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BROTHER RICHARD A. LIEBLER, S.M.
1917-1983

DAYTON, Ohio, April 25, 1983 -- Brother Richard A. Liebler, S.M., associate professor of the University of Dayton Department of Political Science, died on Sunday, April 24, at the age of 65. A veteran of 34 years of teaching at the University, Brother Liebler was an expert on the American judicial process and was widely consulted by attorneys, judges, and former students now in government. In return, many of these men and women provided internships for undergraduate students interested in the study of law.

Brother Liebler was born in 1917 in Erie, Pennsylvania. He came to Dayton as a boy to attend high school at Mt. St. John (Bergamo), the Marianist house of formation for religious life. He took his first vows as a religious brother in 1935.

From 1937 to 1939 Brother Liebler taught elementary school in Washington, DC, and high school in Pittsburgh, PA. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Dayton in 1939, after several years of part-time college attendance and summer classes at UD.

From 1939 to 1949 Brother Liebler taught at Marianist high schools in Cincinnati (Purcell), Cleveland (Cathedral Latin), Pittsburgh (North Catholic), and Sioux City, IA, (Trinity). He continued to attend summer classes to complete a master's degree.

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In 1947 Brother Liebler earned his master's degree in History and Education from Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Then, in 1949, he was assigned to the University of Dayton to teach history and government courses. He and Brother Albert Rose, S.M., constituted the early Political Science Department of the University. He also taught courses at Mt. St. John and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He continued to teach at the University of Dayton until his death on graduation day.

Brother Liebler was best known for his rigorous class in Judicial Process, a course he taught since 1970. In a recent interview for the University's DIMENSIONS publication, Brother Liebler reflected on that course and the reputation it had earned him as a demanding teacher. "You see, I'm old school, exact," he said. "I wouldn't say I'm popular by any means. While they're taking my course they detest me. It is a difficult class... Only after they're through with the class do they like it. They like it because, when they're finished they know. My last wish to each of them when they come into my office at the end of the term is 'May you always understand what you know.'"

Brother Liebler is survived by his mother and one brother in Erie, PA.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Chapel on the University of Dayton campus. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Funeral arrangements are being made by Westbrook Funeral Home.

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