

414 Ellis Lane
Bel Air, Md. 21014

February 12, 1996

To our relatives and many friends

Enclosed is a copy of the life of "Paul of Maryknoll".

Maureen and I had the honor to be able to attend Uncle Paul's funeral services at Maryknoll, New York. Other family members attending were Phyllis Chamberlain, her son John (Chick) and her sister Marie Lynch.

We were so impressed with the arrangements and accommodations prepared by the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers that we wanted to let the world share our experiences as much as we could hopefully express them. We hope to capture in your minds some of the experiences we had in less than a twenty four hour period.

The Priests, the Brothers and everyone at Maryknoll saw to our every need. If you wanted something just hint about it and it was there in a flash. The sheets and pillow cases on our queen size bed were identical to the ones we use at home which made us feel even more at home. The room provided to us was spacious with its own private bath. The food was excellent. (Guess I'll have to up my monthly contribution and move in)

The wake and viewing were on Monday evening was well attended. Uncle Paul was laid out in the casket he made for himself. I'm told he started it in 1960 and finished it in 1986 shortly after my Dad's death (his brother). Guess he wasn't in any hurry. The coffin was plain and simple. It fitted him to a tee. It was something that he liked very much. Not fancy; just basic and simple.

Inside the coffin cover he affixed a beautiful scene of a part of Maryknoll which I'm sure he treasured. It was placed in such a way that he could look at it when the lid was closed.

There were pictures there for everyone to look at that he collected over the years. I saw one that was taken at 354 Mount Vernon Street in Dedham (his parents - my grandparents - home) after the 1938 hurricane with yours truly standing on top of a fallen oak. I was eight then. There were many other photos including a few shots of Uncle Paul in his coffin "trying it out for size" according to one of the priests. It did then and now!

In the viewing area there was one single lovely bouquet of flowers that were provided by the kitchen help. I'm told they loved him dearly. In a conversation with one of them (a guy named Joe) he had all he could do to hide his tears. It was easy to recognize he had a deep affection for Uncle Paul. Like Uncle Paul he was a simple, hard working man. A nice man. A caring man.

After the evening services, we all sat with up Fathers Duggan and Arsenault until about 10:30pm and reminisced about experiences with Uncle Paul. One of the experiences was when Uncle Paul was encountered by two youths in Boston at knife point. He told them he didn't have anything but he would pray for them, They left. When asked if he was afraid he told the priests the Blessed Mother was protecting him. I don't know about you but I believe it. Then we retired to our room to spend some time with Phyllis and Chick whom we hadn't seen in years until about midnight.

Before the services on Tuesday, Father Simone, one of Uncle Paul's "students" (age 70), was kind enough to give us a tour of Uncle's carpentry shop. He told us how Uncle turned the volume on his "boom box" up so high to drive him out. I didn't dare to say it to Father but I think he was trying to give him a message. (For those who don't know, Father Simone has a great sense of humor and was one of my friends until he read this).

The Mass on Tuesday was beautiful. We counted 26 priests on the altar and at least three Brothers. In the congregation there had to be about 200 people. In addition we were advised a simultaneous Mass was being said in the Maryknoll Mission in L. A. What an honor! What a blessing! What an tribute!

The Superior General, Father Thesing, officiated at the Mass for Uncle Paul. At the outset he made it a point to stress how Uncle Paul signed everything "Paul of Maryknoll" and there was no mistaking there was only one "Paul of Maryknoll".

During the eulogy Brother Wayne said he visited Brother Paul about three hours before he died. He said how he noted Uncle Paul kept looking at the ceiling so much so that he started looking at the ceiling too. He finally asked him why he was looking at the ceiling and Uncle Paul said he was looking for the bright light he always heard about but he didn't see it. Brother Wayne said he wished he told him to put on his glasses.

One of the priests also visited him shortly before he died. He told Uncle Paul he couldn't leave yet because he had a project that he was suppose to complete for him. Uncle Paul reflected on this for a few minutes and finally told him I'm sorry but it's time for me to go. Obviously, he looked forward to his eternal reward.

Need less to say, I couldn't read the words of "The Bread of Finest Wheat" or any of the other hymns that were sung at such a beautiful Mass and celebration because of the moisture that got in my way.

Because of weather conditions, the usual grave side services were held in the rear of the Chapel. At the end of the services a tremendous parting ovation was given to Uncle Paul as he was being taken out of the Chapel to his final resting place on the grounds of Maryknoll. I cannot ever remember being witness to such a wonderful send off. What a great "Tribute" to such a great, wonderful, humble individual. I believe Uncle Paul can best be described as living his life as described by St. Paul in Chapter 13, 1 Corinthians:

"Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope its power to endure. Love never fails"

Maureen and I wanted very much to share this experience with everyone we know and with the world. If you would like a copy of Brother Wayne's eulogy and a copy of the poem written by one of the priests about "Paul of Maryknoll", please let me know.

We all were certainly treated like royalty.

All our love to everyone, God bless!

Paul & Maureen



MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS

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Office of General Council

BROTHER PAUL LEO CHAMBERLAIN, M.M. 1903-1996



Brother Paul Chamberlain died at St. Teresa's Residence, Maryknoll, New York, at 6:05 P.M. on Friday, February 2, 1996. He died of acute leukemia. He was 92 years of age and a Maryknoll Brother for 69 years.

Paul Chamberlain was born on July 7, 1903, in Dedham, Massachusetts, son of Anthony and Caroline Francoeur Chamberlain. He attend 9 years of grade school in Dedham and 1 year of Boston Trade School. On the recommendation of his Pastor, he was encouraged by Father James Anthony Walsh to "make a trial" at the Society's Preparatory College (Venard) in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, in September 1925. In June 1926, he applied for entrance into the Foreign Mission Brothers of Saint Michael - the group that later became the Maryknoll Brothers - and took the religious name of Brother Paul. He took his Final Oath on November 1, 1931.

Brother Paul had great respect and affection for Bishop James Anthony Walsh. On April 6, 1936 Brother Paul wrote a letter to Bishop James Anthony Walsh who was in failing health. Brother Paul writes - "Accept this brief letter as a personal remembrance of you. Perhaps you are disappointed to find yourself unable to celebrate this Easter with all your faculties. I do believe that God is more pleased to accept the offerings which you give from your private sanctuary in bed. Please God help our Father General and give him a greater love for sacrifice." A few weeks later Brother Paul received a letter from Father Drought. Father Drought writes - "You will be happy to know that your letter of April 6 was read to dear Father General on the eve of his passing. He said "I am pleased to hear from Brother Paul and I am sorry that I cannot answer his letter personally - tell him that it is not so much in external cooperation in the work of the Church that God is glorified, as in the patient bearing of suffering: this is a gift which we should pray for frequently." Father Drought continues "I know that your recent visit to Father General will always be a precious memory."

Brother Paul was first assigned on March 1, 1936 to St. Francis Xavier Japanese Mission in Los Angeles and served the Japanese people there during the very difficult years of World War II. He spent six years at Maryknoll College, Lakewood, New Jersey and later completed assignments at Maryknoll Center in New York and Maryknoll Apostolic College (Venard), Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. In 1968 he served at Maryknoll Novitiate, first in Hingham and then in Cambridge, Massachusetts until it was closed. In 1986 he returned to Maryknoll Center in New York where he continued to reside and work.

In his early years, Brother Paul developed his natural talent for carpentry through his own initiative and through the years became a master carpenter, providing immeasurable service to the Society in the various Houses where he was assigned.

During his years at Hingham and Cambridge, Massachusetts, Brother Paul became active in supporting various social causes by participating in fund-raising walks. In recent years at Maryknoll, New York, he had been a weekly Pro-Life demonstrator in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

Brother Paul considered his whole life as service in response to the Lord's call to serve Maryknoll and the Church. He looked on his service as a great experience of faith and hope for himself as a good and faithful servant. However, on June 1, 1995, he was given a Mission Cross in honor of his mission commitment, mission vocation and accomplishments. Brother Paul entered the Special Society Unit on July 15, 1979, with residence at Maryknoll, New York.

During his last days at St. Teresa's Residence he wrote a letter to all Maryknollers dated January 5, 1996. Brother Paul writes:

"Dear Maryknollers,

Farewell, may we meet in Heaven...let's keep trying as we are born to eternal life. Please sing that beautiful hymn "The Bread of Finest Wheat" then forget the long discourse concerning my life. My relatives may not attend but don't wonder why because I've visited them through the years and I know they admired what I always engaged in..I had a good life. Many thanks to Maryknoll who sponsored my special trip to the Holy Land and Rome. Most grateful for the medical care and even going to three Hospitals to be repaired for a few more miles. Bye now and God Bless all. Peace be with you - Paul of Maryknoll. Last but not least thank you for the Mission Cross."

Brother Paul is survived by two sisters: Virginia Chamberlain, O'Neil Way Apt 2A, ^{Dedham}~~Needham~~, MA 02026 and Joan M. Bedard, 7803 46th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709 and several nieces and nephews as well as several grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Wake Services were held on February 5, 1996 at St. Teresa's Residence Chapel at 7:00 p.m. and at the Queen of Apostles Chapel at the Maryknoll Center, New York, at 7:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated on February 6, 1996, in Queen of Apostles Chapel at 11:30 a.m. The Principal Celebrant was Father Kenneth Thesing and reflections were given by Brother Wayne J. Fitzpatrick. Interment followed at the Maryknoll Cemetery.

Each Maryknoll priest is requested to offer one Mass for the repose of the soul of Brother Paul; all Maryknollers are requested to remember him in their public and private prayers.

Kenneth F. Thesing

Rev. Kenneth F. Thesing, M.M.
Superior General

Wayne J. Fitzpatrick

Bro. Wayne J. Fitzpatrick, M.M.
Secretary General

**BROTHER PAUL LEO CHAMBERLAIN, M.M.
1903-1996**

**Reflections on Paul's Life at the
Mass of Christian Burial
February 6, 1996
Maryknoll, New York**

I would like to extend sympathy to the family and relatives of Brother Paul Chamberlain. Paul and Maureen Chamberlain, John Chamberlain, Phyllis Chamberlain and Marie.

I received a call this morning from Fr. Leo Shea, Vicar General. He told me that at this very moment a Memorial Mass is being celebrated at the Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos, California for Brother Paul. They join us in prayer and spirit.*

Peace and Joy....Peace and Love! How many times all of us here received that GREETING from Paul in the hallway, the dining room, the chapel and on the road to St. Teresa's. We are here to celebrate the life of a MAN we know as Paul - a man of PEACE, a man of JOY and a man of LOVE.

It was not by accident Paul went to God on Friday, February 2. It was a First Friday of the month, it was the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus - Paul's two closest friends JESUS AND MARY. He went to God at 6:05 P.M. - shortly after one of his favorite prayers - the ANGELUS. A Maryknoller told me that Paul always told his sister that he wanted to die on a Friday because that was the day the Lord was crucified and died. This was Paul's way to be intimately related to God surrendering in every way.

We celebrate this Mass of the Resurrection on the Feast Day of St. Paul Miki, Japan, who was crucified for his faith in 1597. Paul's first assignment in 1936 was to St. Francis Xavier Japanese Mission in Los Angeles.

Paul's entire life was preparing for last Friday when he would meet his Lord and God. I visited Paul around 3:00 on Friday afternoon. He was looking at the ceiling in a unique way. I asked him..."Paul what are you looking at...what do you see"...he told me that he was looking for the bright light that everyone talks about and why was God taking so long to come and bring him home.

The Gospel reading on the Beatitudes is Paul's life and reflects Paul's life of prayer, fidelity, simplicity, childlikeness, compassion and love. Paul loved Maryknoll and loved his vocation as Brother.

PAUL - Blessed are the Poor in Spirit - Paul had little and his life was detached from things that clutter our lives. The poverty of his own spirit cleared the path for his direct and intimate loving relationship with his Lord and God and also the Blessed Mother Mary.

PAUL - Blessed are the Sorrowing - Paul truly comforted and consoled the sorrowing. He reached out to all of us at difficult times and in quiet and unassuming ways.

PAUL - Blessed are the Lowly - Paul was a Brother to the lowly. He allowed his tenderness to be his strength and his vulnerability to be his power. He was a Brother to the poor and lowly as one like them.

PAUL - Blessed are they who Hunger - we will never know how many people Paul helped. Looking through his photo albums last night at the wake we saw many pictures of our Brothers and Sisters overseas where Maryknoll works. He received so much mail from groups that he needed a mail box the size of a Department/Office here at Maryknoll. I know he donated to many causes...Breads for the World, Covenant House and many others. Paul's heart was BIG.

PAUL - Blessed are they who show Mercy - Paul was a man of mercy and love. We all could share a story or two where Paul reached out in love to each and everyone of us in very simple and special ways.

PAUL - Blessed are the single-hearted for they shall see God this Beatitude of Christ was written for Paul. He was a man of simple faith and spontaneous love. He did simple and loving things for anyone he met. There is no doubt that he was SINGLE-HEARTED in his love of God, the Blessed Mother, the Church, his prayer life and his vocation as a missionary Brother in Maryknoll.

PAUL - Blessed too are the Peacemakers - Paul was aware of the many injustices in the world and here at home. He hoped for peace among people and among nations. He was an active peacemaker. Just his daily greetings of peace called us all to be men and women of peace and to have peace in our hearts. He cried for justice for the farmworkers during the lettuce boycott, for the poor of Appalachia during the many walks in Hingham, Massachusetts. His constant and gentle greetings of peace would disarm anyone.

PAUL - Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me - Paul's love for life and especially love and respect for the unborn brought much criticism, insult and persecution. Yet he was faithful and kept speaking, praying and demonstrating for the

rights of the unborn. He had a respect for life that went from birth to death.

Paul - we now need you to intercede for us. Call us to more sincere prayer, to more simple life style, to do even small things with great love, to live life more fully, to grow old gracefully. Keep leading us to greater love of God, Maryknoll, the Church and those we serve and minister to.

It was no secret that Paul's personal pain over the years was that he never served Maryknoll overseas. From my first time meeting him at the Novitiate in Hingham, Massachusetts in 1972 until recently he always keep his desire and hope of going overseas alive. In 1981 a letter was sent to the Superior General by Brother Leo Shedy (Hingham) asking the Council to consider giving Paul a mission cross. Fr. Ray Hill, former Superior General, once said that it takes 20 plus years to move on an idea and sure enough on June 1, 1995 Paul received a mission cross along with 9 other Priests and Brothers. Paul wrote a letter to the Superior General, Father Thesing, on June 6.

Pentecost
June 5, 1995

Dear Father Thesing,

I am truly grateful for the offering of the Mission Cross.

Now I can rest in peace by holding this cross as a passport to Heaven.

I really was proud to receive this, and wear the Cross while picketing at the Abortion Clinic at Dobbs Ferry.

"God Bless"
Paul of Maryknoll

Enough said - Paul did ask that we forget a long discourse on his life. I guess I will need to reconcile this with Paul when we meet again.

Finally - a Maryknoll priest very close to Paul wrote a prayer on the day Paul died. I would like to close with this beautiful prayer that truly reflects Paul's life.

"Paul of Maryknoll, continue to walk our halls. Keep on being a part of lives. Lead us in your ways of strong faith and simple prayer. Continue to give us your same seemingly mechanical but probably very sincere: GOOD MORNING ALL YOU HOLY MONKS AND HERMITS. Continue to be a consistent Saturday morning power at Dobbs Ferry and at all gatherings of respect for life. Continue to be with us Maryknollers at Liturgy, at Holy Hours, at

recitation of Rosary, and at those two daily contacts with Jesus and Mary called the ANGELUS PRAYER. Keep us remembering your most appreciated acts of kindness and community. Continue to make each of us feel that God loves us. And finally, help us as we approach our coming Maryknoll Society Chapter. We might think that so much depends upon us and on our Chapter following the ways that we think best. You had a faith of basic and foundational values and truths and priorities. Give us this humble stance at Chapter so that Maryknoll can continue in directions that are best for the Church and for the world."

We will miss you Paul. We will always love you and your life. We know that you are now enjoying your eternal Peace and Joy with your Lord and God. May your soul and the souls of all your family, relatives, brother and sisters and Maryknoll family who have gone before us in faith rest in Peace.

Bro. Wayne J. Fitzpatrick, M.M.

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
96 APR 10 AM 10:32
CAMBRIDGE MA.

414 Ellis Lane
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

April 8, 1996

Ms. D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
and
Ms. Donna P. Lopez, Interim Deputy City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Drury & Ms. Lopez:

Brother Wayne J. Fitzpatrick of Maryknoll was considerate enough to send to me your letter and copies of the impressive statement from the City Council of Cambridge, Massachusetts about Paul of Maryknoll (as he preferred to be known).

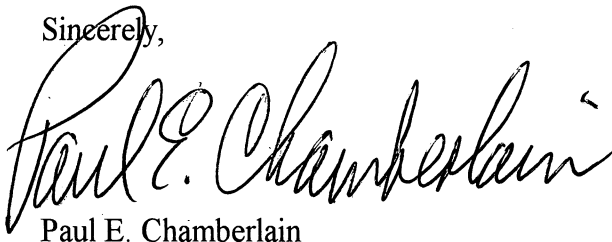
What a thoughtful tribute for the Council members to take the time to recognize Paul Leo Chamberlain. I don't know how Uncle Paul became known by the City Council but he certainly had his way of getting around and appearing seemingly out of nowhere. He was a wonderful individual and is sorely missed by all who knew him.

I am taking the liberty of sending to you a copy of what was sent to all family members about his funeral. You may want to share this with others who knew him.

On behalf of the Chamberlain family and Maryknoll I would ask you to convey our sincere thanks to all of the Council members for taking the time out from regular duties to pay tribute to the memory of Paul Leo Chamberlain. I will see to it that all family members share in the thoughtful Resolution promulgated by the City Council.

Also, I thank both of you for making this available to me through Brother Fitzpatrick.

Sincerely,


Paul E. Chamberlain

Consent communication #7 5-2/8

Communication was received from
Paul E. Chamberlain, transmitting
appreciation for the resolution
adopted by the City Council on behalf
of Paul Leo Chamberlain.

In City Council April 22, 1996

Placed on file.