

OBITUARIES

Rev. Edward Paul Doyle, 89; PC instructor, campus minister

PROVIDENCE — The Rev. Edward Paul Doyle, O.P., 89, of the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory at Providence College, who taught philosophy at PC for many years, and served as a campus minister for more than 20 years, died Saturday 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 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 1943-1946, with a 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 frontline combat.

In April of 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 1500 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 of 1988 he attended one of the annual interfaith memorial services at Temple Emanu-El to commemorate the deaths of millions of Jews and other lives lost 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 will be held today at 7 p.m. at the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory. The Office of the Dead will be celebrated at 7:30. A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be said tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Priory Chapel. Burial will be in the Dominican Community Cemetery at Providence College.

