

**TRIBUTE TO MARYKNOLL MISSIONARY BISHOP WILLIAM J.
McNAUGHTON, MM**

Most Reverend John O. Barres

Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

February 8, 2020

The beautiful picture of Maryknoll Bishop William J. McNaughton, MM, Emeritus Bishop of Inchon, Korea and the Maryknoll Mission Archives obituary and synthesis of his global missionary spirit below express so powerfully the charisms of this great Churchman who died on February 3, 2020.

I look forward to concelebrating his funeral Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Bishop McNaughton's Maryknoll brother priests on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 11:00am at Our Lady of Good Counsel—St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Methuen, MA.

Bishop McNaughton's friendship with my convert Protestant minister parents, Oliver and Marjorie Barres, and our entire family has had a profound impact on our destinies.

My parents, Oliver and Marjorie Barres, met each other at the Yale Divinity School after World War II and both were ordained Congregational Protestant ministers and served at a rural parish in East Windsor, Connecticut outside of Hartford.

They had an excellent theological education at Yale Divinity School with such Protestant scholars as Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich and the Martin Luther expert Church historian Roland Bainton.

In his book *One Shepherd, One Flock* (published by Sheed and Ward in 1955 and republished by Catholic Answers in 2000), my father Oliver describes the spiritual and intellectual journey he and my mother Marjorie experienced

after their marriage and ordination as Congregational ministers which led to their conversion to the Catholic Church in 1955.

In *One Shepherd, One Flock*, my father writes of meeting on the campus of Yale University a newly ordained Maryknoll Catholic priest preparing for the missions by studying intensive Korean at Yale.

He refers to “my serious and saintly friend” and the visit Fr. McNaughton made to their Congregational parish in East Windsor to discuss their questions about the Catholic faith.

Fr. William McNaughton was soon off to Korea as a Maryknoll missionary priest but his dedicated friendship and pastoral care and kindness meant the world to my parents for the rest of their lives.

He opened the door as he left for Korea the fascinating Maryknoll world of global mission as he connected my parents to many other Maryknoll luminaries.

On June 1, 2019, I had the privilege of returning to Maryknoll as the Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre to ordain now Fr. Jonathan Hill, MM a Catholic priest.

Before the final blessing, I was able to express the impact of Bishop McNaughton and Maryknoll on my parents’ lives:

“In *Rejoice and Be Glad*, Pope Francis says: ‘Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy...The Lord wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence...The Church needs passionate missionaries, enthusiastic about sharing true life. The saints surprise us, they confound us, because by their lives they urge us to abandon a dull and dreary mediocrity...Holiness is boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave a mark in this world.’

I thank the Maryknoll community for the gracious invitation to come to Maryknoll to celebrate this Ordination Liturgy.

My parents, Oliver and Marjorie Barres, were friends with some of the great Maryknoll pioneers who we visited here at Maryknoll but also hosted for lunch at our home in Larchmont, New York.

They include Fr. John Considine, MM, the great Maryknoll missiologist. I was so grateful to understand his inspirational life and impact more deeply by reading Robert Hurteau's recent biography, *A Worldwide Heart: The Life of Maryknoll Father John J. Considine*.

I also remember today the Maryknoll Scripture scholar Fr. John McConnell, MM (1909-1988) and his sister Sr. Janet McConnell (1911-2008), MM, Mother Mary Colman, MM (1901-1984), and Fr. Vincent Mallon, MM (1922-1992).

I will always be grateful for the close family friendship we have with the Bishop Emeritus of Inchon Korea, Bishop William McNaughton and his sister Ruth who I stay in close touch with.

I also remember today one of the co-founders of Orbis Books, Philip Scharper (1919-1985), who was my godfather."

Over the years, I remember many visits of Bishop McNaughton and his sister Ruth to our home. He would open up the fascinating world of global worldwide mission and his daily life as the Bishop of Inchon, Korea.

His missionary zeal and authenticity as a bishop inspired all of us and the Holy Spirit provided me a courageous role model as a future priest and bishop.

The Maryknoll world soon connected with my father's work as a writer for Bishop Fulton Sheen's mission magazine at the Propagation of the Faith in New York City.

My father's essays on Catholic missiology during his time working for Bishop Sheen were compiled in his 1963 book *Eyes on the World – World Mission Windows* published by Alba House.

Life does indeed come full circle. I now serve as the United States Catholic Conference's episcopal liaison to the Pontifical Mission Societies which includes the Propagation of the Faith.

As you know, Bishop Sheen baptized me at St. Augustine's parish in Larchmont, New York on October 6, 1960.

Imagining that distinctive voice saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" and pouring water over my head means so much to me today as I continue to respond to my baptismal call to *holiness and mission* and my responsibility as a Successor of the Apostles baptized by Bishop Fulton Sheen and inspired by Bishop William McNaughton, MM to pursue the Church's global worldwide mission.

If you have ever heard me preach, read one of my pastoral letters, or watched the Catholic Faith Network's show *Encounter*, you might easily come away with the impression "Bishop Barres is obsessed with Pope Francis' global approach to evangelization. He can't stop talking about Catholic Evangelization and *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island."

I hope this tribute to Bishop William McNaughton, MM helps you understand why.



Bishop William J. McNaughton, MM

Born: December 7, 1926

Ordained: June 13, 1953

Died: February 3, 2020

Bishop William J. McNaughton died on February 3, 2020 at Cedar View Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Methuen, MA. He was 93 years old and a Maryknoll priest for 66 years.

William John McNaughton was born on December 7, 1926 in Lawrence, MA, son of William John and Ruth Irene Howe McNaughton. He was the oldest of five children. He graduated from St. Augustine's Grammar School, Lawrence, MA, in June 1940 and from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence in June 1944. He entered Maryknoll Apostolic College (the Venard), Clarks Summit, PA on September 2, 1944. At Maryknoll Seminary in Ossining, NY he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy in 1948, Bachelor of Theology degree in 1953, and Master of Religious Education degree in 1953. He was ordained a priest at Maryknoll Seminary on June 13, 1953.

One month before his ordination, he was assigned to the Maryknoll Mission Region in Korea. After ordination, Fr. McNaughton studied the Korean language for one year at the Far Eastern Language Institute, Yale University. He arrived in Korea on July 22, 1954. After serving for thirteen months as a curate, he served as Pastor of the Pouk Moun Ro Parish, Cheongju from 1955 to 1957. In August 1957, he opened the new Parish of Nae Duk Dong, Cheongju and served as Pastor until July 1960.

On June 6, 1961 Pope John XXIII raised the status of the Inchon area, where Maryknoll priests had been working since 1958, to that of Vicariate Apostolic. Fr. McNaughton was named on the same day Vicar Apostolic of Inchon and titular Bishop of Tuburbo Minore. He was ordained a Bishop by Richard Cardinal Cushing in St. Mary's Church, Lawrence, MA on August 24, 1961.

On March 10, 1962 Pope John XXIII established the hierarchy in Korea, raising all the Vicariates Apostolic to the status of dioceses, and Bishop McNaughton became the first bishop of the new Diocese of Inchon. He attended the four sessions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). In 2012, Fr. James H. Kroeger MM interviewed Bishop McNaughton, and titled the interview "Personal Reflections on Vatican II by a Participant Bishop".

Bishop McNaughton served as the first bishop of Inchon for 41 years. Over the years, with the zeal of many priests, religious and laity, Inchon, like the other dioceses of Korea, expanded greatly. The Church was blessed with many conversions and many vocations. Schools, hospitals, homes for the sick and aged, and many other institutions and associations reached out to youth, laborers, the poor, infants, the training of lay leaders, etc. On September 20, 2000 the bishop blessed the new Inchon diocesan major seminary. A diocesan Synod was held in 1999-2000.

On the occasion of his 75th birthday, Bishop McNaughton submitted his resignation as ordinary of Inchon. Pope John Paul II accepted it on April 25, 2002. On that day Bishop Boniface Ki-San Choi, the Coadjutor Bishop, was installed as the 2nd Bishop of Inchon.

At his request, Bishop McNaughton was assigned to the Retirement Community (now Senior Missioner Community) effective July 1, 2002. Upon his return from Korea, he resided with his sister in Methuen, MA. In 2018, he celebrated his 65th Jubilee as a Maryknoll priest.

A wake service was held on February 10, 2020 at Our Lady of Good Counsel-St. Theresa's Church, Methuen, MA. Mass of Christian Burial was held on February 11, 2020 at Our Lady of Good Counsel-St. Theresa's Church. Burial followed in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Lowell, MA. A Memorial Mass was held on February 18, 2020 at Maryknoll Society Center.