

Br. Dominic (John Paul) REARDON 86 IRELAND IRL USA
* June 27, 1909 Dublin + December 16, 1996 Cornwells (Bensalem) PA

After attending St. Mary's school in Rathmines until 1923, he studied at a civil service school. In 1926 he entered the Congregation and made his vows on September 8, 1928 at Kimmage.

He served as refectorian at Blackrock for three years and was then posted to Rockwell College as a junior teacher, bookstore manager, director of dramatics and editor of a student magazine.

In 1938 Fr. Christopher Plunkett, Provincial Superior in the U.S.A., visited Ireland and invited him to go to America. It took time to arrange things and it was only on the eve of World War Two that he arrived in New York early in March 1940. After a few weeks in Ferndale, CT, he received his assignment to St. Joseph's House for orphans in Philadelphia. He functioned there a counsellor to the boys, teacher of English and fundraiser, while also editing a monthly magazine.

In 1954 he was transferred to Duquesne University, where he tried his hand in several administrative offices before becoming assistant registrar. In his spare time he founded the Gaelic Arts Society of Pittsburgh. Six years later he was posted to St. Emma Military Academy for African-American students in Powhatan, VA. He taught English to the cadets and coached some of their societies.

In 1965 he went to Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Cornwells Heights as its librarian. Ill health led to his retirement there in 1973. He still acted briefly as vocations director and later as secretary of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Ghost.

He was in his element as a promoter of Irish literature. Twice he was named Man of the Year: in 1948 by New York's Dublin Society and in 1975 by the Irish-American Cultural Society of Bucks county, PA. In 1989 he was chosen to be grand marshal of the first St. Patrick's Day parade of Buck's county.

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Having celebrated the diamond jubilee of his religious profession in 1988, he died eight years later after a visit to his sister's grave in a nearby cemetery. Interment took place at the community cemetery in Cornwells.

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