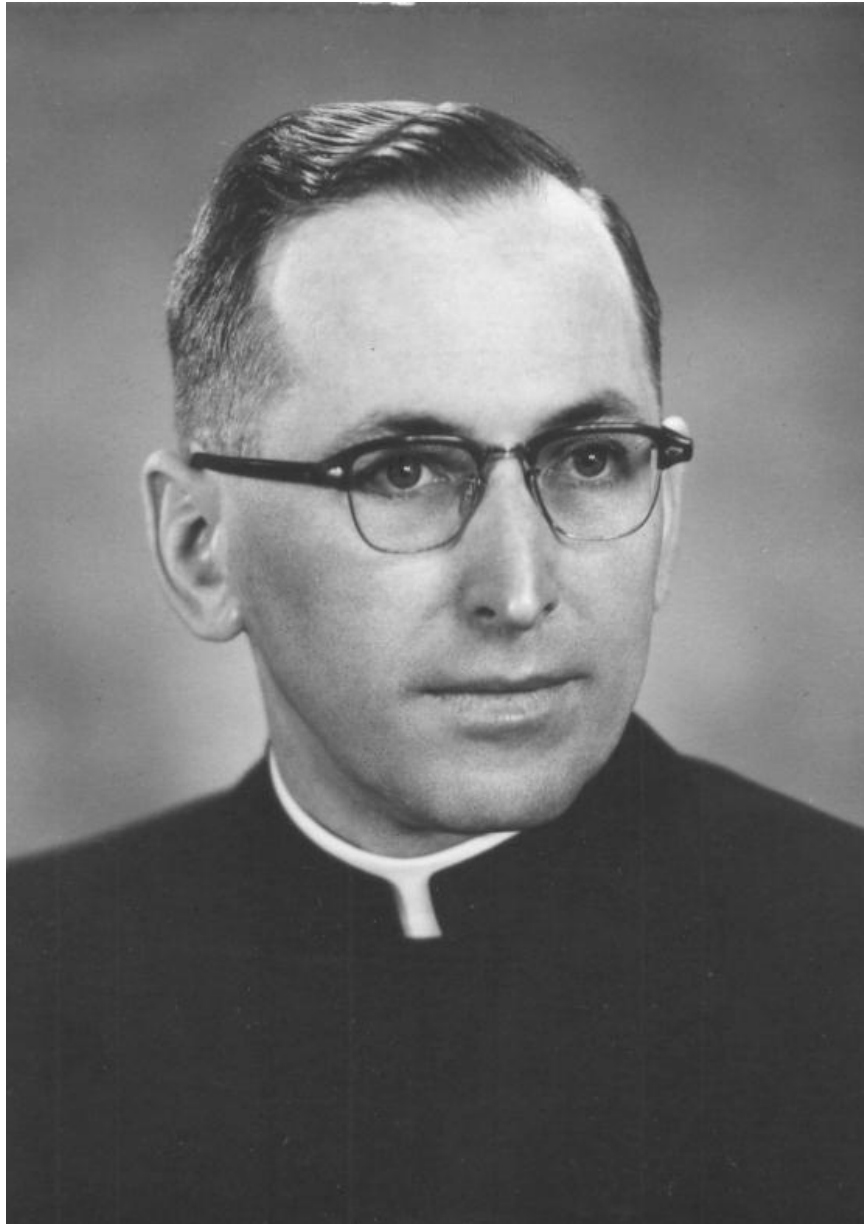


Armand Augustine Maurer
1915-2008



Armand Augustine Maurer died at 6:30 a.m. Holy Saturday morning 22 March 2008 in Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto. He had been admitted to hospital on two occasions during that week, having fallen in his room twice in less than two days. Fr. Maurer's body was brought to the Chapel of the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre the afternoon of 25 March. That evening, Evening Prayer for the Dead was celebrated with Fr. T. Allan Smith, Superior of the Basilian Fathers of the University of St. Michael's College presiding and Fr. James Farge as homilist. Most Rev. Peter Hundt, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto and archdiocesan Vicar for Religious, was also present. The following morning, Basilian confreres, family, colleagues, and other friends of Fr. Maurer joined for a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in the same chapel. Fr. Thomas Rosica, General Councilor, presided and Fr. James McConica was the homilist. Burial followed in the Basilian plot of Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Ontario; Fr. Farge led the prayers at the graveside.

Armand Augustine Maurer was born 21 January 1915 in Rochester, New York, one of five children, of Armand Sr. and Louise (Ribson) Maurer. He was baptized at St. Bridget's Parish, Rochester, and also had his initial education in the parish elementary school. He attended Aquinas Institute 1928-1932, years when Basilians were members of the faculty but did not have administrative responsibility in the school. Upon his graduation from Aquinas, Armand began studies at St. Michael's College, Toronto, obtaining his B.A. in 1938. After two years of graduate studies at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and the University of Toronto, he entered St. Basil's Novitiate Toronto and was professed on 12 September 1941. Also professed that year were J. Ambrose Raftis, John Wilson, and the late Joseph Abend, Frederick Black, John Burke, Albert Butler, Roger DeBilly, Fernand Geneston, Anthony Kelly, John Mullins, Walter Principe, Georges Reynouard, Norman Roy, and George Silvester. He taught at Aquinas the following year and then began his Theological studies at St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop James McGuigan on 15 August 1945 in St. Basil's Church, Toronto. Other members of his ordination class include Thomas Miller, and the late Francis Grescoviak, John McLaughin, Henri Prêcheur, and Norman Roy. While studying Theology he also attended the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and the University of Toronto; he was awarded an M.A. from the University of Toronto in 1943 and the Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies in 1944; he received his Ph.D. from the U of T in 1947. In 1948 he went to Paris for advanced studies.

Subsequent to his return to Toronto in 1949, he had the following appointments: the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (1949-1980), University of St. Thomas, Houston (1980-1982), the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (1982-1996), University of St. Michael's College (1996-2008). In addition to these appointments, Armand spent the year 1954-1955 at Harvard and Rome on a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Armand Maurer, as pointed out at the funeral liturgies, was a wise man, a man without guile, but most especially, he was a man of great stature, not only physically, but also intellectually and humanly. He was world-renowned as an historian of medieval philosophy. It was the focus of his life's work. A reviewer of a *Festschrift* published in his honor in 2007 called him, "one of the premier historians of mediaeval philosophy of our time." He was the recipient of the Aquinas medal from the American Catholic Philosophical Association of which he had been president. In 1966, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Though his ability to teach and preach was curtailed as a result of physical difficulties, he continued to be a thorough researcher and writer. His 1962 book, *Medieval Philosophy*, continues to be used in many undergraduate courses today. He was a researcher and writer to the end. Just last year, Armand began editing six unpublished lectures given in the early 1970's by his mentor, Etienne Gilson, work that will be left to others to complete.

Armand was faithful to his vocation and to his teachers: Thomas Aquinas, Etienne Gilson, and his greatest teacher, Jesus Christ. He studied them, learned from them, and through his teaching and writing, brought others to know and love them.

Jim McConica reminded us at the Mass of Christian Burial that Armand's devotion to breaking open the word did not occur solely in the classroom. He also noted that Armand was devoted to breaking open God's Word at the table of the Eucharist and in his daily life. "It showed also, and above all, in his nature: in his modesty and humility, his patience, his quiet dignity, his charity." In awarding Armand the Distinguished Alumni Award from Aquinas Institute in 1994, Dennis Noelke, then Aquinas Principal, noted in his citation: "Priest, teacher, scholar author, lecturer, authority on the philosophical writings of the Middle Ages and a host of philosophical giants of that time, Father Maurer, a quiet, gentle, mildmannered and humble man, but a scholar of the highest calibre." That was Armand Maurer, Basilian and priest, a man of great stature.

Armand is predeceased by his parents, his brothers Robert and Richard, and his sister Lorraine. He is survived by his sister, Dorothy, many nieces, nephews, and cousins. To them and to the many students he taught and colleagues with whom he worked and who held him in highest esteem, the Basilian Fathers express their sympathy and a promise of prayers.

*Written by
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