



**Brother Edward MARTIN ASH**

(Edward Francis Ash)

Born: 01/27/1940, Glendale, CA

High School attended: Juniorate, Mont La Salle, Napa

Entered Novitiate: 06/06/1957

Received habit: 08/14/1957

Final vows: 06/19/1965, Retreat House, St. Helena

Education: B.A., Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA, 1962

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

08-1958 Scholasticate, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, *Student*

01-1960 Scholasticate, Saint Mary's College, Winona, MN, *Student*

06-1960 Scholasticate, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, *Student*

01-1962 La Salle HS, Pasadena, *Teacher/Counselor*

06-1966 " " *Registrar/Teacher*

06-1970 Saint Mary's College, Moraga, *Special Services; Student Activities*

07-1973 " " *Director, Ferrogiarro Center*

06-1982 " " *Bright Day Travel, Dorm Counselor*

07-1985 " " *Bright Day Travel, President*

07-1997 The Bridge, Berkeley, *Bright Day Travel, President*

05-1998 Sabbatical

07-2000 De La Salle HS Community, Concord, *Director of Lasallian Pilgrimages*

07-2003 St. Benilde Community, Monte Rio, *Director of Lasallian Pilgrimages*

08-2005 De La Salle HS Community, Concord.

08-2009 Saint Mary's College Community, *Alumni Office, Alumni Tours Director*

8 June 2019

At the beginning, the plans for his funeral should be mentioned:

Martin had no great appetite for a eulogy.

But here we are....

The first thing to say is that Martin was a simple fellow.

That is not a negative thing...he was not dull, not stupid—

He was not complicated....

And his religious life was simple and straightforward,

he was serious and devoutly faithful....

He had only one obvious vice.

It was not his fault because he was an Irish Catholic.

Sadly, he was a **Democrat**.

Edward Francis Ash has been with the Brothers for a long time.

He arrived at Mont La Salle from Holy Family School in Glendale.

The Junior Novitiate had accepted him as a freshman...

It was August 1953—he was 13 years old.

His older brothers had gone to Napa ahead of him:

James Warren, *Jack*, was renamed Thomas Warren in 1948 and

Charles Thomas, *Tom*, became Br Thomas James in 1954.

The fourth sibling did not join in and so did not go to Napa.

That was Marguerite....

The parents, Charlie and Margaret, back in Glendale,

began to show interest in the Brothers far off in the north.

For some years they raised money to buy Christmas presents for each of the retired Brothers.

Eventually, they were officially affiliated to the Institute.

Much of Martin's story is in the program you have  
but a bit more might be added.

Back at Mont La Salle, Eddie worked through four years of high school  
and more importantly read the daily Green Sheet.  
He helped run a sports score-board in the Playhall.

After he entered the Novitiate, a few hundred feet away,  
he received the robe on 15 August 1957 and  
was renamed Martin of Mary,  
and then spent a year learning to get up at 5.30,  
how to fold a *rabat* and how to dig weeds.

There followed three-and-a-half years at the books in Moraga.  
By January 1960 he considered becoming a "Working Brother"  
(whatever that might mean)  
and went to Minnesota to join that program.  
But the program was short-lived and back he came that summer.

Upon graduation, he was sent off to Pasadena.  
He was in the classroom  
and soon concluded that profession was not his long suit.  
He moved over into journalism, counseling  
and the registrar's office.  
And he fell for  
what all obituaries call "the love of his life"...travel!

By 1970, Martin was back at Moraga running student activities and  
living in the dorms,  
and sliding into travel management with Moraga Travel Agency  
and then his own Bright Day Travel.

He got involved with the rugby club and Patrick Vincent,  
and organized their world-ranging trips.

Faculty, alumni and students used his services for many years.  
He arranged and led two grand gourmet tours through Europe.  
And there were the LaSallian Pilgrimages.

Using family money he saw to the reconstruction of the north patio  
at the College and named it Holy Family.

He relocated to Berkeley, and then to Moscow CA, to Concord,  
and in 2009 to Moraga again.

At last the aged fellow retired to the community at Mont La Salle.

We are here to remember him and to pray for him.