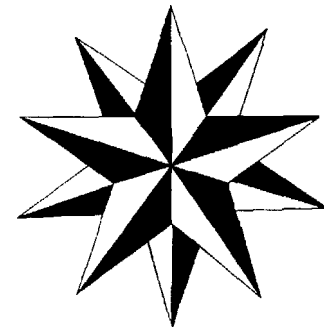


A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE LIFE

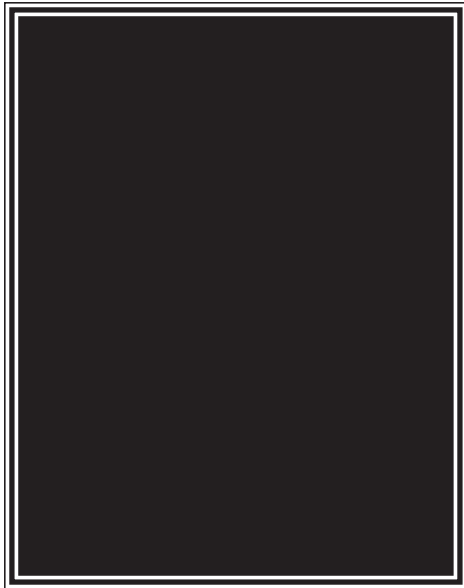
OF

**Brother Cyril Malachy, F.S.C.
(Othello James Ory)
1914-2001**



SIGNUM FIDEI

TOUR OF DUTY



- 1934- Kirwin High School (Galveston, TX)
- 1939- St. Paul's High School (Covington, LA)
- 1941- St. Michael's High School (Santa Fe, NM)
- 1943- Mullen High School (Denver, CO)
- 1944- Instituto Regiomontano (Monterrey, Mexico)
- 1948- 2nd Novitate Studies (Rome, Italy)
- 1949- St. Peter's High School/Director & Principal (New Iberia, LA)
- 1952- Recruiter and Vocational Director (Lafayette, LA)
- 1958- St. Michael's College (Santa Fe, NM)
- 1962- De La Salle High School (New Orleans, LA)
- 1963- Recruiter /South (Lafayette, LA)
- 1966- Cathedral-Carmel School (Lafayette, LA)
- 1969- De La Salle Community (New Orleans, LA)
- 1975- Sabbatical year
- 1976- Center of Jesus the Lord (New Orleans, LA)
- 1980- De La Salle Community (New Orleans, LA)
- 1983- House of Studies (New Orleans, LA)
- 1990- Missions, Rongai, Kenya (Africa)
- 1991- Magnolia (Nov.) (Lafayette, LA)
- 1999- Oakwood Nursing Facility (Lafayette, LA)
- Amelia Nursing Facility (Lafayette, LA)
- 2001- Died on December 9th (Lafayette, LA)

Brother Cyril Ory
1914-2001

On the morning of December 9, 2001, word was received from Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Lafayette, LA, that **Brother Cyril** had passed away at 4:30 a.m. The news did not really come as a surprise as his health had been declining for some time. Someone said: "He missed dying on the feast of the Immaculate Conception just by a few hours." For those who really knew **Brother Cyril**, his passing on December 9 was more in keeping with his life and spirituality. December 9, 2001, happened to be the Second Sunday in Advent. The image of God's holy mountain presented in the first liturgical reading for that day from Isaiah is one of the most hope-filled in all of Scripture. Imagine what such a place would be like, a place where a baby can play in the den of a cobra, a deadly snake. God promises that no harm or ruin will come on that holy mountain. This is the goal. Life's journey is like a long climb up the face of this holy mountain. Every now and then one catches a glimpse of the summit, the world to come. That first reading from Isaiah bids the reader to long for that place and continue to climb, preparing along the way for the inheritance that awaits. Spiritually, Brother Cyril climbed God's holy mountain as a hope-filled De La Salle Christian Brother for 70 years. At the time of his passing he was seven days shy of his 87th birthday.

Othello James Ory was born in Lake Charles, LA, on December 16, 1914, the son of **Othello James Ory, Sr.** and the former **Barbara Reynolds**, both deceased. He is survived by his brother, **Sidney Ory, AFSC**, and his sister, **Rosa Mary Desormeaux**.

After graduating in 1931 from Cathedral High School of Lafayette, LA, **Brother Cyril** entered the Juniorate of the De La Salle-Christian Brothers, also in Lafayette, LA. He received the religious habit of the Brothers on Christmas Eve in 1931 and made first profession of vows a year later on Christmas Day. Upon completion of the Novitiate, he traveled to Las Vegas, NM, for his college studies. In 1938, he graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX with a BA in Latin. Four years later he graduated from the same university with an MA in Education. It was in 1939, that **Brother Cyril** made his final profession of vows as a

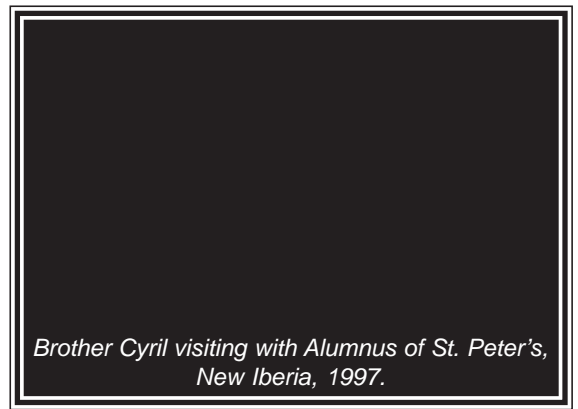
De La Salle-Christian Brother. Throughout his long life as a Brother, he taught in eight high schools and St. Michael's College of the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province. He also served as Vocation Director for the province and was a missionary Brother in Monterrey, Mexico, and Kenya, Africa. In 1948 he resided at the Motherhouse of the Brothers in Rome, Italy, while making the Second Novitiate. From 1949 until 1952, he served as Principal of St. Peter's College in New Iberia, LA.

Mr. Dan Stapp who was a student at St. Peter's College when Brother Cyril was Principal gives the following remembrance:

"Brother Cyril Ory was, for me, an excellent example of a Christian Brother whose interest in his students carried on throughout his lifetime. He was my Principal at St. Peter's College in New Iberia, LA, a teacher of my sons at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, my mentor and my friend.

I have many memories of Brother Cyril, but one lesson that he taught me was a practical, gospel-driven concern for those who are less fortunate. At St. Peter's he instilled in us the concept of sharing through the collecting of food for the poor and the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets. This was a simple but impressive lesson I have carried with me throughout my adult life as a volunteer for numerous phil-

anthropic causes. It taught me that one must share one's good fortune not only through money but through good works.



Brother Cyril lived his life for others and surely God in His goodness has rewarded him in full measure. May we, his students, be so blessed when our time comes.”

Brother Cyril served as Vocation Director for the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province for nine years. God blessed his ministry of fostering to the religious life. During his time as Vocation Director, the Junior Novitiate and Novitiate were filled with young men whom **Brother Cyril** had helped in the discernment of their vocation. **Brother Melvin Pelton**, who was helped by **Brother Cyril** in the discernment process, gives the following remembrance:

“Brother Cyril recruited me from Mullen High School in Denver, CO. He followed me for six years: my four years of high school and two years after when I was working at surveying. I always enjoyed talking one-on-one with Cyril, who was always so attentive, enthusiastic and in love with God.”

In 1958, **Brother Cyril** was assigned to teach English at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, NM. For the academic year 1962-1963, he was assigned to teach religion at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, LA. The years 1963-1966 found him back at the ministry of fostering vocations as Vocation Director for the southern part of the Province. From 1966-1974, **Brother Cyril** returned to the classroom. For many years **Brother Cyril** was interested in ministering in a House of Prayer. In 1975, he was granted a sabbatical to explore the possibility of opening a House of Prayer in the Province. He took the year very seriously and spent a great deal of time traveling, even outside the United States, looking for models as to how a House of Prayer might be setup. The following was his itinerary for that year.

Brother Cyril Ory's Sabbatical Schedule:

1. August 12 - 20 -- Allentown, PA. Give a weekend retreat and visit the Center For Renewal.

2. September 8 - 19 -- Guatemala. A week of rest and prayer followed by a visit to our missionaries for a few days.

3. October 17 - 27 -- St. Joseph's Abbey, Spencer, MA. A course or workshop in "Centering On God," given by **Basil Pennington, OCSO**.

4. November 9 - 21 -- Cedar Lake, IN. Franciscan Retreat where **Father Dacian Bluma, OFM**, will share his House of Prayer experience with me.

5. December 1 - 13 -- Convent Station, NJ. Study this House of Prayer and its Outreach operations.

6. January 5 - 16 -- Franciscan Community House, Coden, AL.

7. February 2 - 13 -- Mt. Xavier Monastery, Pine City, NY. Learn from **Brother David Steidl-Rast, OSB**, pioneer in the House of Prayer Movement.

8. March -- (exact dates not known) -- Charismatic Retreats and Conference in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

9. April 5 - 16 -- Spend two weeks with **Father Knight** at his House of Prayer in Memphis, TN.

10. May -- (An eight day retreat in Assisi, followed by a visit to the Motherhouse to be there for the feast of St. La Salle, May 15)

11. Six-weeks at Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, PA -- thirty day directed retreat followed by two week workshop in spiritual direction. Sometime during the summer.

12. A week at the Monastery in Pecos, NM -- time to be determined after No. 11 is fixed.

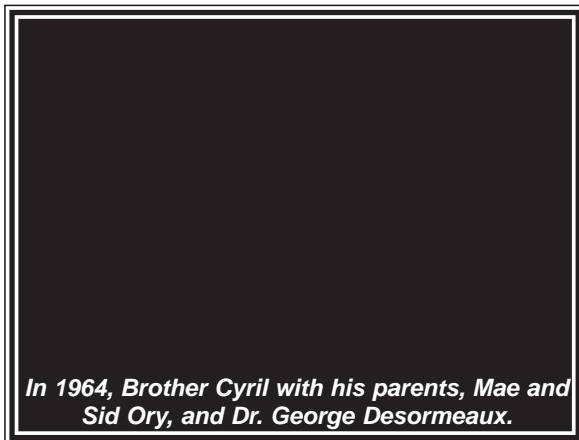
13. Two weeks home visit -- time determined by No.'s 11 and 12.

In 1976, **Brother Cyril** was given permission to join the staff at The Center of the Lord Jesus, a charismatic community, in New Orleans, LA. He entered into this new ministry with great enthusiasm. For the next four years he was greatly involved in giving retreats, prayer groups and spiritual direction. **Brother Melvin Pelton** remembers:

“Brother Cyril introduced me to the charismatic movement. I was impressed with the PRIDE and JOY of the charismatic during a time when the Vatican II changes had unsettled Catholics so much and the ‘GOD IS DEAD’ culture was so prominent.”

Brother Ephrem Hebert remembers:

“Brother Cyril gave very generously of his energy and time to spread the word of God by this new medium.”



In 1964, Brother Cyril with his parents, Mae and Sid Ory, and Dr. George Desormeaux.

In September of 1980, **Brother Cyril** was asked by **Brother Visitor** to return to De La Salle High School in New Orleans, LA. While at De La Salle, he was instrumental in getting the student overnight retreat program going

again. **Brother Jeffrey Calligan** gives the following remembrance:

“Working with Cyril and Fr. Peter as they resurrected the De La Salle overnight Retreat Program, it was easy to see the love both men had for the students. Cyril, always a man of prayer, was also a man of joviality and friendliness. His typing skills aided the retreats a great deal. He prepared lists and details to go to parents. He also duplicated all the material used on the retreats. On the retreat itself, he was a presence that encouraged prayer and serious alignment with God’s will. He and Fr. Peter did so well in establishing the program that it continues to this day. As far as I know, De La

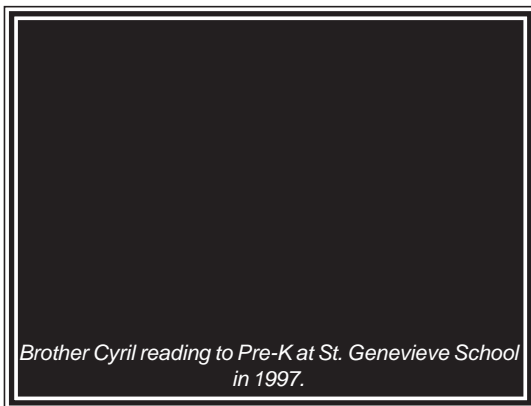
Salle is the only school in our district where every student makes an overnight retreat annually. This is a living legacy that Cyril and Fr. Peter left to the Cavaliers.”

For a number of years missionary activities in Africa were being promoted by the General Council and General Chapter. **Brother Cyril** felt a call to help in the formation of candidates to the Brothers in that country. He asked for permission to be assigned to the House of Formation in Kenya, Africa. Permission granted, he was given the Missionary Cross on August 8, 1990, during Mass at De La Salle-Christian Brother in Lafayette, LA. **Brother Cyril** loved his ministry in the House of Formation, but regretted the fact that he had to keep the accounts for the community. Due to the generosity of his brother, **Mr. Sidney Ory, AFSC**, he was able to get a new chapel erected for the House of Formation. He also took advantage of free time in order to learn the local Kiswahillian dialect. In 1991, due to knee problems that required surgery, he had to leave Africa and return to the United States. Having to return home was a big disappointment for him, but he accepted it with his usual deep faith. He also had to loose weight to prepare for the surgery. The extra weight that he carried was putting a great strain on the knee joints. His comments about having to lose weight were: “**The trouble with losing weight is that you find it again without even offering a reward.**” He returned home, lost the weight, had the surgery and in November of 1991, he was assigned to the Del La Salle-Christian Brothers community in Lafayette, LA.

As a member of the De La Salle community, **Brother Cyril** made many valuable contributions. He organized the prayer life of the community, read and served Mass, helped with the magazine, Christian Brothers Connection, and the St. La Salle Auxiliary. **Brother Ephrem Hebert** gives the following remembrance:

“**Brother Cyril and I were never in the same community accept for the last four or five years of his life when he came to Magnolia to retire. He was a sincere follower of St. John Baptist De La Salle, devoted to prayer and meditation in an extraordinary way. In retirement he was always available to**

his superiors to do whatever he was able. He volunteered to translate some works of St. Teresa of Jesus from Spanish to English for the benefit of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns who live next door. I was very happy to help him with this work. He tried in every way to be charitable, not only to the Brothers of the community, but to all who visited us.”



As he advanced in years, **Brother Cyril's** health began to decline due to infections that developed in the area where he had had a knee replaced. The infections became more and more frequent and the continued use of antibiotics weakened his kidneys.

Eventually, he went into kidney failure and was placed on dialysis three times a week. Because of this, it became necessary to place him in a nursing facility. From 1997-1999, he was a resident of Oakwood Nursing Home and from 1999-2001, he was cared for at Amelia Manor Nursing Home. Two weeks prior to his death, his health declined rapidly. He knew that his health was failing, but continued to place his future in God's hands. **Brother Louis Welker** gives the following remembrance:

“The week before he died, **Brother Cyril** asked me the following question. ‘Have I been a good religious?’ Sensing that he needed some reassurance, I reviewed with him all the accomplishments of his life as a Christian Brother. What I failed to do was to tell him what his being a Christian Brother meant to us, his Brothers, and the great love of God that he had shown to us. Personally, I believe that **Brother Cyril** had a very close union with God. When he spoke of Holy

Trinity, I sensed more than book knowledge. His eyes lit up with a look of experience. He had a wonderful image of God the Father as dancing when one of his children makes it to the kingdom. He said: ‘Seeing the Father dance is going to be wonderful!’ He accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and daily spent an hour (sometimes many hours) in front of the Blessed Sacrament. It gave me great comfort knowing that **Brother Cyril** was in the chapel adoring and interceding on behalf of all humankind. The Holy Spirit was the light of his life. If you engaged him in conversation about the Holy Spirit, you were in for a long LISTEN. He prayed the rosary daily and especially loved Marian feasts. He was a faithful son of St. John Baptist de La Salle and had a great love for the practice of mental prayer. As our Lord had requested, **Cyril** showed a great love for others. He never participated in uncharitable conversation about another person. In fact, the only thing I couldn't understand about **Brother Cyril** was his love of mystery stories either written or on television. My conclusion is that mystery stories were connected with his personal search for God. Yes, **Brother Cyril**, you were a good religious, and deep inside of me, I believe that you saw the Father dance, that you were washed in the blood of the Lamb, and that you were set on fire by the Holy Spirit, that you experienced the motherly embrace of the Blessed Mother and that St. De La Salle gleamed with pride as his spiritual son entered the Kingdom of Heaven.”

It was mentioned in the introduction that **Brother Cyril** climbed God's holy mountain as a hopefilled De La Salle-Christian Brother for seventy years. Perhaps, it would be more accurate to say: “**Brother Cyril** made it to the top.”

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 12, 2001, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at 11:00 a.m. at De La Salle-Christian Brothers in Lafayette, LA, followed by burial in the community cemetery.



Brother Louis Welker, Director
De La Salle-Christian Brothers
Lafayette, Louisiana



EULOGY FOR BROTHER CRYIL ORY

Thanks to all of you for joining us today to bid farewell to Brother Cyril Ory. We bid him farewell from this land of suffering and time of trial and we join with the angels in welcoming him to the eternal glory of the vision of God. The moment of death is the most important moment of our lives here on earth. For it is at the time of death that we begin life anew.

It is providential that our Brother was called home during the month of December. Look at the importance December played in his life. In 1914 he came into this world on December 16th. He was given the habit of the Brothers on December 24th, 1930, and the following year pronounced first vows on Christmas Day, December 25th, 1931. No wonder the Lord waited until December 9th to call him home because today, his burial day, December 12th, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Remember that Brother Cyril spent four years of his life in Monterrey, Mexico at Instituto Regiomontano and Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of Mexico. We all know that he had a great devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin. God only knows how many rosaries he said during his lifetime.

Brother Cyril ministered in all four states of our province. He started his teaching career in Texas at Kirwin High School in Galveston. After four years there he was sent to St. Paul's School in Covington, LA. His third assignment took him to New Mexico at St. Michael's and his fourth assignment saw him teaching at Mullen High in Denver, CO. He is still well remembered for his years at St. Peter's in New Iberia, LA and his service at Cathedral-Carmel here in Lafayette, LA.

How to describe Cyril? He had gumption--and plenty of it. He had energy and he had endurance. It wasn't long before the superiors recognized his talents and they asked him to undertake a variety of assignments. After making the Second Novitiate in Rome in 1948 he became Principal and Director in New Iberia. For six years he traveled the District as

our Recruiter and influenced many young men in their decision to join the Brothers. He was a college teacher in Santa Fe for four years. To all these assignments he brought his energy and enthusiasm.

However, in a special way, his greatest enthusiasm was reserved for his later years when he felt the call to the charismatic movement. He spent four years at the Center of Jesus the Lord in New Orleans--again as a minister, but this time his energies were devoted to helping people who needed special prayer techniques and a new manner of praising the Lord. He was a fervent advocate of the charismatic movement.

However, this was not his final call. At age 76 years when many people wind down and seek a peaceful mode of existence, he heard the call to missionary duty and went to Rongai to minister to the African people of Kenya. Only ill health could force him to return to the States.

His last years brought him many sufferings and trials, but again his faith in God kept his energetic spirit intact. He was a man of many talents and he strove to use them in the service of our Lord and his Blessed Mother.

We rejoice today with him because he persevered and kept the Faith to the end. We rejoice today with him because he is now freed of his sufferings. And we ask him to continue to watch over us and the Institute he loved so well.

Our condolences to his brother, Sid, who is an Affiliated Member and is present with us today, and to his sister, Rosa Mary.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Brother Clarence

Fioke

December 12, 2001