

STANLEY GEORGE MATHEWS

EACH ONE OF US IS PRIVILEGED TO BE HERE FOR THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL FOR STAN MATHEWS.....

WE ARE PRIVILEGED BECAUSE THIS IS A FUNERAL SERVICE, IN MY ESTIMATION, FOR ONE OF THE GIANTS OF THE FORMER CINCINNATI PROVINCE OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY DURING THE POST VATICAN II PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY.....I THINK YOU WILL AGREE AS WE RECALL TOGETHER HIS CONTRIBUTION OVER THE YEARS

BORN JULY 6, 1992 IN CINCINNATI, OHIO TO THE LATE GEORGE AND JULIA MATHEWS.....

A RATHER UNIQUE BIRTH TOO.....

HIS FATHER WAS DECEASED AT STAN'S BIRTH, DECEASED AT THE AGE OF ONLY 33....

HE DIED DURING THE PREGNANCY - THE REMNANT OF A CONDITION ACQUIRED DURING WWI COMBAT - EVIDENTLY THE POISONOUS GAS USED DURING THAT CONFLICT.

SO, I SUPPOSE IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THERE WERE TWO IMPORTANT AND RATHER UNIQUE DOCUMENTS AMONG HIS MEAGER POSSESSIONS AT MERCY SIENA AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.....

HIS OWN ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE - WITH THE NOTATION OF HIS DECEASED FATHER.....

AND A COPY OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY HIS FATHER AS A SOLDIER IN WW I ON APRIL 8, 1918 FROM SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE TO HIS OWN MOTHER, STAN'S GRANDMOTHER, ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES, ESP. HIS PROMOTION TO SARGEANT ON APRIL 5TH.

IT IS RATHER IRONIC, ISN'T IT???......

STAN NEVER KNEW HIS FATHER, NEVER HAD A FATHER.....

BUT TURNED OUT TO BE A FATHER FIGURE, MENTOR FOR SO MANY OTHERS OVER THE YEARS ...

WE WOULD BE REMISS IF WE DIDN'T COMMEND HIS MOTHER, JULIA, FOR HER EFFORTS AS A SINGLE PARENT IN RAISING STAN AND HIS OLDER SISTER, JULIE, SO WELL....AND DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS.....

INCIDENTALLY, HIS MOTHER, AFTER RAISING THE CHILDREN JOINED THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR IN 1945 AT THE AGE OF 46, BECOMING SR. JULIA AGNES.....

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SOME OF STAN'S RELATIVES WITH US
HERE THIS EVENING, ESPECIALLY HIS NIECE, JULIE ALBANESE AND HER
HUSBAND, HER NEPHEW, ROBERT OWENS AND HIS WIFE AS WELL AS
SUSAN RUEHL AND HER HUSBAND AND SEVERAL COUSINS....
UNFORTUNATELY, ANOTHER NEPHEW, STANLEY OWENS WAS UNABLE
TO COME FROM PHILADELPHIA....
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.....

THERE IS ONE SLIGHT BLEMISH, HOWEVER, ON STAN'S EARLY RECORD
THAT NEEDS TO BE NOTED AT THE OUTSET.....
HE GRADUATED FROM XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL IN CINCINNATI BEFORE
ATTENDING UC FOR TWO YEARS.....

IN ALL FAIRNESS THOUGH, A JESUIT COUNSELOR AT ST. X. WAS THE
ONE WHO RECOMMENDED STAN CONSIDER THE SM.....
AND EVENTUALLY STAN DID SEE THE LIGHT AND JOURNEYED OFF TO
BEACON, NY FOR HIS NOVITIATE WHERE HE MADE FIRST VOWS ON
AUGUST 24TH, 1942.

HE PROFESSED PERPETUAL VOWS IN THIS CHAPEL ON AUGUST 26,
1945.....

JUST SIX DAYS BEFORE THE FORMAL SURRENDER OF JAPAN AND END
OF WORLD WAR II.....

HE RECEIVED HIS BA FROM UD IN 1944, HIS MA IN EDUCATION AND HIS
BS IN LIBRARY SCIENCE FROM CASE WESTERN RESERVE WHILE HE WAS
BEGINNING HIS TEACHING CAREER AT CATHEDRAL LATIN HIGH
SCHOOL IN CLEVELAND.....

AN EXAMPLE OF MULTI-TASKING THAT WE'LL SEE WAS
CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS ENTIRE PROFESSIONAL CAREER.....I.E.

HOLDING MULTIPLE ROLES AT ONE TIME

HIS JOURNEY ALSO KEPT ALTERNATING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN
DAYTON AND CLEVELAND.....

IN THE 1950'S HE WAS THE FIRST LIBRARIAN OF THE MARIAN LIBRARY,
AS WELL AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH AND EDUCATION HERE AT
UD AND A STUDENT COUNSELOR IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS...

IN 1959 HE RETURNED TO CLEVELAND AS THE PRINCIPAL OF ST.
JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL AND DIRECTOR OF THE MARIANIST
COMMUNITY

AFTER 6 SUCCESSFUL YEARS THERE IT WAS BACK TO DAYTON TO BE
PRINCIPAL OF CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL AND PRESIDENT OF THE
DAYTON JUNIOR COLLEGE....

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT IN THE '50'S AND '60'S HE WAS ALSO ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE MARIANIST EDUCATOR AND THE MARIANIST MAGAZINE, I GUESS IT WAS IN HIS SPARE TIME THAT HE PUBLISHED TWENTY-FIVE ARTICLES IN THOSE TWO PERIODICALS DURING THAT PERIOD.....

HE ALSO EDITED TWO BOOKS IN THEOLOGY.....ONE WAS ON THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.....

IN 1968 HE BECAME EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMER AT BERGAMO CONFERENCE CENTER.....

IT SEEMSTHAT HE ALWAYS HAD AT LEAST TWO JOBS....

DURING THAT PERIOD HE ORGANIZED THE POPULAR VATICAN II RENEWAL PROGRAMS FOR THE PROVINCE....WHICH MANY OF US MARIANIST RELIGIOUS WILL REMEMBER....

HE WAS AN ASSISTANT PROVINCAL AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR THE CINCINNATI PROVINCE AND LATER A PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS.....

FROM 1975 TO 1979 HE WAS THE DIRECTOR OF MARIANIST VOCATION SERVICE.....

DURING '70'S HE ALSO TAUGHT AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY ... (WHICH I SUPPOSE SHOWS HIS ECUMENICAL SPIRIT)

IN 1980 HE BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN RENEWAL HERE AT UD.....

FROM 1982 TO 1994 HE WAS THE FIRST MARIANIST RECTOR AT UD.....THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARIANISTS AND THE LIAISON TO THE UD ADMINISTRATION...

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN, HE WAS ALSO A DELEGATE TO BOTH THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AND THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY FOR SEVERAL DECADES.....

ONLY IN 1994, AT THE AGE OF 72, DID HE SLOW DOWN EVENTUALLY RETURNING TO CLEVELAND.....

AND ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH, WHERE WAS INVOLVED IN ADULT EDUCATION AND TUTORING OF 7TH GRADE STUDENTS.....

IN 2003 HE RETURNED TO THE DAYTON, AREA ----THIS TIME THE MARIANIST COMMUNITY AT INDIAN LAKE BEFORE ILLNESS ONE YEAR LATER BROUGHT HIM BACK TO DAYTON AND THE MERCY-SIENA COMMUNITY.....

WE SEE THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN VERY DIVERSE MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE AND OFTEN MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME..... BUT WITH A COMMON THREAD THAT IS WELL EXPRESSED IN ARTICLE 73 OF OUR RULE OF LIFE:

THE SOCIETY OF MARY IS OPEN TO ALL MEANS OF EVANGELIZATION WHICH LEAD TO THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS MISSION. WE CHOOSE BY PREFERENCE THOSE WORKS WHICH FORM APOSTLES, STIMULATE RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS, AND BENEFIT BY OUR COMMUNITY ACTION AND OUR MIXED COMPOSITION.

IT ALSO SEEMS APPROPRIATE HERE TO QUOTE FROM A LETTER SENT TO STAN FROM GEORGE NASSIF, A FORMER MARIANIST, WHO LIVED WITH STAN IN THE '60'S AND '70'S IN BOTH DAYTON AND CLEVELAND AND IS NOW LIVING IN DALLAS, TEXAS.....

INTERESTING ON THE PHONE, HIS WIFE JUDY, SPONTANEOUSLY DESCRIBED STAN AS A MENTOR AND FATHER FIGURE FOR GEORGE AND ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL MEN SHE HAD EVER MET..... WE DID NOT RECEIVE THE LETTER UNTIL AFTER STAN'S DEATH AND I HAVE GEORGE'S PERMISSION TO QUOTE IT. I BELIEVE IT REFLECTS WELL THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF MANY:

DEAR STAN,

SOURCES TELL ME THAT YOU ARE NOT DOING WELL. I WANTED TO WRITE AND LET YOU KNOW, THAT KNOWING YOU AND HAVING YOU IN MY LIFE HAS BEEN A JOY. YOU WERE ALWAYS A PLACE OF SANITY IN AN OFTEN CRAZY WORLD AND KNOWING YOU WERE THERE WAS ALWAYS COMFORTING. OUR LIVES HAVE TAKEN DIFFEENT DIRECTIONS OVER THE PAST THIRTY PLUS YEARS, BUT WHENEVER OUR PATHS WOULD CROSS, IT WAS LIKE NOTHING HAD CHANGED AND OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS AS STRONG AS EVER.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING SOMEONE TO LAUGH WITH, SHARE STORIES WITH AND TALK SERIOUSLY WITH. YOU ARE SOMEONE I ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING AND I ALWAYS LEFT BEING GLAD THAT WE WERE ABLE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER.

ADDITIONALLY, IT WAS ALWAYS FUN TALKING SPORTS WITH YOU...(HE CONTINUES WITH COMMENTS ON THE REDS-RANGERS TRADE)

I HOPE TO BE IN DAYTON IN EARLY JULY.....AND SEE YOU THEN. IF THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND KNOWING YOU HAS MADE MY LIFE BETTER.....

THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU,

GEORGE

INDEED, KNOWING STAN HAS MADE ALL OUR LIVES BETTER....MUCH BETTER

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF STAN MATHEWS.....

WE ALSO GIVE THANKS FOR THE MERCY SIENA STAFF....

THEIR WONDERFUL CARE FOR STAN AND OUR OTHER MARIANISTS

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE MARIANIST COMMUNITY AT MERCY SIENA - THEIR FRATERNAL CARE.....

INCLUDING JUDY MOEHL, OUR MEDICAL COORDINATOR AND HER ASSOCIATE, KIM EVANS....

MAY THE SOUL OF STANLEY GEORGE MATHEWS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE