

# Local Dominicans to celebrate Golden Jubilee of service

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By K. A. Bordeleau

It was on May 17, 1939 in a small Ohio town that two young men joined 33 other Dominicans and repeated vows to serve God and mankind by upholding the mandates of the Holy Catholic Church.

On the 50th anniversary of their ordination, the Rev. Edward Doyle and the Rev. Charles B. Crowley are content with the contributions they have made in this life and happy to have dedicated so much of their energy to the church.

The two priests were honored at a Golden Jubilee celebration on May 10 at the Heritage Hills Nursing Home, Smithfield. The Rev. Doyle visits the nursing home everyday and celebrates Mass there every Sunday and the Rev. Crowley is a resident at the home.

Father Doyle, who holds a Ph.D in philosophy and a master's degree in guidance, has taught at several schools including Providence College, Mount St. Mary College in Newburg, N.J., and Siena Heights College.

Father Doyle temporarily left his teaching post at P.C. in 1943 to become Army chaplain with the 104th Infantry Division. He served in the United States Army for three years and assisted in the liberation of Nordhausen, a sub-concentration camp of Buchenwald, Germany.

"It was at Nordhausen that I had witnesses a sinister, brutal, cruel and utter disregard of human life, human dignity," Father Doyle said. "Indeed a wholesale ignoring of the Judeo-Christian law, namely love God and love your neighbor was manifestly evidenced."

Father Doyle returned to Providence College in 1946 with the rank of major. In 1965 he was appointed director of Catholic studies serving the University of Virginia. He held an appointment as research fellow in psychology at Yale University Divinity School and later became the first president of the Dominican Education Association comprising American Dominicans engaged in educational activities.

For the past 12 years Father Doyle has been visiting various nursing homes and celebrating Mass for the elderly.

"I've had a very happy priesthood - a blend of teaching, the Army and nursing homes. It's been a good life," he said.

Father Crowley, a native of Providence, has taught theology and philosophy at several institutions including the Pontifical University of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.; Providence College; St. John University, Jamaica, N.Y.; and the Università di Santo Tomasso in Urbe, Rome, Italy.

Father Crowley has received several honors throughout his priesthood, including the President's Medal of St. John University which was bestowed upon him in February, 1978. He was also honored with three testimonial dinners at St. John's for his service and dedication to the students at that school. He has been a member of Catholic Theological Association of America, the Advisory Board of the National American Security Council, and the National Police and Fire Fighters Association.

Father Crowley is particularly proud of his 21-year lecture stint on theology and philosophy at the School of

Theology for laymen at St. Vincent Ferrer in New York City. He said the program was attended by 300 to 400 people per night and eventually received national attention.

Father Crowley also authored several publications, among them *The Role of Sacramental Grace in Christian Life*, and *Universal Mathematics in Aristotelian-Thomistic Philosophy*.

What is a priest? Father Crowley responds:

"A priest should be one who's devoted to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Holy Father. Those changes that have been announced and approved I have no problem with that. It's the innovation and experiments done by individual priests that are causing confusion among Catholic people," he said. "What I have done in my lifetime is taught and promulgated the teaching of the church both in doctrine and morals. That's what all the priests should be doing."



**GOLDEN JUBILEE** - The Rev. Charles B. Crowley (left) and the Rev. Edward Paul Doyle will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their ordination into the Catholic priesthood on May 17. A reception honoring the priests was given yesterday at the Heritage Hills Nursing Home, Smithfield. (Observer photo)