

Br. M. Gerard Keating 87

United States of America

* July 30 1894 Gilberton, PA

+ September 7 1981 Pittsburgh PA

Professed at Ferndale November 13 1916, he served in this community until his appointment to Duquesne in 1924. He was destined to stay there till 1980. For about twenty years he worked as a chef. During the depression years he quietly fed penniless students, thereby enabling them to continue their studies. When he gave up kitchen duties, he took up gardening and landscaping. He beautified the asphalt jungle by planting grass and shrubs wherever he could, thus laying the groundwork for the greenery now surrounding the university buildings. During World War Two he built the Our Lady of Victories shrine and the victory garden in front of it.

While quite outspoken, he never hurt anyone by his language. After his more than half a century of service at Duquesne, he remained a popular figure on the campus. Seated on a park bench, the venerable patriarch would soon be surrounded by young students, eager to listen to his inexhaustible supply of stories about what life was like yesteryear at Duquesne. His long service was rewarded by an unusual honorary doctorate conferred on him a few years before his death. He celebrated the diamond jubilee of his profession in 1976. His last year was spent in the Vincentian Home for the chronically ill, where he died peacefully. Always a faithful religious, he attracted a large gathering of confreres and delegates from alumni and students to his funeral service. Interment took place in the Cornwells cemetery.