

Fr. William G. McMENEMY 84 USA

*March 1, 1896 Glasgow, Scotland + July 10, 1982 San Antonio TX

Having finished his secondary studies in his hometown, he passed only briefly through the Spiritan seminary of Castlehead, England, before transferring to the USA in 1911. His stay at Cornwells was for one year only, and he took his first vows at Ferndale August 15, 1913. There he did also his senior studies. A bright student, he was only 23 years old when he was ordained there December 24, 1919.

His first appointment took him to St. Peter Claver's, Philadelphia; from there he went in 1922 to Cornwells as a teacher. After a brief stint as treasurer of DU in 1935, he served at St. Joseph's Bay City, MI and at St. Christopher's, Tiverton, R.I. From 1940 to 1961 he ministered at St. Peter Claver's, Charleston, S.C., first as an assistant and then seven years as a pastor.

After a short assignment as an instructor in theology at DU, he requested a return to pastoral work and in 1962 went to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, Bakersfield, CA. In 1973 he retired to St. John's Tucson, AZ. where he celebrated the diamond jubilee of his ordination, and in 1981 to Padua Place, San Antonio, TX. A stroke led to his death. Interment took place at the community cemetery of Hemet, CA.

Reminiscing on his earlier days as director of Ferndale, Bishop Joseph Byrne remarked that the two most outstanding students he had had there were Michael Brannigan and William McMenemy--the former showing a quick intuitive grasp and the latter an ability to arrive logically at conclusions. An amateur mathematician, McMenemy also published a number of scripts about geometrical problems. However, his preferences went to pastoral work among mostly neglected blacks and other minorities.