



Fr. John Raymond Donahue, S.J.

July 3, 1933 - October 28, 2024

Rev. John R. Donahue., SJ, was born on July 3, 1933, in Baltimore, MD. He attended Loyola Blakefield High School and entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, PA, on July 30, 1951. He earned both an M.A. and a Licentiate in Philosophy from Loyola Seminary in Shrub Oak, NY (Fordham University), and went on to receive a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Woodstock College in Woodstock, MD, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Scripture from the University of Chicago. John was ordained a priest on June 14, 1964, at Woodstock College in Maryland.

Fr. Donahue spent most of his Jesuit vocation as a professor of New Testament studies. After spending a couple years as a professor of New Testament at the University of Chicago and then of sacred scripture and Biblical languages at Woodstock College in New York, he taught New Testament studies for six years at Vanderbilt University. In 1980, he spent a year as a visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome before returning to the States and serving for the next 20 years teaching New Testament studies, back and forth between the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA, and the University of Notre Dame.

In 2001, Fr. Donahue was named the Raymond E. Brown Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, MD, where he served for three years. In 2001, he also began what

would be a 16-year tenure at Loyola University Maryland as a writer and professor emeritus. He also served Loyola for several of those years as a research professor in Theology.

Fr. Donahue was a prolific writer, especially on the Gospel of Mark. He published three volumes of commentaries on the Sunday Readings, one of which won First Place in Professional Books from the Catholic Press Association. Other books included *The Gospel of Mark; Are You the Christ: The Trial Narrative in the Gospel of Mark*; *Theology and Setting of Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark*; *What Does the Lord Require: A Bibliographical Essay on the Bible and Social Justice*; and *The Gospel in Parable: Metaphor, Narrative and Theology in the Synoptic Gospels*. From 1998–2001, he wrote the weekly “Word” column for America.

In 2017, Fr. Donahue moved to the Colombière Jesuit Community in Baltimore where he continued to write and serve in pastoral ministry. He died peacefully on October 28, 2024.

Cemetery Details

Woodstock Jesuit Cemetery

10900 Old Court Road
Woodstock, MD 21163

Previous Events

Wake

NOV 9. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Colombiere Jesuit Community
5704 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210

Wake

NOV 9. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Colombiere Jesuit Community Chapel
5704 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210

Funeral Mass

NOV 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Loyola University Alumni Chapel
4501 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Burial

NOV **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Woodstock Jesuit Cemetery
10900 Old Court Road
Woodstock, MD 21163

Tribute Wall

KP

“ I studied with John at Vanderbilt in the '70s. He was an excellent teacher whose care I recognized in his respect for his texts and his craft. I appreciated, too, his concern to integrate issues of faith and theology with uncompromising critical scholarship. Several years ago I reached out to him by email, simply to reconnect. We had a good exchange for which I remain grateful. Peace to all in a tender season.

Karl Plank

J.W. Cannon Professor of Religion, Emeritus

Davidson College

Davidson, North Carolina

Karl Plank - December 21, 2024 at 02:13 PM

RM

“ I met Fr Donahue 10 years ago while my daughter was at Loyola. On my first visit to the school my wife signed us up to sit in on a few classes and I was adamant I didn't want to sit in on a religion class. Little did I know what a friend I would make when Fr Donahue came in. Being non Catholic I knew very little about the Jesuits and told him I had been in recovery for many years and was struggling with my relationship with God. He couldn't have been nicer recommending books about God etc. Every time I went to Loyola I would visit and always bring him some pricey chocolate. He would tell me I shouldn't have but his face lit up when he saw what I brought. He really touched my life and was just thinking about him yesterday when I looked him up. I will miss him a lot and I'm sure many others will too.
Rest in Peace John
Roger Minton

Roger Minton - November 01, 2024 at 12:06 PM