

LE MOYNE in *New York*



William J. Bosch, S.J. (1928 - 2023)

For generations of Le Moyne students, William Bosch, S.J., was a constant, no matter what role he filled. During nearly 60 years at the College, he was a history professor (for 38 years), International House (IH) moderator (for 30 years) and College archivist (for 18 years). With his outstanding intellect and giant heart, he was a guide and protector for many.

Father Bosch attended Marquette University High School, Milwaukee, Wis., and Canisius High School, Buffalo, N.Y., and graduated from Aquinas Institute, Rochester, N.Y., in 1946. At the end of his freshman year at Fordham University in the Bronx, he entered the Society of Jesus on Sept. 7, 1947. His Jesuit course of studies in preparation for ordination to the priesthood took him to St. Andrew on Hudson Novitiate and Juniorate in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., West Baden College in West Baden Springs, Ind., and Woodstock College in Woodstock, Md. Father Bosch was ordained on June 18, 1960, at Fordham University Church in the Bronx. He went on to pursue graduate studies in American history at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1966.

Six years after being ordained as a priest, Father Bosch arrived at Le Moyne and began teaching while also taking on the role of IH moderator. More than a student organization, IH was the personification of many Jesuit tenets and served as a center for reflection, study and service, promoting social justice by engaging individuals and communities in need. Nicknamed “Padre” by IH members, he inspired them to live core Christian values every day, while modeling the mission himself by picketing on behalf of United Farm Workers, tutoring inner city youth, protesting the use of nuclear weapons, and ministering to inmates at Syracuse’s Justice Center.

A gifted historian, Father Bosch wrote *Judgment on Nuremberg: American Attitudes Toward the Major War Crime Trials* in 1966. It was reissued in 2011 and still serves as an important resource on the topic.

A beloved professor who stressed the importance of how history is analyzed and Interpreted In the present day, he was famous for telling students, "In five years it won't matter what your degree is - it's how you learned to think."

It was his love of history that undoubtedly led him to excel as the College's first archivist, a challenge he tackled with the same fervor as his other roles. Starting with an archive that was incomplete and poorly organized, he educated himself In archival techniques and built It Into a collection to which other schools aspire. Today's generation of colleagues and students recognized Father Bosch for the hours he spent on warm summer afternoons carefully tending to the flowers growing in the gardens outside the Loyola Jesuit Residence and Mitchell Hall.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the mark he made on the Heights was the establishment of the William J. Bosch, S.J., Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize the transformative accomplishments of an individual over his or her years of service. When he was named as the inaugural recipient in 2016, it was noted that though "his roles and focus have changed, his dedication to excellence and to this institution has never wavered."