

Fr. John P. GALLAGHER 75 USA

*March 16, 1915 Philadelphia

+ January 10, 1991 Pittsburgh

At the age of 13 he went to Cornwells for six years of High School and College before pronouncing his vows in Ridgefield, August 15, 1935. In 1937 he earned his B.A. at Ferndale. Being a gifted student, he was sent to Fribourg for his theology, but World War Two forced him to return to Ferndale in 1940. It was there that he was also ordained a priest, November 11, 1940.

The following year he received his assignment to Duquesne. It was destined to be the one and only residential appointment of his life. To prepare himself for his task, he began graduate studies at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., but these did not last long. A physician diagnosed him as tubercular, though at that moment the disease was in remission, and allowed him to return to Duquesne.

John remained optimistic and in August 1944 offered to go to the Kilimanjaro mission in East Africa, where there was an urgent need of teachers in the local seminary. Fortunately, this offer was not accepted, for a few months later he had to enter the T.B. sanatorium at Gabriel, NY for a prolonged stay.

When he could return to Duquesne, he resumed his teaching position in the Classics Department and in the 1950s he became its chairman.

Other duties were added to his task: in 1958 member of the provincial Studies Committee; four years later, Provincial Prefect of Studies; in 1964, member of the Provincial Council; one year later, University Archivist (by then he had stopped teaching), and in 1966 also community bursar.

Being meticulous and accurate with an eye for details, he was well suited for archival work and rendered highly appreciated services. All this despite the fact that his frail health led him to an almost hermit-like existence.

In 1978 he asked to be relieved of his archival responsibilities, but was still able to use his accumulated knowledge as official University Historian. In 1985 he became emeritus, but continued to be active as much as he could; for example, by translating Melanchton's introduction to the books of Euclid.

Having observed the golden anniversary of his priesthood in 1990, he died two months later of a perforated ulcer in Mercy Hospital. Interment took place at the Cornwells community cemetery.