

Celebrating

THE ETERNAL LIFE OF . . .

Fr. Ludwig F. Stiller, SJ, served as teacher, scholar, and friend to the people of Nepal until his death on March 10, 2009, at Norvic Hospital in Kathmandu. “In many ways Lud Stiller seemed to be indestructible. He was strong and had a keen mind. He used both unstintingly in the service of God and his adopted country, Nepal,” remembers Fr. Gerald A. Drinane, SJ.

Fr. Stiller was born on August 24, 1928, in Salem, Ohio. Before joining the Jesuits he was a seminarian at St. Meinrad’s in Indiana and completed his first two years of college there. He then served in the United States Army as a military police officer in Manila from 1946 to 1947.

Fr. Stiller entered the Society at the former novitiate in Milford, Ohio, on August 18, 1949. He was missioned to Nepal in 1953. Due to a visa problem at the time, however, he first completed his philosophy studies at West Baden College in Indiana. He then went to Nepal in 1956 for two years of regency at St. Xavier’s Godavari School in Kathmandu before going to India for theology at St. Mary’s in Kurseong from 1959 to 1963. Bishop Augustine Francis Wildermuth, SJ, ordained him for priestly service March 19, 1962. Fr. Stiller completed his tertianship in Sitagarha from 1963 to 1964.

In 1964 he returned to Nepal and served as minister at St. Xavier’s Godavari School for two years, founding the now famous Godavari Alumni Association. Meanwhile, he earned his BA and PhD in History from Tribhuvan University, becoming one of the pillars of the Research Center. He wrote several important books on the history of Nepal.

Over the years he continued writing, but his research took him more and more into the villages of the real Nepal and, with the help of German aid agencies, he did much to improve the lives of the people he encountered there. “Though he appeared tough, he had a soft heart, especially for the poor of Nepal,” says Fr. Drinane. In recent years, he began to slow down. He finally moved to the Jawalakhel community, where he was closer to medical aid and community support.

“Lud had a wry sense of humor, and often expressed this in puns and jokes,” Fr. Drinane says. “He will be remembered as a loyal companion and sincere Jesuit. May he receive a great reward from the Lord he served so well.” ■

Fr. John K. Locke, SJ, was a scholar and pillar of the Jesuits of Nepal. “John was an outstanding Jesuit, a scholar, a wonderful human being, and a friend,” recalls Fr. Leo P. Cachat, SJ.

Fr. Locke, son of Myrtle Edge and John K. Locke Sr., was born in Chicago in 1933, where he lived until the death of his mother. In 1940 he and his sister Mary Jane moved to live with their aunt and uncle, Catherine and Frank Donovan in West Des Moines, Iowa, where he attended Dowling Catholic High School until 1950. He then went on to briefly study at Loyola University in Chicago before joining the Society of Jesus at

Milford in 1951. He petitioned to be sent to the missions in Nepal, and was approved to go on August 13, 1957. He set out with future Frs. Casper “Cap” J. Miller, SJ, and Charles A. Law, SJ.

“In those early days, the schools were our main work,” remembers Fr. Gerald A. Drinane, SJ. “And John had his regency at St. Xavier’s Godavari School.” Fr. Locke went on to earn a PhD on Buddhism in Newari culture from Tribhuvan University. He later returned to St. Xavier’s Godavari School, first as a teacher, then principal and superior of the Jesuit Community from 1966 to 1969.

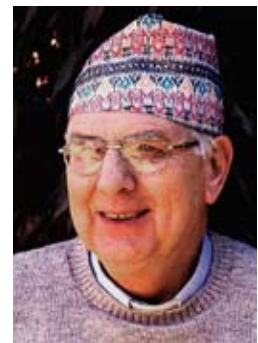
In 1972 Fr. Locke moved to the HRD Research Center Community in Kathmandu, where he would spend most of the rest of his life. “How many times I enjoyed dinner with him, Lud, and Cap at the Research Center,” says Fr. Bill Galvin, MM. “He was so well informed about Nepal and always so kind and helpful.”

Throughout his life Fr. Locke was first and foremost a scholar, authoring several important works on the history of Buddhism in Nepal. “Anyone who visited Kathmandu soon realized that John was in love with his subject,” says Fr. Drinane. “He would generously take visitors to the main sites of Buddhism and places of historical interest.” Fr. Locke also served as a permanent member of the Fulbright Commission.

“He was a fascinating conversationalist,” recalls Dr. Mary Pat Haley, BVM. “As quiet as he seemed, he was just fun to be with.” ■



Fr. Ludwig F. Stiller, SJ
1928–2009
Kathmandu, Nepal



Fr. John K. Locke, SJ
1933–2009
Kathmandu, Nepal

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