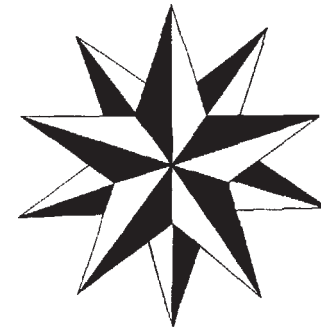


A SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE LIFE

OF

**Brother John Young, F.S.C.
(Cyprian Martin)
1927 - 1999**



SIGNUM FIDEI

Tour Of Duty

1948 - Lake Charles, LA (Landry Memorial High School)

1949 - Santa Fe, New Mexico (Scholasticate)

1951 - Lafayette, Louisiana (Cathedral High School)

1952 - New Orleans, Louisiana (Mater Dolorosa School)

1954 - Covington, Louisiana (St. Paul's School)
- Junior Prefect

1957 - San Antonio, Texas (La Salle High School)

1964 - Opelousas, Louisiana (Academy of the Immaculate
Conception - Boys Section) - Director /
Principal

1967 - Lafayette, Louisiana (Cathedral High School)

1968 - Chicago, Illinois (St. Patrick's High School)

1971 - New Orleans, Louisiana (De La Salle High School)

1978 - Santa Fe, New Mexico (St. Michael's High School)

1980 - (Jan.) Lafayette, Louisiana (De La Salle Christian
Brothers)

Light illumines and reveals; light chases away the darkness. Light is necessary for growth and physical well-being. Jesus tells us: "You are the light of the world... No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, instead he puts it on a lamp stand; where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Light helps us see the big picture. We all know what happens in a movie house when the light goes out on the projector: no big picture! But what really is the big picture? Jesus tells us: "the good you do...So, "others can praise the Father." On January 3, 1999, Brother John Young, FSC, died at Lourdes Medical Center. He often used the following expressions: **"You need to look at the big picture. You don't see the big picture. You're missing the big picture."** In his own way he tried to be light for others, to help them to see, i.e., make good decisions. Brother John Young was 71 years of age and had been a Christian Brother for 54 years.



(1)

Brother John was a native of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Born on April 30, 1927, he was the son of Willis Rex Young and the former Mary Helen Hickey, both deceased.

Wyoming is one of the Rocky Mountain States. The name comes from an expression used by the Delaware Indians, which translates "upon the great plain." It is a land of great open plains; where one can almost see forever. It was to Wyoming that Brother Joseph, recruiter for the Brothers, journeyed in search of qualified young men to become Christian Brothers. He made contact with John Young and extended an invitation to him to become a Brother. John was a senior at St. Mary's High school in Cheyenne. At age 18 he entered the Christian Brothers Novitiate in Lafayette, LA, on May 4, 1945. After a brief Postulancy program, he received the religious habit of the Brothers on August 14, 1945. He was given the name Brother Cyprian Martin. He pronounced first vows on August 15, 1946.

Upon completion of the Novitiate, Brother John began his teacher training at Sacred Heart College in Las Vegas, NM. When the Scholasticate was transferred to Santa Fe, NM, he finished his collegiate years at St. Michael's College where he earned a B.A. in English. Landry Memorial High School in Lake Charles, LA, was where he had his first teaching experience in 1948. As a teacher Brother John served in 10 Christian Brothers school in the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province. He made final profession of vows on July 2, 1952. Brother Brendan Hayden writes:

" I lived in community with Brother John during the academic years 1955-1956 and 1956-1957. During these years, he was the Prefect for the junior borders, grades 7 - 9. I served as one of his assistants. Prefecting was very difficult for Brother John. The responsibilities weighed heavily upon him, but he accepted them and performed his duties to the best of his abilities."

From 1964 - 1967, he served as Director/Principal of the boys section

(2)

of the Academy of the Immaculate Conception (now Opelousas Catholic High School) in Opelousas, LA. Miss Anna Jane Marks gives the following remembrance of Brother John from his years in Opelousas:

"Brother John Young and I crossed paths at two different times in my career. I first met Brother in 1964 when he was known as Brother Martin, principal of the boys school at the Academy of the Immaculate Conception (AIC) in Opelousas. I taught in the girls school from 1964 through 1967. I would meet him everyday in the cafeteria asl was in charge of the discipline during the lunch hour for both the boys and girls. My recollection of Brother Martin was that he was very shy, but very kind, compassionate and understanding towards his student body. The boys respected and loved him -- he never had to raise his voice in an angry tone his very presence was enough."

During the summers, while he was Principal in Opelousas, Brother pursued a Master's Degree in Theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. He was awarded the degree in August 1968.

From 1968 - 1971 he was a member of the Christian Brothers teacher exchange program and taught at St. Patrick's High School in Chicago, Illinois. This exchange also enabled Brother to spend time with a few of his cousins who lived in the Chicago area.

The year 1971, saw Brother John back in his home province teaching Religion at De La Salle High School in New Orleans, LA. He applied to the Archdiocese of New Orleans for a religion teacher certificate. In a letter to the Religious Education Coordinator, he gives his reasons for wanting to continue teaching religion on the high school level. Besides mentioning the fact that he was academically prepared and had adequate experience in the formal teaching of religion, he goes on to write:

"I will strive to make faith become living, conscious and active, through the light of instruction for myself and my students."

The words **"through the light of instruction,"** tells us in a very poignant way how Brother John viewed his ministry as a Christian educator. In the classroom at De La Salle he was effective. In addition, he was a very valuable member of the Brothers community. Brother Richard Arnandez gives the following remembrance of those years:

"He didn't do anything extraordinary, but he was always there when you needed him."

In 1978, Brother John's services were needed as a Religion teacher at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, NM. The experience there was not a good one for him; it bruised his spirit. In January of 1980, he became a member of the De La Salle - Christian Brothers Community in Lafayette, LA. This assignment was only intended to be a temporary one; a resting place. It turned out to be his home for the last nineteen years of his life. He served as Brother Daniel Duplantis' assistant for the St. La Salle Auxiliary. Brother Daniel appreciated his work in the office.

"As an office worker I admired his tenacity and perseverance in doing the menial tasks of typing, folding, mailing, and recording. To me he was a walking encyclopedia; he knew a little about everything you talked to him about."

Again he proved himself to be a valuable member of the community. The community will always remember him for his helpfulness in running errands, bringing Brothers to the doctors and visiting the sick.

Brother John could also make you feel uncomfortable; especially if you had just purchased something. Brother Directors lived in dread of Brother John's commitment to the Consumer Report. It was his Bible. To Brother John the Consumer Report and the **"Big Picture"** were

synonymous. It was a comprehensive source of unbiased advice about products and services, personal finance, health and nutrition. To a great extent, Brother John adopted the Mission Statement of the Consumer Report, i.e., to test products, inform the public and protect consumers. Brother Louis Welker, Director of De La Salle remembers:

"I bought a new car for the community. In fact, it was the first brand new car that the community ever had. I was very happy with the purchase then Brother John brought in the Consumer Report. The car I had bought was not rated very highly."

Another very important job that Brother John held at De La Salle was that of guest master for group retreats. Sr. Mildred Leonard, Vicar for Religious of the Diocese of Lafayette, LA, recalls:

"I remember, seventeen years ago, the first time I came to De La Salle to make arrangements for the Religious Day of Reflection. One of the first persons I met was this tall, lanky Brother who approached me and said, half jokingly, 'We don't allow women around here.' As was the case so often after that, it was hard to know just how serious Brother John was with his remarks. However, the twinkle in his eyes told me that it was more a starter for a conversation than anything serious."

One of Brother John's assignments was to be available for retreats and days of reflection. In the months and years that followed, Brother endeared himself to me and all the Religious. He took his task very seriously; I never needed to worry about anything. He had a very watchful eye for anything that he could do to make us more welcome and comfortable. We will miss him."

Again, Miss Anna Jane Marks gives a remembrance of Brother John as guest master:

"In the 80's I again met Brother Martin; by this time he was known as Brother John Young. I was then working at USL Dupre Library, so I would see him very often coming to the library to do research. I also had the privilege of coordinating Days of Recollection for women for about five years and would reserve De La Salle Center for that date. Brother Young saw to it that we would park our cars in the right places, that we'd have plenty of coffee, ice for our drinks, and of course, he was always so gracious in meeting us and our needs. He was very knowledgeable, and had a dry wit. Though a man of few words, what he had to say was filled with much humor. I must say, I have happy memories of Brother John Young."

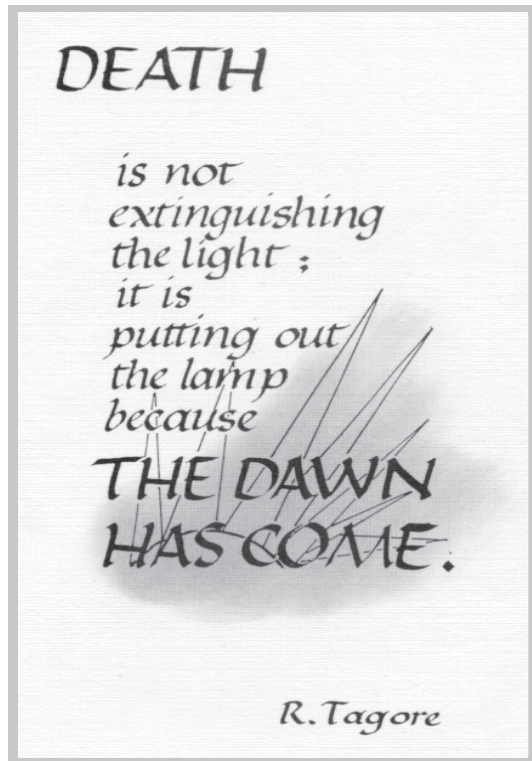
For many years Brother John suffered from lupus and congestive heart failure. He paid very close attention to his health care and generally cooperated with his doctors. In September 1998, it was discovered that one heart valve was not functioning properly. He underwent surgery to replace the valve, but the surgery was not successful. Another surgery was recommended; he declined. His condition grew serious and it was in a very weakened state that he underwent the second surgery on December 8, 1998. Due to complications, a third and fourth surgery were required on the same day. From that point on, things began to go down hill. There never was an upward swing in his health. He was in the hospital for almost a month. On January 3, 1999, at 5:00 p.m. in the evening, he passed away. It was the Feast of the Epiphany. That feast which speaks of a great star (light) that led the Magi to the Christ Child. Before his death, Brother John spoke of seeing a light filled with people. Perhaps there was a light! Who knows? As Catholic Christians, we pray so often for the dead: "Eternal life grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them."

Light illumines and reveals; light chases away darkness. Now, in the Light of Christ, Brother John truly sees the **Big Picture**.

A burial service was held for Brother John Young at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 1999, at De La Salle - Christian Brothers. The next day at 11:00 a.m. the Mass of Christian Burial was held in the Community Chapel.

Interment took place in Christian Brothers Cemetery in Lafayette, LA.

By: Brother Louis Welker, FSC
Director of De La Salle Christian Brothers
Lafayette, LA



Brother John Young, FSC
April 30, 1927 - January 3, 1999

Eulogy given by Brother Daniel Duplantis, FSC, at the Mass of Christian Burial.

Brother John Young came to Magnolia in January of 1980 as my assistant for the St. La Salle Auxiliary; we worked side by side for the past 19 years.

He was born in the rugged West -- Cheyenne, Wyoming; and the difficulty of pioneer living seemed to have had some effect on his personality and character, although he did not live under the same conditions as the early settlers of that desolate territory.

It was to this area that Brother Joseph, recruiter, went; it was here that he located John Young and invited him to become a Brother. John entered the Novitiate immediately after finishing high school in 1945, and did become a Brother with the name Brother Cyprian Martin, a name by which he was known until a return to baptismal names was allowed.

His ministry as a teacher included such schools as Landry High in Lake Charles, Cathedral High in Lafayette, Mater Dolorosa School in New Orleans, St. Paul's School in Covington, La Salle High School in San Antonio, Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Opelousas, where he served as Director and Principal for three years, in St. Patrick's High, Chicago, Illinois (where he was on exchange) and Santa Fe, New Mexico, at St. Michael's High School. As a teacher he was strict, but fair in his dealings with students and parents.

As a religious, Brother John certainly gave all of us the example of regularity; he was not pietistic in any way but adhered to the fundamentals of true Christianity and Brotherhood in all its aspects.

I admired his tenacity and perseverance in doing the menial tasks of an office worker: typing, folding, mailing and recording.

In his healthier days here at Magnolia, he would spend much of the afternoons checking out the shrubbery and pulling out any

the vines that threatened to choke the bushes. It is due to his efforts respect that we were able to control the voracious kudzu vine which had taken over between the barnyard and the park. He also rescued many azalea and camellia bushes that had been overrun with wild honeysuckle vines and blackberry bushes. He also made sure that our lawns were kept green by fertilizing them regularly.

His helpfulness in running errands for the office, visiting the sick in hospitals and bringing Brothers to the doctors will always be remembered by us all. His patience in waiting for us to be taken care of was really something to be admired, yet he seemed more than anxious to be of service.

To me he was a "walking encyclopedia": he knew a little about everything you talked to him about. He would let you know which car was the best to buy, the probability of a war breaking out in the Near East, the latest book on juvenile delinquency -- you name it -- he had an answer. However, if you dared asked the question you had better be ready and patient to wait out the answer! Sometimes he would ask: "Do you want the short version or the long version?" His charity in visiting the sick was outstanding. Any time there was a Brother in the hospital or nursing home, he would visit and offer his services to bring clothing or personal items needed. He was a familiar figure at Lourdes Hospital, walking the corridors with his wide-rimmed white hat and a cup of coffee in his right hand. He would stop and chat with people who had come to visit other patients.

He was most gracious in receiving those who came to Magnolia for retreats, workshops, or recollection days. He would give them directives on where things were and made himself available in case they needed anything. Many times he would listen in to the talks being given in order to increase his knowledge of what was going on in the field of education.

I must say that much of what Brother John did most of his life as a religious was done obediently to the phrase voiced in his vows as a Brother: "Wherever I may be sent; to do anything in the Society at which I shall be employed." He did not relish teaching, but he taught;

he did not like being Director, but he directed; he was frustrated at being a prefect of discipline, but he handled the job admirably. Only in the latter part of his life did he seem to be at peace, being of service to his Institute in other ways.

He was a real scholar in the true sense of the word because he was forever enriching his mind with new ideas. On his break day or on holidays he would often find his way to the public library and "bone up" on every phase of knowledge imaginable. He would often bring back photo copies of new ideas he had come across. He would ask me to let him view all the old magazines from the community library to find out if he had missed anything.

As I look back on a dedicated life such as John's, I cannot but be reminded of a poem written by Clay Harrison entitled "Miles to Go Before I Sleep"; it certainly can apply to each one of us as we make our way toward our own eternal rest.

I'm often weak and weary
As I view the hills ahead.
I only stop along the way
To share my daily bread.

I know not what lies ahead,
Where tomorrow I must trod,
But I know that I must follow
The footsteps of my God!

For life must have a purpose,
A reason to survive,
And I must seek and serve Him
As long as I'm alive.

Although I'm torn and tattered
His grace is all I need
To continue on life's journey
And sow for Him some seed.

The road is ever winding;
It's narrow, rough and steep,
But step-by-step He leads me
With miles to go before I sleep.

John now sleeps; may he rest in peace!



*Brother John Young, 1995,
Renewal of Vows at Golden Jubilee Mass*

*Brother John
at work
in his
office/bedroom*



*Brother John Young, (back row, center)
Sangre Re-visited 1985*