

# Remembering "Iron John"

*His Name Is John: A Tribute To His Eminence John Cardinal Dearden, S.T.D., 1907-1988, by Bishop John B. McDowell.*

Reviewed by Anthony P. Joseph

In writing any history of an important personality such as John Cardinal Dearden, authors try to find the appropriate accolades for the person. Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop John B. McDowell presents a portrayal of John Dearden, the man, the bishop, and the cardinal, as a servant of God in priestly ministry.

Bishop McDowell tells of Dearden's family, of his strong parents (his father was a convert). He attended Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, where as a boy he found the course for his life; he proudly announced to his mother that he wanted to be a priest. He went on to attend St. Mary's Seminary and the North American College in Rome.

Upon his return to the States, Father Dearden served in a parish. After several years, he was appointed rector at St. Mary's Seminary, where he earned the nickname "Iron John," a strict master of academics, discipline, and seminarians.

The Church had more responsibilities ahead for Father Dearden. On March 13, 1948, he was named coadjutor to the Bishop of Pittsburgh, Hugh C. Boyle, with the right of succession. From 1950 on, he was the city's ordinary.

Bishop Dearden undertook a remarkable education campaign in Pittsburgh; 38 new elementary and secondary schools were built and 38 schools replaced partially or completely.

From Pittsburgh, he went to the Archdiocese of Detroit. There, he faced greater challenges, such as far greater numbers of the faithful, priests, and religious. He eventually found himself in the midst of Vatican II. The



*Bishop Dearden at DePaul Institute.*

archbishop went to Rome and played a special role, earning yet a new nickname "the unobtrusive liberal." He attempted to renew and to clarify the laws and the ways of the Church to make them more compatible with contemporary Catholic life.

He further carried forth this sense of renewal when in 1966, as president of the first National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, he issued a "Call to Action." This same renewal was also the theme of his Archdiocesan Synod 1967-1969.

Further honors would be bestowed upon the archbishop. He was made a Cardinal on April 18, 1969.

Cardinal Dearden, the quiet, soft-spoken priest, died on Aug. 1, 1988. He was a servant of God and an evangelist for the Church and for Christ.

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## Memento Morice

Known as "C.D." because his demanding classes yielded few As and Bs, Dr. Joseph R. Morice nevertheless attracted scores of hopeful learners to his classes. He taught at the university for 42 years and was among Duquesne's most popular instructors. The popular emeritus professor of history died Oct. 30, 2001, of congestive heart failure. He was 78. Born in Philadelphia, Morice served in the Army during World War II and received three bronze stars for valor. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from LaSalle College and a master's from Fordham University. He taught at Duquesne from 1948 until his retirement in 1990, completing another master's and a doctorate in political science at Pitt along the way. He served as chairman of the history department and was the founder and editor of *The Duquesne Review* and the university debate team. He was one of the first recipients of Duquesne's student-nominated Teacher of the Year award. An award is presented in his name annually to Duquesne's outstanding history student. He is survived by his wife, Josephine, and two daughters, Ann Marie Morice of Scott and Jacqueline Callahan of Avalon, and two grandsons. A Mass of Remembrance was held Jan. 17, 2002, in Duquesne University's chapel. —*Compiled from obituaries in the Duquesne Record and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

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