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Brother Thomas Poitras, S.M., Passes Away

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DAYTON, Ohio, September 14, 1971 --- Brother Thomas Poitras, S.M., passed away in his sleep early this morning, after 72 years in the Marianist Society. He was born on November 4, 1882, in Cap St. Ignace, Canada, and first entered the postulate at St. Mary's Institute, now the University of Dayton, in 1894. He took his first vows on April 2, 1899, and his final vows on August 2, 1904. He spent 51 years on the UD campus, receiving his degree here in 1909.

He traveled to many places in his career, both as a student and a teacher. He was stationed at Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and St. Boniface, in Manitoba, Canada. He spent a year at Catholic University of America in Washington, where he received his master's degree. He spent two years as a music student in the Sorbonne, in Paris, France, and then returned to the United States to work in Beacon, New York, and St. Anselme in Canada. Here in Dayton, he taught at Chaminade, and worked in Emmanuel Church.

Brother Poitras was an accomplished organist, and was noted for helping in Dayton parishes. He was organist at UD in his early years.

Retirement for Brother Poitras came in 1963, when he returned to UD. He spent his remaining years on the campus.

Funeral services for both Brother Poitras and Brother Andrew Weber, S.M., who died on September 13, will be held at the same time. Viewing will be on Wednesday, September 15, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the University of Dayton campus, where a Mass of the Resurrection will also be said on Thursday, September 16. Both will be buried in The Gate of Heaven Cemetery on the University's East Campus.