

**John H. Deeney SJ,  
expert in language of Ho people**

John H. Deeney, SJ, died Jan. 18 in Jamshedpur. A Jesuit for 70 years, he was 88.

Born in Philadelphia July 22, 1921, he entered the Society Aug. 14, 1939, and went to India in 1949 and was ordained Nov. 21, 1952.



Fr. Deeney was headmaster for seven years of St. Xavier High School and served for many years in Chaibasa parish, where he became deeply involved in the faith formation of the Ho people. He became an expert on their language and published the first Ho-English dictionary in 1978. He later published a number of books in the Ho language including a Missal, a Lectionary, a book on the lives of the saints, a prayer book, Bible history, hymnal and New Testament. He also published a book of the Psalms and Old Testament prophets, as well as a book in English, *The Spirit World of the Hos*.

“At the age of 88 I look back with contentment on God’s call to become a Jesuit and spend my life here in India, serving the Ho tribals, who have become my people,” he said in an interview published in *JIVAN: News and Views of Jesuits in India*.

**Clarence A. Martin, SJ,  
served in Philippines, retreat houses**

Clarence A. Martin, SJ, died Jan. 22, in Merion Station, Pa. A Jesuit for 74 years and a priest for 63, he was 91.

The son of Clarence A. and Agatha Lancaster Martin was born Feb. 24, 1918, in Baltimore. He entered the Society of Jesus on July 30, 1935, and was ordained a priest in 1946.



Before ordination, he spent six years in Philippines as a student and from 1944 to 1945 was a prisoner in a Japanese POW camp. After ordination he returned to the Philippines as a pastor and teacher. In 1964 he returned to the United States to ministries at Loyola College, the Jesuit Seminary Guild and Mission Bureau, Catholic University and Georgetown Prep.

He was a retreat director at Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Md., and at the Jesuit Center,

Wernersville, Pa., where he remained for 20 years until 2009.

**David Stokes, SJ,  
25 years in Hispanic ministry**

David F. Stokes, SJ, died Sept. 24 in Sebring, Fla. He was 78. Fr. Stokes was a Jesuit for 59 years and a priest for 46,

Born in Philadelphia June 18, 1931, he entered the Society of Jesus on Sept. 7, 1950. He was ordained a priest June 16, 1963.

Fr. Stokes’ first assignments took him to Scranton Preparatory School, Loyola Blakefield and St. Joseph’s Preparatory School. He then moved into Hispanic ministry at St. Bonaventure’s Church in Philadelphia, at Holy Name Church, Camden, N.J., St. Veronica’s Church in Philadelphia, Visitation Church in Philadelphia and the Spanish Apostolate at the Hispanic Center in Vineland, N.J. From 1996 to 2007, he was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Richmond and went to St. Catherine’s Church in Sebring in 2007.



**Eugene Welch, SJ,  
served in Jamshedpur 50 years**

Eugene A. Welch, SJ, a Pittsburgh native and former member of the Maryland Province, died Oct. 22. He was 81, and a Jesuit for 62 years. He volunteered to go to in India when he was a novice—and except for three years—he ministered there his whole life.

Fr. Welch was ordained a priest in Jamshedpur March 24, 1960.

He returned to the Maryland Province in 1962 to serve for two years as assistant director of the Jesuit Seminary Guild and a year as minister for Loyola Blakefield. Fr. Welch’s Indian assignments took him to St. Xavier High School, DeNobili School, Loyola School and Xavier Labor Relations Institute.

Fr. Welch said he enjoyed the opportunity to get to know so many of the Indian people. “You get close to people you are working for,” he said in an interview during a recent Baltimore visit. “I have known them a long time.”

