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Reverend Paul J. Wagner, S.M. 1905-1983

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DAYTON, Ohio, November 17, 1983 -- Reverend Paul J. Wagner, S.M. (Society of Mary), former chaplain of the University of Dayton and former pastor of Emmanuel Catholic Church, died of natural causes on Wednesday, November 16, at Gosiger Health Center on the UD campus. He was 78.

Born in Gloversville, New York, Fr. Wagner was 11 years old when his family moved to Detroit, Michigan. He came to Dayton to attend preparatory school at St. Mary's Institute, before it became the University of Dayton.

Father Wagner was a Marianist since 1922 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1935 in Fribourg, Switzerland. He held degrees from the University of Dayton, University of Fribourg, Catholic University of America, and Fordham University.

Fr. Wagner taught at schools in Baltimore (St. Martin grade school); Cincinnati (St. Xavier grade school); Dayton (Chaminade High School); Cleveland (Cathedral Latin High School); Sioux City, Iowa (Trinity College); and Mineola, Long Island, New York (Chaminade High School) before coming to UD in 1955. He also served as a U.S. Navy chaplain in 1943-44. He was appointed director of admissions at UD in 1956 and University chaplain in 1961. He held the latter post until 1967. During that time he also was associate professor of Theology.

Fr. Wagner was named pastor of Emmanuel Catholic Church, Dayton, in 1967. He held this post until 1977. He was also mission procurator for the Cincinnati Province of the Society of Mary.

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Since 1977, Fr. Wagner served as associate pastor of Ascension Catholic Church, Kettering, and then as chaplain of the Marianist community in Tempe, Arizona, before returning to Alumni Hall, the Marianist residence at the University of Dayton, in 1981.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Catholic Church, Dayton. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Catholic Church. Burial will be on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Bergamo. Westbrock Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Fr. Wagner is survived by four brothers, three sisters-in-law, 73 nieces and nephews, 17 grand nieces and nephews, and 7 great grand nieces and nephews. Brother Nicholas W. Wagner, S.M., resides at UD in the Gosiger Health Center. His other brothers and sisters-in-law are Mr. and Mrs. John J. Wagner, Sterling Heights, MI; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Wagner, Royal Oak, MI; and Mr. and Mrs. Emmeran J. Wagner, Mt. Clemmons, MI.

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