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Tributes

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TRIBUTES

William C. Cenkner, 1925-2003 An Appreciation by Edward T. Ulrich

WILLIAM Cenkner, O.P., was a Professor Emeritus at The Catholic University of America and the former Dean of the School of Religious Studies. On October 25, 1925, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1954 he graduated from Providence College with an A.B. in philosophy. In 1956 and 1959 he received his S.T.B. and S.T.L. in theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. In 1969 he completed his Ph.D. in the history of religions, graduating from Fordham University. In that same year he joined the faculty at Catholic University as an Assistant Professor. He received tenure in 1974 and held two terms as Dean of the School of Religious Studies, from 1985 to 1993. In August 2002 he retired and moved to Florida for reasons of health. He passed away on Friday, August 8, 2003, due to a heart attack and respiratory failure. His final year was spent at the Dominican Priory near Barry University.

Dr. Cenkner was a well-known scholar of Asian religions, who had done fieldwork in both India and Japan. He was active in interreligious dialogue on both the national and international levels. He also played an important role in developing the graduate and undergraduate curriculum at Catholic

University, bringing a strong interreligious dimension to it. His publications include *A Tradition of Teachers: Sankara and the Jagadgurus Today*, 1983; *The Hindu Personality in Education: Tagore, Gandhi, Aurobindo*, 1976; and *Creative Moral Protest: The Teaching of Mohandas K. Gandhi*, 1970. He also edited *Evil and the Response of World Religions*, 1997; *The Multicultural Church: A New Landscape in U.S. Theologies*, 1996; and *The Religious Quest*, 1983.

Fr. Cenkner was both deep and broad, stern and pleasant, and could see both the forest and the trees. For instance, while doing specialized research on Hindu teachers he had a remarkable grasp of Hindu religion, Catholic theology, and methodology in religious studies, each as an organic whole. This breadth is reflected in the way he pushed his students, never allowing them to fixate on a particular approach or idea, but always pushing them beyond. Also, Fr. Cenkner was a devoted Catholic, was committed to the Dominican Order, and brought much sophistication to the many environments in which he lived. He will be sorely missed.

Judson B. Trapnell, 1954-2003

An Appreciation by Edward T. Ulrich

PROFESSOR Judson Trapnell was born in 1954 in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1979 he received his B.A. from Maharishi International University. He later graduated from Yale University with a M.Div., and in 1992 he received his Ph.D. from the Department of Religion and Religious Education at The Catholic University of America. From 1997 to 2000 he worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Hampden-Sydney in Virginia. In fall 2000 he joined the faculty at the College of St. Benedict / St. John's University in Minnesota in a tenure-track position. Tragically, he resigned that same school year, due to malignant melanoma. He, his wife, and his children returned to Virginia in order to be closer to family and friends. On August 3, 2003, he passed away at his home.

Dr. Trapnell had numerous publications, which appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, *Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin*, *Dialogue and Alliance*, *Horizons*, and *Vidyajyoti*. He also presented papers at the conventions of the College Theology Society and the Catholic Theological Society of America. His research focused on classic figures from the Hindu-Christian encounter, such as Swami Abhishiktananda and Raimundo Panikkar.

Bede Griffiths was his main inspiration, and in 2001 he published *Bede Griffiths: A Life in Dialogue* with the State University of New York Press. Trapnell also focused on current affairs, writing on the escalating tensions in India between Hindus and Christians. At the time of his death he was writing a second book, involving the poetry of Swami Abhishiktananda.

Trapnell was both a scholar and a contemplative. In fact, while his research was careful and rigorous it was also a means for him to draw closer to God. He thereby followed in the scholarly ideal of the European monasteries, and this is one of the reasons that he was so delighted to have received employment at St. Benedict / St. John's, both of which house large Benedictine communities. Trapnell's best work probably lay ahead. His family includes his wife, Rosemarie Trapnell, to whom he was married in 1987, and their children, Maria and Grace Trapnell. Judson Trapnell was a kind man, passionate about world religions, and beloved by his students.