

**Bro. Skip Matthews**  
**50 years of profession**



Francis (Skip) Matthews was born April 20, 1939, in Los Angeles. He attended grade school at American Martyrs in Manhattan Beach, Calif., and high school at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, Calif.

“I first thought about religious life while still in eighth grade,” said Bro. Skip. “After being with the brothers so much in school and seeing how happy and sincere they were, I made up my mind to seek admission to the novitiate.”

Bro. Skip entered the novitiate in 1958 at Santa Cruz, Calif. He professed first vows in 1959 at Santa Cruz and perpetual vows in 1962 at Canoga Park, Calif. During his novitiate Bro. Skip studied with the brothers of St. John of God at their hospital in Los Angeles and learned the fundamentals of nursing and caring for elderly patients. In his second novitiate (1968-1969) at Marycliff in Eureka, Mo., Bro. Skip studied cooking under Bros. Leo Slay and Ken Jung.

Bro. Skip served in healthcare for much of his early career. He was in charge of the infirmary for 10 years at the Marianist Center in Honolulu and served for 18 years as a paramedic at a remote medical facility in Zambia. He also assisted at Matero Boys Secondary School in Lusaka and was a staff member at Junipero Serra High School. While working at Serra, he became involved with the needy of Los Angeles.

Today Bro. Skip continues his ministry of helping the needy at the "Hippie Kitchen," a soup kitchen started in 1970 by the Catholic Worker organization to feed the destitute on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Bro. Skip also volunteers at the Good Sheperd Shelter, a safe house for battered women and children. Every Christmas he operates a card ministry, offering to write Christmas cards to family members or friends of people living on Skid Row. He sends thousands of cards for people every year.

"I've been fortunate to work with many wonderful people and learn from them," said Bro. Skip. "They've made me a better person. I've needed their support in order to help others. I don't think anyone is successful who isn't supported."