The Religious Studies Department

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

presents

JOHN RANDOLPH WILLIS, S.J.

FLANNERY PROFESSOR, 1986-87

In the ELEVENTH ANNUAL
FLANNERY LECTURE

“Spirituality
and C.S. Lewis”

Wed., March 18, 1987
8:00 p.m.

HUGHES AUDITORIUM – GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

C.S. LEWIS, as the London Times noted upon his death in 1963, “caught and
held the attention of those usually apathetic to religion, of lapsed churchgoers and
of people who liked to think themselves agnostics.” This witty and approachable
author of Mere Christianity and Screwtape Letters deserves an even wider audience,
and there are few commentators on his thought more witty and erudite than this
year’s Flannery Professor, Fr. John Randolph Willis.

FR. WILLIS, a Jesuit of the New England Province, received his B.A. in history
from Amherst College and his doctorate in church history from Yale University. For
ten years he was an ordained minister in the Congregational Church and taught for
seven of those years at Bates College in Maine. In 1953 he was received into the
Catholic Church and two years later entered the Society of Jesus. After ordination
to the priesthood in 1962, he joined the faculty at Boston College where he served
five years as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and until present as professor
of history.

A widely published scholar, Fr. Willis has brought out three of four proposed
volumes of A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT. Four years ago, capitalizing
on his special interest in Lewis, he published PLEASURES FOREVERMORE: THE
THEOLOGY OF C.S. LEWIS (Loyola University Press) which would provide a
rewarding opportunity to delve further into the subject of his lecture.

The FLANNERY CHAIR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY is an endowed
Chair, gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence of
theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. The Flannery Lecture is
delivered each year by the outstanding theologian who holds the Chair and is pre-
pared and presented to benefit as wide an audience as possible.

Public Is Invited

Admission: Free