12-13-1979

Father George Renneker, Former UD President, Dead at Age 90

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Recommended Citation
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FATHER GEORGE RENNEKER,
FORMER UD PRESIDENT,
DEAD AT AGE 90

DAYTON, Ohio, December 13, 1979 --- The Reverend George J. Renneker, S.M.,
president of the University of Dayton from 1944 to 1953, died today at the
C.H. Gosiger Health Center at UD after a long illness. He was 90 years old.

During Father Renneker's presidency from 1944 to 1953, the University grew
from 900 to 3,800 students. He led the way for the purchase of World War II
barracks as temporary headquarters for classrooms, laboratories, offices and
recreational facilities. He also supervised the construction of a mechanical
engineering building, the ROTC building, Founders Hall and the UD fieldhouse.

During his 43 years of service to the University, Father Renneker held the
posts of professor of history and classical languages, registrar, dean of the
University, vice president and president. He stepped down from the University
presidency in 1953 when he was succeeded by the Reverend Andrew L. Seebold, S.M.

Father Renneker became superior of Mt. St. John in Dayton in 1953. He held
that post until 1959 when he became director of the religious community of the
Cincinnati Provincialate of the Society of Mary. In 1969 he resigned as director
but continued to live with the community. In October 1973 he moved to the
C.H. Gosiger Health Center at the University of Dayton where he has since been
under the care of the center's medical staff.

Father Renneker came to UD in 1903 from Cincinnati and entered the novitiate

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of the Society of Mary in 1905. His final vows were made in 1912. He was
ordained to the priesthood in 1919 in Fribourg, Switzerland. Most of his career
was spent at UD.

In organizing the Registrar's office, Father Renneker established procedures and
policies that contributed to the accrediting of the school by the North Central
Association. He was elected a vice-president of the Ohio College Registrars
Association in 1940. In 1943, in recognition of his outstanding service to the
University, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Education.

During Father Renneker's tenure the associate board of lay trustees was
reorganized which included community leaders who became enthusiastic supporters
of the University. The move initiated the first of UD's development campaigns in
the Dayton community.

The trustees responded well to Father Renneker's leadership, which was noted
for its attitudes of simplicity and humility, according to Brother Elmer C. Lackner,
S.M., special assistant to the president, who served under Father Renneker as
registrar and director of public relations.

Father Renneker's civic activity included membership in the Chamber of
Commerce, the Dayton District Development Committee, and the board of directors

He also was active in the Catholic community as administrator of Mary,
Help of Christians parish in Fairborn, where, in 1923, he supervised the building
of the church.

Father Renneker was born August 6, 1889, in Cincinnati, the son of John
and Mary Schulte Renneker. His survivors include a brother and sister-in-law,
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Renneker of Cincinnati, and nephews Carl R. Renneker
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(West Chester, Ohio), Edward B. Renneker (Ashland, Kentucky), and Ralph G. Renneker (Cincinnati), and nieces Mrs. Charles (Mary Ann) Finn (Cincinnati), and Mrs. Barron (Bernice) Merten (Columbus, Missouri).

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Chapel on the UD campus at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 17. Visitation will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday in the chapel.

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