We will commemorate the legacy of Dr. Bernard Cooke, who inaugurated the doctoral program in 1963. Dr. Cooke passed away May 31 at age 91 in San Antonio, Texas. A panel will reflect on his contribution to theology through the development of the PhD in Theology at Marquette University. Dr. Cooke and MU were also part of the formation of the College Theology Society and a new approach to undergraduate teaching of theology. He was also very involved in the transformation of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

All this was part of the inauguration of a sea change for Catholics in who does theology, where it is done, by whom, and for whom. We will ask the questions: How does the situation today differ from the situation then? How does the current Marquette Department of Theology prepare the ground for what may be still an uncertain future?

Speakers:

Dr. Patrick Carey, who holds the William J. Kelly Chair in Catholic Theology, will present an overview of the history of the department.

Fr. William J. Kelly, S.J. will reminisce and reflect on his experience of those early years and will comment on two features of the Department of Theology in Bernard Cooke’s vision: the ecumenical dimension and why the PhD was called Religious Studies.

Fr. David Schultenover, S.J., editor of Theological Studies, will reflect on changes in authors, topics, and audience of this distinguished journal in the past 50 years.

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