



**IAAS Walks of Life 1997**  
**Rev. Nelson Callahan**

As archivist of the Diocese of Cleveland from 1966 to 1978, Rev. Nelson J. Callahan played a key role in identifying and preserving materials that will enable future generations to study the history of one of Cleveland's most important institutions and the many parishes that comprise it. He has been invited, on several occasions, to present the results of his research— particularly regarding the impact of ethnicity on religious involvement — in major addresses at national conferences.

As co-author of the pioneering study, Irish Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland, Father Callahan has preserved for posterity the story of the city's Irish immigrants, the conditions they endured and the challenges they met as they helped build a great urban center. A 1953 graduate of St. Mary Theological Seminary of Cleveland, he has served his church and community in various capacities. Pastor for the past twenty years of St. Raphael Church, Father Callahan has also served since 1978 as moderator of the First Friday Club of Cleveland, a well-attended downtown forum. He taught at St. John College from 1959 to 1974 and was director for two years of St. Peter High School.

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