



IAAS Walks of Life 2009
Rev. Donald Cozzens, Ph.D

Born and reared in Cleveland's old Newburgh section, Fr. Donald Cozzens has roots in Ireland's County Wexford where his great, great, great-grandfather, Thomas Cozzens, carried a pike in the uprising of 1798. His great, great-grandfather, Patrick Henry Cozzens, settled here in what is now Holy Name Parish in the early 1840s.

A graduate of Holy Name High School, he was ordained a priest for the Cleveland diocese in 1965. Currently Fr. Cozzens is Writer in Residence and Professor of Religious Studies at John Carroll University. He spent the 2001-02

academic year as a resident scholar at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University in Minnesota, where he studied the dynamics of institutional denial. His research led to his award-winning book, *Sacred Silence: Denial and the Crisis in the Church* (Liturgical Press, 2002).

For more than a decade Fr. Cozzens has been writing and speaking about the crisis facing the Church and the priesthood. Since January of 2002, when the clergy sexual abuse scandal received wide news media attention, he has appeared on "Meet the Press" with Tim Russert, Terry Gross's "Fresh Air," NPR's "All Things Considered," and BBC radio and television.

His experience as Cleveland's diocesan vicar for clergy and as president-rector of St. Mary Seminary led to his best-selling and award-winning book, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood* (Liturgical Press, 2000); it has been translated into Portuguese, Italian, German, Spanish, French, Dutch and Czech editions. His latest books are *Faith That Dares to Speak* (Liturgical Press, 2004) and the award-winning *Freeing Celibacy* (Liturgical Press, 2006).

Fr. Cozzens' doctoral research focused on the philosophical anthropology of the Lutheran philosopher and theologian, Paul Tillich. Also, Fr. Cozzens has served as spiritual director, counselor and retreat master for monks, nuns, priests and bishops. In recent years he has preached retreats for the priests of the Irish counties of Meath and Kerry and for the Irish Columban Fathers of Dalgan Park.

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