

Obituary

Father Edward P. Doyle

PROVIDENCE - Dominican Father Edward Paul Doyle, 89, of the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory at Providence College, who taught philosophy at the school for many years and served as a campus minister for more than 20 years, died April 12 at Miriam Hospital after an illness.

Born in Fall River, Mass., he was a son of the late Patrick J. and Anne (Harrison) Doyle. He was a graduate of B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River, and joined the Dominican Order in 1932.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Somerset, Ohio, in 1939. He received his master's degree from The Catholic University of America in 1941. He was a member of the faculty of philosophy of Providence College from 1941-54.

His teaching was interrupted by his service as an Army chaplain from 1943-46, with the rank of major. Two months after D-

Day in June, 1944, he landed on the beaches of Cherbourg in France together with 15,000 other members of the 104th Infantry Division, experiencing 195 consecutive days of front-line combat.

In April, 1945, he was one of the first Americans to walk into the concentration camp of Nordhausen. "It was a world of horror, a world of tragedy, a world of death," he said. Ten years after the war, he returned to visit many of the graves of the 1,500 men from the 104th who were killed in combat. There were 76 missing in action. As national chaplain of "The Timberwolves," he attended 40 annual reunions with veterans of his old division.

In April, 1988, he attended one of the annual interfaith memorial services at Temple Emanu-El to commemorate the deaths of millions of Jews and others who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Further study, college teaching, and campus ministry filled more than two decades of his life after leaving Providence College. In 1962, he received his doctorate from the Aquinas Institute in River Forest, Ill. He later spent a year as a research fellow at the Yale Divinity School. In 1976, he returned to Providence and performed parochial ministry at St. Raymond Church. He had a 20-year ministry at the Summit Medical Center. He continued to celebrate weekday Masses as late as April 4. Since 1987, he lived at the Priory of Providence College.

He leaves nieces and nephews.

The solemn reception of Father Doyle's body was held April 14 at the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory. A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was held April 15 at the Priory Chapel. Burial was in the Dominican Community Cemetery at Providence College.