

Bro. Jerome Matz, S.M.
50 years of profession



I was born in Milwaukee in 1940, the son of Marion and Alphonse Matz. I attended Immaculate Conception Grade School, taught by the Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM). In 1958, I graduated from Don Bosco High School, taught by the Marianists.

Several factors prompted me to join the Society of Mary: the grace of God; the powerful example of my family's Christian living and faith; the extremely impressive and edifying Marianists who taught me at Don Bosco; and my personal desire to become a teacher.

After my Novitiate in Galesville, Wis., I professed first vows on Sept. 5, 1959. My scholasticate was at Maryhurst Normal in Kirkwood from 1959 to 1960 and at Charles Francis Hall at St. Mary's University from 1960 to 1962. I graduated from St. Mary's with a bachelor's degree in history. I professed final vows in 1963 in St. Louis.

My teaching assignments took me to these Marianist high schools, where I taught various social science and religion: St. Mary's High School (1962 to 1963); Chaminade College Preparatory (1963 to 1964); and St. Joseph's High School in Victoria, Texas (1964 to 1965).

After graduate studies, I received my Ph.D. in sociology from St. Louis University in December 1968, and in January 1969, I joined the full-time sociology faculty at St. Mary's University. Other assignments have included several terms as sociology chairperson at St. Mary's University, assistant principal at St. Mary's High School (1975 to 1978), and dean of Arts & Sciences at St. Mary's University (1981 to 1983).

Between 1969 and 2005, I have conducted at least 35 different comprehensive surveys for various religious congregations, catholic parishes, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, schools, and business organizations.

In May 2005, I retired as chair and professor of sociology from St. Mary's University after 36 years of service. My most rewarding experience as a Marianist has been teaching sociology and conducting action-oriented sociological surveys for numerous clients.

