

Celebrating the eternal Life of . . .

Fr. John H. Reinke, SJ
February, 26, 2003
Loyola University
Chicago, Chicago, IL



Rev. John H. Reinke, SJ, Jesuit priest, Loyola Academy president, Loyola University chancellor, professor of psychology, and accomplished pianist died Wednesday February 26, 2003, at the Jesuit Residence of the Loyola University Jesuit Community in Chicago, IL.

Born in Covington, KY, in 1915, Fr. Reinke attended La Salette Academy grade school before moving on to St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, OH. Soon after his graduation in 1932, he entered the Chicago Province Jesuit novitiate at Milford, OH. During his studies to become a priest, Fr. Reinke completed an M.A. in Greek with a minor in Latin at Loyola University Chicago. He was ordained a Catholic priest at West Baden College on June 13, 1945.

Fr. Reinke's principal assignments as a Jesuit included teaching Latin, Greek, and English at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL, from 1939-1942; he was an instructor in psychology at Loyola University Chicago from 1947 until 1954, when he was hired as an assistant professor of psychology at Xavier University in Cincinnati. In 1959 Fr. Reinke was assigned to Loyola Academy, where he became principal in 1960.

He became president of Loyola Academy in 1965, a position he held until 1975. During his decade as president, Fr. Reinke systematized the school's fund raising efforts by adopting a university-style fund-raising program for the high school. He developed both an annual fund and an endowment fund, which have

helped Loyola remain on sound financial footing ever since. In 1969, after reading an article in *Time* magazine about an innovative fundraiser, Fr. Reinke traveled to Seattle, WA, to investigate. Fr. Reinke adapted the format to Loyola Academy and in 1970 hosted the school's first annual "Ramble" fundraiser. The Ramble has continued uninterruptedly since and regularly nets more than \$300,000 for the school. While president of Loyola, Fr. Reinke was also instrumental in creating the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA). He was one of three who penned the preamble to the constitution of the JSEA, and he served on the board in Washington D.C. from 1970-1975.

Fr. Larry Reuter, SJ, former Loyola Academy president says "from my first days as a scholastic at Loyola Academy, 1965-1968, John was a wonderful mentor and friend to me. He always had the capacity to understand a person's talents and strengths. He encouraged me to develop my musical skills and taught me early lessons in how to be an effective administrator. During my years as Loyola Academy president, he was always on the sidelines as coach, cheerleader, and friend."

In 1975 Fr. Reinke was appointed chancellor of the university, a position he held until 1986 when he became chancellor emeritus. As chancellor, Fr. Reinke was responsible, with development director Dan Conroyd, for the university's substantial development and public relations efforts. Fr. Ray Baumhart, SJ, who served as president of Loyola University from 1970-1993, said Fr. Reinke "served well" as chancellor and that "he gets some of the credit for the many years when Loyola was doing so well financially." In 1997, Fr. Reinke became minister of the Jesuit Residence community at Loyola University, a post he held happily until he fell ill in late January.

Fr. Reinke was an accomplished pianist and during his years at Xavier University he soloed many times with the Cincinnati Symphony Or-

chestra, often playing Gershwin's Concerto in F and the Rhapsody in Blue. A close friend of Bob Hope and his wife Dorothy, he occasionally played the piano in their home. In the early years of television he created and hosted a variety show on local TV in Cincinnati featuring XU students and faculty and other community talent. As a young Jesuit he wrote and arranged music with Fr. Daniel Lord, SJ, for musical pageants and countless Jesuit events. Fr. Reinke was a member of the American Catholic Psychological Association and the National Association for Music Therapy.

Fr. John Dillon, SJ, executive director at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House, was Fr. Reinke's spiritual director, confessor, and close friend. "He's a great man," Fr. Dillon said, "who had many many wonderful achievements. He loved people very deeply. He expressed his love and affection for others through his service." Fr. Dillon spent many hours with Fr. Reinke as he neared death. In his funeral homily, Fr. Dillon recalled Fr. Reinke saying to him "you're one guy who knows me pretty well. Please tell everyone I valued their love."

Mr. John Dowdle, a 1941 graduate of Loyola Academy, met Fr. Reinke when he first arrived at Loyola in 1939 to begin teaching as a Jesuit scholastic. "He was a wonderful teacher and friend," Dowdle says. They've remained close since. Every year at Christmas Fr. Reinke gathered with Dowdle and a group of his Loyola classmates to celebrate Mass. While Fr. Reinke was president, Loyola Academy made the transition to a lay Board of Trustees and Dowdle served as chairman of the original Board. "He was a happy man," Dowdle says, "a beautiful person dedicated to the education of Catholic youth."

Fr. Reinke is survived by nieces Kathryn Weedon, Anne Albanese, Sharon TenHooen, brother-in-law Cyril Kothman, six grandnieces, and three grandnephews. ■

Fr. Joseph F. Willmes, SJ
April, 18, 2003
Durlabji Hospital,
Jaipur, India



Rev. Joseph F. Willmes, SJ, 89, Newport KY native, Jesuit priest, teacher of acclaimed photographers, and beloved missionary to India, died Friday April 18, 2003, at Durlabji Hospital in Jaipur, India.

Born in 1914 in Newport, KY, Fr. Willmes attended elementary school at St. Stephen's Parish before venturing across the river to St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, OH. Following his graduation in 1933, he enrolled at Xavier University and studied there for two years before entering the Jesuit novitiate at Milford, OH, in 1935.

During his studies to become a priest, Fr. Willmes completed an AB at Loyola University Chicago and then an MA in philosophy. From 1942 to 1945, he was assigned to his alma mater, St. Xavier High School, where he taught, directed the camera club, and coached the school's debate team. He completed his theology studies at West Baden College in West

Baden Springs, IN, and was ordained there on June 19, 1948.

Soon after his ordination, Fr. Willmes was assigned to the Jesuit Mission in Patna, India. In those days, Jesuits assigned to international missions were assigned for life and rarely expected to return to the United States. Fr. Joe bade farewell to his older brother, Robert, a Jesuit stationed at St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, OH, and departed for India on September 20, 1949. He arrived there on October 20, and immediately began Hindi language studies. In 1950 he was assigned to the burgeoning church in Chakni, a village in the northern Indian state of Bihar, where he served as co-pastor, working both in the Church and school. Two years later, in 1952, he was assigned to the new Jesuit school, St. Xavier's, in Jaipur, India, hundreds of miles west of Patna.

From 1952 to 1959, Fr. Willmes served as teacher and hostel superintendent at St. Xavier's boarding school. In 1960 he was made rector there. In 1966 he was once again appointed hostel superintendent and served in that capacity until 1976, when he was appointed treasurer and assistant headmaster at St. Xavier's Delhi. He remained there until 1982, when he returned to Jaipur for what would prove to be his final assignment as minister of the Jesuit community and house treasurer.

Fr. Jerry Drinane, SJ, a long time Jesuit missionary to Patna, India, who worked for years in the Provincial's office there, says Fr. Willmes was in many ways a model Jesuit. "Joe was a very disciplined person in his own religious life and duties. He was faithful and regular in all his routines and habits. In short, he was an excellent role model for his fellow Jesuits and the students under his care."

Growing up in the Cincinnati area, Fr. Willmes was an avid amateur photographer. When filling out a biographical data sheet for superiors soon after he arrived in India, he said he'd welcome an opportunity to serve through photography, but that

he had no equipment. Nevertheless he soon began teaching photography to students at St. Xavier's, and continued to do so until just before his death. Many of his students went on to become celebrated professional photographers, and one of them, Ragubhir Singh, has gone on to achieve international fame for his work, much of which is in the permanent collections of major U.S. museums. Singh also published a number of books, most notably, *River of Color: the Ganges*, and *Grand Trunk Road*. Fr. Willmes himself took pictures all his life, and his work can be seen in various Jesuit communities and institutions in India.

Fr. Bob Hagee, SJ, pastoral minister at Cincinnati's Faber Jesuit Community, was assigned to St. Xavier's in Jaipur from 1980 to 1990. He recalls Fr. Willmes as "an extraordinarily gentle man who was friendly with everybody." He also said Fr. Willmes was revered by students and alums of St. Xavier's who regularly came back to visit and kept in touch years after they'd graduated.

Fr. Joseph Mannaravelil, SJ, superior of the Delhi Region of the Society of Jesus said, "Fr. Willmes was a source of inspiration to all who came into contact with him. He loved the Society and he loved the people of India. He never complained about anybody or anything—a great saint."

Fr. Willmes's niece, Marian Ochs, says her family believes Fr. Willmes "is a saint in heaven." She adds that he was "gentle, quiet, and unassuming, and always very interested in other people; our family and his students. One of the Jesuits in India told us that even in his last days Fr. Joe was asking about the students and about the field trip they'd just taken. He was the same way with our family. He kept in touch with us all, even from India."

Fr. Willmes is survived by two nieces: Marian Ochs, of Cincinnati, OH, and Sr. Margery Rickiing, SJW, of Walton, KY, and a nephew: Donald Rickling of Miramar, FL, and nine great nieces and nephews. ■

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.

Joseph T. Gallagher
Agnes Kolick
Esther G. Ryan
Rev. Carl R. Steinbicker