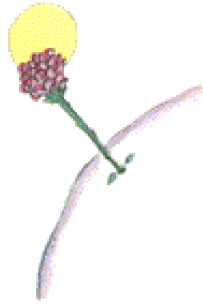


VILLA SAINT-JEAN

Fribourg, Suisse

Brother Frank Klapp, S.M.



Year at Villa: 1963, 1964

Photos: [Click here](#)

Duties: Director
Sapiniere Dean
English I, III, and IV
Religion I
Special English
Speech

BIOGRAPHY

Brother Frank Klapp was born in San Francisco on August 8, 1923, but he spent his childhood in Belleville, where he came to know the Marianists teaching at the Cathedral High School. He entered the postulate at Maryhurst in 1939, where he finished his high school studies, and made his novitiate in Galesville. He professed first vows on August 15, 1942.

After a somewhat abbreviated scholasticate because of the war years, Brother Frank began his teaching career in 1944 at Chaminade in St. Louis. For the rest of his life, he was closely identified with Chaminade, returning there often for long periods as teacher, and eventually as Religious Superior and Administrator. His close ties with the students and families of Chaminade and his ebullient personality gave him the title of "Mr. Chaminade."

Other teaching assignments took him to Central Catholic in San Antonio (1946 — 47), McBride High School in St. Louis (1950 — 52), a year of second novitiate at Glencoe (1954 — 55), Villa St. Jean International School in Fribourg (1962 — 64), Pueblo, Colorado (1964 — 66 and 1967 — 69), McBride again as Administrator (1966 — 67). The years before and after each of these assignments were spent at

Chaminade, where Brother Frank was Chairman of the English Department, Speech Coach, Student Council Moderator, and, from 1969 — 75 Director of the Community and Administrator of the school.

During this period, Brother Frank was also Director at Villa St. Jean (1963 — 64), and at Pueblo (1964 — 66 and 1967 — 69). He was a member of the Provincial Chapter from 1966 — 72.

In the early 1970's Brother Frank's health began to trouble him, especially with diabetes. He was a prominent candidate for the position of Assistant Provincial during the consultation of 1974, but he refused the position because of uncertain health. In 1975, after completing his term as Director at Chaminade, he had volunteered to work at Colegio Santa Maria in Lima and he spent a semester at the Marianist Formation Community in San Antonio studying Spanish. On Christmas Day, 1975, on the eve of his departure for Latin America, he suffered from congestive heart failure and subsequently had to undergo a heart by—pass operation. During the recovery period from this operation he suffered a stroke which somewhat impaired his memory and his reading ability.

After this, his plans to serve in South America were cancelled, and eventually Brother Frank was assigned as a semi—retired teacher to Daniel J. Gross High School in Omaha for the 1976 — 77 school year. It was on Palm Sunday of that year, while beginning a retreat with other Omaha community members at Galesville, that he suffered the final stroke and died immediately.

Always a jovial and outgoing person, Brother Frank had a great capacity for human understanding and sympathy. He was an energetic leader in matters educational and Marianist, and possessed a lively wit and a quick intellect which endeared him both to his fellow Brothers and to the public. He was one of the liveliest and most popular teachers in the province during his era.

A voracious reader and lover of literature, Brother Frank suffered particularly from the difficulties with reading he experienced after his first stroke. He never completely recovered his ability to read. Yet, he bore his disabilities with his accustomed good cheer and friendliness.

By his early death, the province lost one of its most valuable leaders and a man of great intensity and devotion.

— Rev. David A. Fleming, S.M. —

[RETOUR AU MENU](#)