

# Celebrating the eternal Life of . . .

**Rev. Charles E. Ronan, SJ**, Jesuit priest, author, and longtime Loyola University Chicago professor of history died April 8, 2004, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chicago.



**Rev. Charles E. Ronan, SJ**  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
Chicago, IL

Fr. Ronan entered the Jesuits in 1931, at Milford, Ohio, after graduating from Fox Valley Catholic High School in Aurora, IL. During his studies to become a priest, Fr. Ronan earned an AB from Loyola University Chicago and his S.T.L. from West Baden College. After his ordination in June, 1945, he went on to earn an MA in history and Latin from Loyola University Chicago, and a Ph.D. in history and education from the University of Texas in 1958.

Fr. Ronan was a teacher to the core. He taught at Loyola Academy, St. Xavier High School, and University of Detroit High School. Following his doctoral studies, he served briefly as professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and then Xavier University. In 1963 he returned to Loyola University, where he continued to teach history until his retirement in 1984. He also taught history at Loyola University's Rome Center several times.

During his more than 30 years of teaching, Fr. Ronan also served the Jesuits' intellectual apostolate through his work as a writer and editor. He authored numerous articles. He also published *Francisco Javier Clavigero, Figure of the Mexican Enlightenment: His Life and Works* (Loyola Press, 1978), and *Juan Ignacio Molina: The World's Window on Chile* (American University Studies. Series IX, History, Vol 198, Peter Lang Publishing, 2002). Fr. Ronan also edited *East Meets West: Jesuits in China (1582-1773)* (Loyola Press, March 1998), and *Epistolario de Juan Ignacio Molina* (Santiago Chile, Editorial Universitari, 1979), the letters of Juan Ignacio Molina.

Fr. Jack O'Callaghan, SJ, rector of the Loyola University Jesuit residence, where Fr. Ronan lived until his death, called him "a distinguished historian, publishing right up until his 89th year. He was even more distinguished for his gentleness, openness, and universal kindness." ■

**Rev. William A. Dehler, SJ**, Jesuit priest, book-lover, and long-time Loyola University Chicago professor of philosophy, died April 8, 2004, at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan. He was 92, and would have celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood during ordination weekend.

Fr. Dehler, a native of Terre Haute, IN, entered the Jesuits in 1931 at Milford, OH. During his studies to become a priest, he earned a B.A. from Xavier University, an M.A. in history from Loyola University Chicago, as well as a Ph.L (licentiate in philosophy) and S.T.L. (licentiate in theology) from West Baden College in Indiana. After his ordination in June,



**Rev. William A. Dehler, SJ**  
Colombiere Jesuit  
Community  
Clarkston, MI

1944, Fr. Dehler embarked on a thirty-year career in Jesuit education. He taught history at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, and at John Carroll University in Cleveland. After completing a degree in library science at the University

of Chicago in 1948, he served as head librarian at the University of Detroit, at Milford Novitiate, and at St. Xavier High School. In

1957 he began teaching philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, a position he held for 20 years until his retirement in 1977.

During his retirement, Fr. Dehler served at St. Peter Damian Parish in Bartlett, IL, where he was much loved by the parishioners according to his friend Fr. James P. Gschwend, SJ, who recalls Fr. Dehler, possessed of a sharp intellect and a great love of books, even in retirement, visiting the Harold Washington Library every Saturday. "He would spend hours there," Fr Gschwend recalls, "and you never knew what, for sure, he was reading about. But he could talk about anything: current affairs, history, philosophy. He was a brilliant conversationalist and he loved a good argument." ■

**To sign guest books** for Fr. Dehler and Fr. Ronan, or to view the complete text of their obituaries, visit [www.jesuits-chi.org/tributes](http://www.jesuits-chi.org/tributes)

## In Remembrance

### The Chicago Province

gratefully acknowledges deceased donors who remember the Jesuits in their estate plans. Many Jesuit ministries and programs have benefited from their extraordinary generosity. Please remember Ruth Gehred Knapp and her family in your prayers.