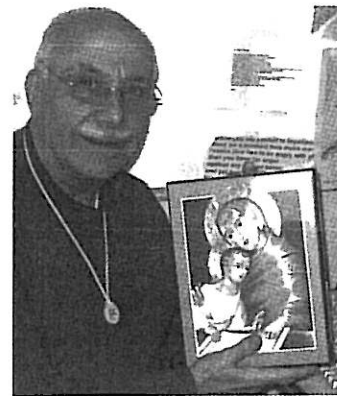


Brother Politi Celebrates 45 Years with Purcell Marian Family

This year marks the 45th anniversary of one of the Purcell Marian family's most loved and recognizable members. Since 1964, Brother Bob Politi has been teaching at Purcell and Purcell Marian as a Marianist brother -- and still is today.

Having taught literally generations of students, Brother Bob Politi says that of the Characteristics of Marianist Education (see sidebar), he most values teaching in the spirit of family because it best encompasses all the others.



Brother Politi holding his plaque of Our Lady, The Teacher, which commemorates his 45th year at Purcell Marian.

When he began in 1964 just out of college, Brother Politi taught business to classrooms of students with all levels of ability. He sensed the frustration of those who struggled to keep up, and along with former faculty member Mr. Bob Konkoly, he worked closely with Children's Hospital to develop the school's first

program for teaching students with learning disabilities. It was the first of its kind in the Archdiocese. Even after having gone through multiple stages, Purcell Marian remains the only Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to have consistently offered such a program.

Brother Politi has served in many roles over the past 45 years, including Business Manager, Band Moderator, Bingo Coordinator and coordinator of the Occupational Work Experience (OWE) program in the 1980's, where students earned school credits while working part-time jobs during school hours. But of all of these, he is most proud of his role as a special education teacher. "The students teach me so much compassion, love and understanding—they're the ones who keep me here past retirement," he says. "I'm blessed that my order allows me stay—not many would, but I think it's my background in special education that has enabled me to remain here all this time." He adds that the Purcell Marian community is what keeps him going.

And the Purcell Marian family isn't the only group who recognizes how special Brother Politi is. He was recently honored with a letter signed by key members of the Provincial Council of the Marianist Province of the United States, along with a plaque of Our Lady, The Teacher commemorating his 45 years of service. Congratulations—and thank you, Brother Politi!

Those interested in congratulating Brother Politi may write to him at the school (2935 Hackberry Street, Cincinnati, OH 45206), send him an email at brotherpoliti@purcellmarian.org, or call the office to arrange a time to drop by.