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VILLA SAINT-JEAN

Fribourg, Suisse

Brother Gerald J. Busch, S.M.



Photo: [1965](#)

Duties:

Director of Marianist Community
French 1,2
Mathematics 7,8
Religion 7,8
Math 8
Dean of Grade School

BIOGRAPHY

Bro. Gerard was born at New Orleans on October 19, 1908, and attended school at St. John the Baptist and Liguori High School (then taught by the Marianists) in the same city before entering the postulate at the age of almost thirteen on August 1, 1921. He indicated later in his life that his decision to join the Society was somewhat casual, prompted mainly by the desire to "try it out" and to accompany his brother Edward on the trip to St. Louis!

Like Edward, Gerard persevered through the postulate at Ferguson and Maryhurst and the novitiate, professing first vows in 1925.

After one year of scholasticate, Bro. Gerry's first teaching assignment took him in 1926 to SS. Peter and Paul Grade School in St. Louis. Assignments quickly followed to St. Mary's Academy in San Antonio, Chaminade, and especially St. Michael in Chicago, where he taught for twelve years. In 1934 Bro. Gerry was assigned to Fribourg for higher studies. Returning in 1936, he taught at Southside High (later St. Mary's) in St. Louis, at SS. Peter and Paul (where he was Director), and at Victoria (1940 - 46), where he was again Director and Principal.

Bro. Gerry's diversified career continued with assignments to Northside High School in St. Louis (1946 - 48);

Belleville (1948 - 54), where he was again Director; and Central Catholic in San Antonio (1954 - 59). In 1959 he became the Director of the founding community in El Paso - a post which he held for three years.

In 1962 he was once again assigned to Fribourg as sub-director of the International School which the province had taken over at Villa St. Jean. In 1964, he became Director of the community at the Villa. Then in 1966 he was called to Rome to serve as Secretary and Accountant in the General Administration, working closely with his friend and classmate, Bro. [Gerald Schnepf](#). Bro. Gerry's knowledge of languages and his friendly sense of hospitality stood him in good stead during his years in Rome.

In 1971 he returned to the States, largely to recover from a number of illnesses, but in 1972 he was well enough to be assigned to the Maria Vista Retreat House in New Haven, Missouri, as Director. He served there until 1977, when he returned with Bro. John Kurz for a brief effort to revive the Marianist presence in Victoria, Texas. Finally, in 1979, he joined the community at St. Mary's University, retired from active apostolates, but still very vigorous and serviceable person who related well to a great variety of people and who faithfully served the Society in many different places and circumstances. His character is well summarized in a letter written by Father Salaverri, the Superior General, on learning of his death. Bro. Gerry had coached Fr. Salaverri in English shortly after his election to be Superior General. He wrote "In the twelve weeks when he was my professor I came to know and to love him. I am very grateful to him for he was, to me, an ideal teacher. He was always cheerful, always patient, but at the same time exacting.... He encouraged me, corrected me, made me repeat. He was a true teacher. But with the passage of time he became a friend. Gerry was both Brother and friend to me."

- Rev. David A. Fleming, S.M. -

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