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Brother Lawrence Boll, S.M., honored for 70 Years in the Society of Mary

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DAYTON, Ohio, April 28, 1971 --- When Brother Lawrence Boll, S.M., first stepped on the St. Mary's Institute (now University of Dayton) campus, there were only six buildings in a tight cluster on what used to be known as Stuart Hill in Dayton. That was in 1897 and he was only 13 years old.

This Sunday, almost 74 years later, his fellow religious in the University of Dayton community will honor him for his 70 years in the Society of Mary. Bro. Boll took his first vows on August 25, 1901.

Honored with the octogenarian Sunday will be other religious celebrating silver jubilees. Rev. Joseph Zeinz, S.M., Professor of Classical Languages at UD, will be honored for his 25 years as a priest while Brother Joseph Stander, S.M., Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Brother William Fackovec, S.M., librarian of the world-famous Marian Library on the campus, will be celebrating 25 years of the religious profession.

The program, which will be limited to the UD religious community, will include a concelebrated Mass in the Alumni Hall Chapel at 10 a.m. and a social hour and noon dinner starting at 11 a.m.

Brother Boll will have much to recall at that Sunday celebration. His first attraction to the Institute was its athletic facilities which he used often while a member of St. Mary's Parish where he was born October 3, 1884, on Dayton's East Side. It was this sports interest which drew him to the priests and brothers of the Society of Mary. So attached did he become that he started to attend elementary school classes on the campus.

Those were the days when St. Mary's Hall (1870) was one of the largest buildings in Dayton. It was surrounded by Zehler Hall (1865), Liberty Hall (1866), Immaculate Conception Chapel (1869), The Gymnasium (now Women's Gym-Music Building) (1874), and St. Joseph's Hall (1884). The school had elementary, secondary and college classes.

Today there are 26 buildings on the main campus plus the East and West campuses, valued at more than $50,000,000 and servicing directly over 10,000 persons annually.

Brother Boll began his teaching in 1902 at the age of 17 and was still teaching an English class this past semester at the University. He taught a junior class on Dante, which was a comprehensive study of the three Canticles of the Divine Comedy; Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso.

The man, whom UD students in the 1950s called an Institution in himself, has a special interest in literature both English and German. He is especially fond of the works of Shakespeare, Francis Thompson, Dante, Newman and Browning, and still recites passages from each for the sheer pleasure of it.

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Brother Boll, who was named Professor Emeritus at his alma mater Tuesday night, is noted for his poetry, his interest in music and the theater. Possessed of a bass voice, he directed glee clubs, and also enjoyed working with debate teams and the dramatics society.

He still can recall incidents from his personal life, many of which involved the University of Dayton, despite his advancing years.

He was honored in 1967 when students at the University of Dayton suggested that the theater in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union, built in 1964, be named the Boll Theater. That was in May of that year and, after listening to some of his favorite music, Brother Boll sat on the stage and recited poetry and passages from some of the great writers. He received a standing ovation from the over-flowing house.

It was a great climax to a career which embraced teaching stops in Erie, Pa., Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Sioux City, Iowa; and the University of Dayton and student days at UD, where he received his bachelor of arts in 1912, and the Catholic University of America where he received his master of arts and doctorate in 1925 and 1929 respectively.

Father Zeinz, who was ordained a priest at St. Meinard Seminary, Indiana, in 1946, has his A.B. degree in philosophy from Holy Cross College, 1938; his M.A. degree in Latin from Catholic University of America in 1941, and doctorate in Classical Languages in 1965 from The Ohio State University. He has been teaching at the University of Dayton since 1964. Prior to that he taught at secondary schools in Ohio, California and Japan from 1941 to 1961.

Born in New York City in 1917, Father Zeinz is now Director of the Service Bureau (for Teachers of Greek and Latin) of the American Classical League.

Brother Standor, who was born in Covington, Kentucky, in 1928, has been teaching at UD since 1960 and was appointed to his present post in 1969. He took his first vows in 1946 at Beacon, New York, and has his bachelor of science in mathematics from UD in 1949, and his M.S. and doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of American in 1957 and 1959 respectively.

Brother Fackovec was born in New York City in 1925 and joined the Society of Mary in 1946 in Beacon. He has a bachelor of science degree in education from UD in 1949 and his master of science in library science from Western Reserve in 1959. He taught in Marianist high schools before coming to UD as librarian in 1960. He has become one of the foremost authorities in Mariology, the study of Mary, the Mother of God.