

The Rev. Dr. James A. Walther

Class of 1939



As professor emeritus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, The Rev. Dr. James Walther distinguished himself as professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis at that institution for more than 24 years.

Graduating from Western Theological Seminary (Pa.) in 1942, he served on active duty during World War II as a U.S. Navy chaplain (1943-46). His assignments took him to Pearl Harbor, Midway Islands, Guam and the Tokyo Bay area. He served chaplains' units with the Navy and Marine Corps Reserves in western Pennsylvania and retired after 30 years of service.

Ordained by the Pittsburgh Presbytery in 1942, Walther pastored churches in both the United States and Canada. From 1950-54, he was associate professor of classical languages at Grove City College, then taught New Testament literature at Western Theological Seminary from 1954-59.

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In addition to his teaching and pastoral duties, Walther wrote numerous articles and several books on Biblical subjects. His *New Testament Greek Workbook* (1966) has undergone several printings and was revised in 1981. Other publications include *The Anchor Bible: First Corinthians and Kerygma: A Study-in-Depth of the People of God*, used in approximately 2,000 churches throughout the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Walther lectured and preached extensively throughout the United States, and belonged to the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, Military Chaplains Association and the American Society of Oriental Research.

Walther was one of the founders and the first author of the Kerygma Program that placed Bible studies in more than 16,000 churches representing 30 denominations. He wrote Bible studies for the Logos youth program and was a leader at its national conferences from 1987 to 1998. He edited *Ever a Frontier*, the bicentennial history of Pittsburgh Seminary and authored many articles; he also edited *Pittsburgh Perspective* from 1960 to 1967. Walther was active with the Greenville Area Christian Ministerial Association and served as its president from 1996 to 1998.

He passed away Dec. 28, 2005.

Additional degrees: Ph.D., Western Theological Seminary; Th.D., Victoria University, Toronto