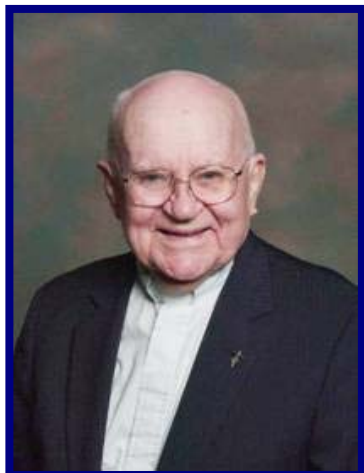


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December 17, 2006

Death Notice No. 30 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **VINCENT PLASSENTHAL**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 12, 2006, in Dayton, Ohio, in the 92nd year of his age and the 74th year of his religious profession.

Vincent Plassenthal was born July 24, 1915, in Dayton, Ohio, one of eight children of Francis and Catherine (Seitz) Plassenthal. In an article honoring his 70th jubilee as a Marianist, Fr. Vincent stated he was baptized by his grandmother, Mrs. August Seitz, on the day he was born. He attended Our Lady of the Rosary grade school and Mount Saint John High School in Dayton. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1936.

Encouraged by his grandmother, two aunts who were Precious Blood nuns and two uncles and a cousin who were Marianists, Fr. Vincent decided to become a Marianist in his last year of grade school. He entered the postulate at Mount St. John in Dayton in 1929, professed first vows there in 1933, and final vows in 1937. He attended seminary at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and St. Meinrad in Indiana and was ordained in 1944 at Mount St. John.

Fr. Vincent dedicated his Marianist career to teaching religion, Latin and English. His ministry brought him to schools in Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Covington, Kentucky, Mineola, New York, and Puerto Rico. Fr. Vincent spent over 50 years in Puerto Rico as a teacher, chaplain, principal, pastor and assistant pastor at Colegio San José in Rio Piedras, Colegio Ponceño in Ponce and Misión Noell in Villalba. He was affectionately referred to as the "Pope of Puerto Rico."

At Misión Noell, where Fr. Vincent served the longest, he was known for his work with youth and for the development of parish activities and organizations. He officiated at the marriages of many of his former students and the baptisms of their children. Fr. Vincent also was remembered for his assistance in the planning and building of a health clinic in Cacao, Puerto Rico, which provided medical and dental care to his parishioners. Known for his architectural acumen, Fr. Vincent also helped design and build several mission chapels in the mountains of Puerto Rico. "He was a great builder of houses and a great pastor of souls," said Fr. John McGrath.

Due to health concerns, Fr. Vincent returned to the United States in 1984 and ministered at Governor's Island in Huntsville, Ohio, and in Sykesville, Maryland. In 1991, Fr. Vincent returned to his beloved Puerto Rico and ministered at Colegio San José and as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Divine Providence (formerly Misión Noell) until 2005, when the Marianists withdrew from the parish. He did not want the Marianists to leave the parish, but according to Bro. Francisco González, "he lived his vow of obedience by saying goodbye without showing any sense of anger or sadness." With failing health, Fr. Vincent retired at age 90 and moved to Mercy Siena in Dayton. Myron Achbach, leader of Common Bond, an organization of former Marianists, visited Fr. Vincent several times in Puerto Rico. "No one was more gracious and hospitable," said Achbach. "One of the amazing things about him is that he worked in the mountains with people who really needed service until just a few years ago."

“He was a good man to have in community, and we were glad each time he returned to Puerto Rico. We are also very happy he has decided to come back for the last time,” said Bro. Francisco González, speaking of Fr. Vincent’s decision to be buried in Puerto Rico. On the day Fr. Vincent died, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bro. Francisco received a Christmas letter from him stating, “I take this occasion to wish you a Merry Christmas from the realms of heaven. I will ask Jesus and Mary to make yours a special Christmas this year. As many of you know, the cancer has returned. I thank God that I am not suffering any pain right now. Please pray for me.”

Provincial Stephen Glodek also was the recipient of many letters from Fr. Vincent. “Every August for the past 13 years, I have received a note from Fr. Vinny in his impeccable handwriting asking if I and the Blessed Mother wanted him to remain in his present assignment or whether there was somewhere else that he was needed,” said Bro. Stephen. “He never had a medical procedure in the 13 years I served as provincial without asking if he could, and whether we could afford it. He has always embarrassed me with his humility and docility. I will miss his warm smile, his generous heart, and his deep personal concern for me and for our Marianist mission.”

May he rest in peace.