

Fr. William J. McElroy USA
* April 1, 1917 Philadelphia PA

+ March 4, 2002 Houston TX

William James McElroy was born on April 1, 1917 in Philadelphia, PA. He entered the Congregation at the age of 14, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 18, 1943. In his early years he was known to do work clothes in his spare time and work on the improvements of the grounds. He could also be found engaged in leather craft or dabbling in oil paints. In his youth he was a pitcher to be reckoned with by any opposing batsman. He was also a member on the class football team, and enjoyed many other sports, as well as being a good student.

He ministered to the African-American community his entire priestly life. His first appointment in 1944 was to Isle Brevelle, LA, then he went to St. Emma's Military School in Rock Castle, VA, Holy Ghost Church in New Orleans, LA, Our Lady of Lourdes Church at Abbeville, LA, St. Edward's Church in New Iberia, LA, St. Paul's Church, Lafayette, LA, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lake Charles, LA, then back to Isle Brevelle as Pastor and then on to New Orleans, where he was very much involved in instructing converts to the Church.

Father McElroy celebrated his Golden Anniversary of Ordination on June 20, 1993 with a special liturgy followed by a reception in his honor. In December of 1994, Fr. McElroy retired and lived at the community residence in Natchitoches, LA. In August of 1997, Father went to St. Dominic's Nursing Home in Houston, TX.

Father passed into eternal life at the priest's section of St. Dominic's Nursing Home which is a facility sponsored by the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, on March 4, 2002. The funeral Mass was held at Holy Ghost Preparatory School, Bensalem, PA on Saturday, March 9, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Interment took place in the Community Cemetery, Bensalem, PA.