



### **Clarence Jupiter Professorship**

**Joseph LeFevre** is a Professor of Philosophy. He received a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Mary's Seminary and earned an M.A. from De Paul University in Chicago and a Ph.D from Tulane University. In 1967 he received an M.T.S degree in Physics and Chemistry from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Dr. LeFevre has been a faculty member at Xavier University for 30 years. Prior to his tenure at Xavier, he was a faculty member at Dillard University, for 8 years, and at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, for 1 year. In conjunction with his teaching, Dr. LeFevre has also held administrative posts at Xavier. He has been the chief planning officer and Title III director, from 1990-1996.

Dr. LeFevre teaches courses in introductory philosophy, symbolic logic, and bioethics. His primary research focuses on the connections between science and technology and culture. In his work, he investigates the rationale behind certain assumptions that underpin or is a result of these relationships. For example, he notes that “as a result of scientific technology and its power, the assumption has come to be implicitly made that only scientific reasoning is legitimate reasoning. From this assumption it follows that in non-scientific areas there is no objective truth.” Dr. LeFevre has also investigated the relationship between behavioral psychology and freedom of action. In his current research, he is looking at the religious experience and scientific method and the nature of truth in religious life.