

Rev. Robert J. Willmes, SJ, Jesuit priest, former Regent of the Loyola University Dental School and director of Jesuit International Mission, Inc., died March 1, 2002, at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, MI.

Fr. Willmes was born in Cincinnati in 1909, and attended St. Xavier High School and Xavier University before entering the Jesuit novitiate at Milford, OH, in 1927. After studying philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome from 1931 to 1933, he completed an MA in the classics at St. Louis University in 1934. He was ordained to priestly ministry in 1940 at West Baden College in West Baden Springs, IN.

Fr. Willmes taught Latin, Greek, English, and religion at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland before beginning his studies in theology at West Baden. After ordination, he served as assistant principal at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL from 1942-43, and was then assigned to Loyola University Press, where he served as assistant director from 1943 to 1945. In 1945 Fr. Willmes was appointed Regent of the Dental School at Loyola University, where he also acted as a spirited counselor in both the Dental and Medical schools until 1949. During his years as Regent, Fr. Willmes visited every alumnus of the Dental School to help solicit funds for the school.

From 1949-1955, Fr. Willmes served as rector of the Jesuit community at Loyola University. Then, after a brief stint as director of the Men of Milford Retreat house in Milford, OH, he was named Tertian Director of the Chicago and Detroit Provinces at St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, OH, from 1956 to 1963. As tertian director, he directed the final year of Jesuit formation for the men from both provinces.

In 1963 he became director of the Chicago Province Mission office, serving Jesuits in the international missions, and in 1982 was named director of Jesuit International Missions, Inc., a post he held until his retirement in 1993. In 1996 he was assigned to

Colombiere Health Care Center.

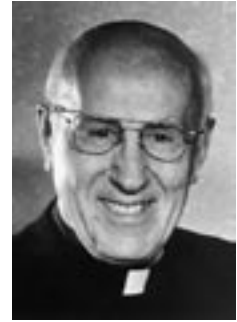
Patricia Carroll Benson, a lifelong friend of Fr. Willmes, offered the following reflection, "Father Willmes was a man who exhibited the essence of goodness, joy of life, and love to all those who had the privilege to know him. Though he was an extraordinarily intelligent man, his utter simplicity and complete transparency were certain signs of the Spirit of God's presence deep within and shining through him." She added "We have been so fortunate to witness not only Father's deep spirituality but also his humanity. I watched in amazement when, at the age of 84, Father Willmes got down on his hands and knees to play with our infant son Daniel whom he had helped my husband and me adopt from Peru."

Fr. Dick Anderson, SJ, who lived with Fr. Willmes at the Loyola University Jesuit community said, "One of Bob's greatest qualities was showing interest in other people. We lived in a community with older and younger Jesuits and he always had a genuine interest in the lives of each person." Fr. Anderson said that Fr. Willmes went out of his way to seek out the young Jesuits pursuing their studies at Loyola. "After one conversation with a young Jesuit philosophy student, Bob went home and read up on Martin Heidegger, the German philosopher, just so that he would have more to talk about with the philosophy student he'd met at dinner. It was a simple, but beautiful gesture."

Fr. Willmes was co-author of *Wings of Eagles*, a collection of stories of Jesuit saints and blessed. He also served from 1945 to 1955 as a member of the board of directors of the Cana Conference of Chicago.

Fr. Willmes is survived by his brother, Fr. Joseph Willmes, SJ, a Jesuit missionary in Jaipur, India. ■

To read more reflections about Fr. Willmes or to offer your own thoughts, go to www.chicagoprovincejesuits.org/tributes



Fr. Robert J. Willmes
March 1, 2002
Clarkston, MI



Fr. William H. Hogan
March 13, 2002
Chicago, IL

Rev. William H. Hogan, SJ, “beloved professor” at Loyola University for over 30 years, Chicago native, and Jesuit priest died Wednesday March 13, 2002, at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chicago.

Fr. Hogan was born in Chicago in 1929 and attended Little Flower Grammar School and St. Ignatius College Prep before entering the Society of Jesus at Milford, OH, as a 17-year old.

During his studies to become a priest, Fr. Hogan completed his AB in Greek at Loyola University in 1952, and his MA in history in 1958. He earned a licentiate in philosophy (Ph.L.) in 1954 from West Baden College and a licentiate in sacred theology (S.T.L.) there in 1961. He was ordained to priestly ministry on June 12, 1960, in West Baden, IN, and then spent a year of tertianship at St. Andrea in Lavantthal, Austria. Fr. Hogan spoke German and Italian and was also able to read French.

“Bill was always loved by his students, even when he was pretending to be stern,” says Fr. Daniel Flaherty, SJ, who entered the Jesuits on the same day as Fr. Hogan, taught together with him at St. Ignatius College Prep

from 1954-57, and for over 55 years remained a close friend, “Graduates from those years were forever asking me, during his final illness, how he was doing.”

In 1966, after four years of advanced studies in American history at Georgetown University, Fr. Hogan was assigned to Loyola University Chicago where he continued to teach as assistant professor of history until his last illness. In 1974

he served as dean of students at the Loyola University Rome Center before returning to Loyola Chicago to assume the post of Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. From 1986 to 1992 he served as superior of the Arrupe House Jesuit community at Loyola University.

Fr. Robert Bireley, SJ, professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and colleague of Fr. Hogan, said “Fr. Bill Hogan was a longtime and valued member of Loyola’s Department of History. A popular and even beloved teacher, he introduced many students to the study of history through the core courses in Western Civilization and the survey of American History.” Fr. Bireley added that Fr. Hogan endured the infirmities of recent years with a remarkable combination of resilience, grace, and patience.

Chuck Thompson, a Jesuit from 1991 to 1995, lived with Fr. Hogan at Loyola University for two years. “Bill wasn’t at the door shaking hands, but he was a welcoming presence in our community, a gentle and compassionate soul who was generous with his time. He was always concerned with how you were doing.” Thompson added that Fr. Hogan remained particularly close to his older brother, Fr. Thomas Hogan, SJ, also a Jesuit priest and Loyola faculty member, who died in 1992.

Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ, current superior of the Arrupe House Jesuit community at Loyola University, spoke of Fr. Hogan’s warmth and humanness. He remarked that he was also “a teacher par excellence. He taught in the classroom and in the way he embraced his suffering. He taught in words and by example.” ■

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In Remembrance

The Chicago Province gratefully acknowledges the deceased donors listed below who remembered the Jesuits in their estate plans. Many Jesuit ministries and programs have benefited from their extraordinary generosity. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

- Paul Caraher**
- Helen T. Grib**
- Edna Kain**
- Teresa Mary Kehoe**
- Marie McDonald**
- Marie Louise Middendorf**
- Isabel and Francis Naphin**
- Clara E. Pfohl**
- Cornelius L. Sullivan**



Br. Michael J. Grace, SJ, “dedicated” archivist at Loyola University who recently celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a Jesuit, died suddenly in his room on May 5, 2002.

Br. Grace was born in Chicago in 1932. He attended St. Barnabas Grade School and St. Ignatius College Prep, and then studied at John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH, for a year before entering the Society of Jesus in 1951. After completing the Jesuit novitiate, Br. Grace served as librarian first at Milford Novitiate and then West Baden College in Indiana.

In January, 1965, Br. Grace was assigned to Loyola University Chicago, where he began his work as an assistant librarian in the E.M. Cudahy Library. He also completed an undergraduate degree in theology at Loyola University in 1970, and then went on to earn an MA in library science at Northern Illinois University in 1971, and an MA in Church history from The Catholic University of America in Washington DC in 1978.

Loyola University appointed him University Archivist in 1978, a position he held until his death. Br. Grace worked tirelessly to preserve and augment the school’s permanent records, kept for both their legal and historical value. Br. Grace brought formal training and a love of history to his work. In addition to maintaining formal university documents, Br. Grace also kept biographical data on all university employees, and maintained the papers of the Catholic Church Extension Society, and those of Samuel Insull, a famous Chicago public utilities magnate.

Fr. Ron Ferguson, SJ, a Jesuit colleague at Loyola University, described Br. Grace as “a man of total dedication to the mission of the Society and to the Church who lived a faithful life as a Jesuit.” Fr. Ferguson said Br. Grace’s scholarship and desire to preserve history has served the university well, adding that “in the future we’ll find out that we owe him a lot. He preserved things that others would never have bothered with.”

Ms. Valerie Brown, Library Archivist at Loyola University’s Gannon Center for Women

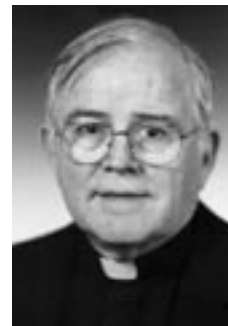
and Leadership Archives said, “Michael Grace has left us a rich and lasting legacy through his work as University Archivist. Through his dedicated efforts the history of the University and the contributions of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni have been preserved for generations to come. Countless persons are indebted to Br. Michael for sharing his broad knowledge and understanding of Loyola’s history, church history, and Chicago history to further their research.”

Fr. Jack O’Callaghan, SJ, rector of the Loyola University Jesuit Community, echoed the same sentiments. “Br. Grace’s work in the Loyola University Archives was foundational and careful; he was esteemed by coworkers here and in our sister institutions; he was a fraternal presence in the Jesuit community, counted on to know the latest news of interest around the Society, and thoughtful in keeping track of events of importance to individuals.”

Fr. Earl Weis, SJ, a dear friend of Br. Grace and senior professor of theology at Loyola University Chicago, remarked that “For several decades now, Br. Michael has been in his capacity of University Archivist, an important professional resource of Loyola University’s collective memory, not only for his knowing the University’s past, but also for his conserving material that will be needed in the future.”

Br. Grace, widely respected in his field, also served as the United States secretary for the Amici Thomae Mori, an international organization devoted to the life and thought of St. Thomas More and friends. He was also a perpetual member of the American Catholic Historical Association, and held memberships in the American Library Association, the Society of American Archivists, and the Mid-West Archives Association.

Br. Grace is survived by his brother, Gerard Grace, and his sister, Mrs. Mary Clare O’Connell, and nineteen nieces and nephews. ■



*Br. Michael Grace, SJ
May 5, 2002
Chicago, IL*

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