



BROTHER THOMAS SPRING

Celebrating 70 years of profession

I lost my father just before I turned 9. I met the Brothers of Mary (now Marianists) when I started attending Saint Louis College on the slopes of Kalaepohaku. They were friendly, cheerful, available and good teachers. And they were good, strong, gentle men, just like my father had been. After several years with them, I found it easy to accept their invitation to become one of them. With the help of these men over these many years, I have been able to grow and mature in many ways, especially intellectually and spiritually. They have served as counselors, mentors, challenges to personal growth and sources of encouragement. I have been challenged to be, as they have been, the presence of Jesus Christ for all to whom I (we) minister in whatever capacity.

The lay origins of the Marianist Family always have captivated my imagination. I have tried to contribute seriously to the growth of the lay communities, and I cherish their renewed presence in our province life. I view them as partners in bringing Christ and his message to the world. I cherish the womanly gentleness of Marianist spirituality as that came to us from Blessed Chaminade. A guidance counselor at Riordan High School once said to me, "You guys have a huge anima!" Pride swelled in me as he said that, and I told him that having Mary as our exemplar and leader was the explanation for our evident anima.

Being a Marianist (and a Catholic) has filled my life with joy. That is why I am basically and generally a happy person. Everything I do, think or say has meaning and value. I am surrounded by my Marianist brothers, among whom I find support and encouragement in pursuing our Marianist values and goals. Our common consecration to God in the name of Mary gives

rich meaning to our community life and our shared mission of bringing Jesus to our world. What more could I desire?!