



Rev. William Kelly McGroarty S.J.

June 3, 1919 - November 26, 2012

On November 26, 2012 Rev. William Kelly McGroarty, S.J., beloved son of the late Ann Marie (nee Kelly) and Bernard J. McGroarty; devoted brother of Edwin McGroarty of San Diego, CA and Katherine McGroarty of Philadelphia, PA.

Please omit flowers. Donations may be made in memory of Rev. William K. McGroarty, S.J., to Maryland Province Jesuits, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 620, Towson, MD 21286 or visit www.mdsj.org

Cemetery Details

Woodstock Jesuit Cemetery

10900 Old Court Road
Woodstock, MD 21163

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Visitation

NOV 28. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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Funeral Mass

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez
10800 Old Court Road
Woodstock, MD 21163

Tribute Wall

EC

“ He was such a bright light and had a great sense of humor. We saw him last at the reunion in 2010 and enjoyed him as much then as in the 60's. God speed him to his eternal reward.

Eileen Meagher Cumiskey - December 09, 2012 at 04:52 PM

MH

“ One of my fondest memories of Father was when I was unable to attend class because of illness. I was in bed in Della Strada when I heard a knock on the door. It was Father. He said he had brought me some lunch. I couldn't believe that he would take time out of his busy day to stop and bring me something to eat. I shouldn't have been surprised. He was a kind man with a quiet sense of humor who really cared about the welfare both physical and spiritual of all the students at Wheeling Jesuit.

One of the other memories I have of him was our first formal meeting with him. He called all the young ladies to a meeting to let us know the rules. One of the greatest things I remember of that night is his statement that if the only reason we had come to WJ was to get a man, he thought we might want to go to one of the less academically demanding colleges in the area.

God bless him for all his work and grant him eternal rest.

Mikell Lynne Schlotter Hedley 12/4/12

Mikell Lynne Schlotter Hedley - December 04, 2012 at 07:57 AM

FL

“ We love you Uncle Bill...enjoy your homecoming. You are missed by many...we will meet again. Love you with all our heart and soul, Frances, Darrell, Daniel and Thomas.

Frances Leon - November 30, 2012 at 08:36 PM

SV

“ I have just enjoyed reading the comments posted before mine - I had the joy of chatting with Father just a few months ago at the residence in Baltimore when some of us sisters who had transferred from Mount de Chantal to Georgetown Visitation went to visit our "old friends" from Wheeling Jesuit. Hearing of his death was quite a shock as he seemed just fine when we saw him. May he rest not only in peace but in glorious happiness!!

Sister Joanne (Gertrude in 1959...) Gonter, VHM

Sister Joanne Gonter, VHM - November 29, 2012 at 12:16 PM

FK

“ Charlie Hayes and I thought it would be a great idea to introduce alcohol on a then-dry W.C. Campus. At the time I was president of the 400 Club, which was essentially a way to combine a nice evening in the school snack bar with food and entertainment for a very reasonable price, in other words, a cheap date! We mixed up a large container of Sangria using a half-gallon of Gallo, Sprite, cut up oranges and crushed ice and took it up to Fr. McGroarty's office for his approval! To our surprise and dismay, he advised us that it was against school regulations to have alcohol on campus and that if we did not remove it immediately, we could be expelled. I wonder if he drank it!

One night, Fr. Bill got wind of a planned pantie raid on Sara Tracy. He called for an assembly of all of the residents of McHugh Hall and warned us that he would be stationed with his camera outside of Sara Tracy taking pictures. Anyone in the picture would be expelled.

In the early 70s while working, studying and living in D.C., my wife and I invited Fr. Bill to our home for dinner. He reciprocated by inviting us to a very memorable, elegant dinner at the Jesuit's Residence at Georgetown University in an exquisite setting!

He will be missed! Frank Kelleher '68

Francis J. Kelleher - November 28, 2012 at 08:04 PM

EK

“ My sincere condolences to the McGroarty family and to the Wheeling Jesuit family.

My two favorites stories about Father McGroarty (I never once dared call him Bill, not even behind his back) and his code of fairness were personal. As a sophomore in the Class of '66, I tossed a pack of cigarettes about 14 inches to a friend at an adjoining table in the new dining hall. Father McGroarty saw the offense and summoned me. My punishment, he said, would be to spend the rest of the semester eating my meals in the snack bar. I was astounded. "Isn't that a little harsh," I countered, "for such a small infraction?" "Let's put it this way," Father McGroarty responded. "Are there any other infractions of any type that you've committed at Wheeling that you might not like your parents to hear about?" I quickly saw the fairness of his position and enjoyed the ambience of the snack bar until sentence was served.

Two years later, when we were seniors and oh, so much more mature, some cohorts and I stumbled upon an after-hours club on the other side of downtown Wheeling. Probably because of mistaken identity, we were admitted into this private club, and we frequented it occasionally after signing the log as new members. With weeks to go before graduation, Father McGroarty was notified by the chief of police that the club -- an establishment of ill repute, as it turned out -- was about to be raided, and it would be a shame if any of his students, especially coeds, happened to be present. Father consulted with history professor John Wack, who was a friend of ours, and suggested that Mr. Wack warn us to steer clear of the place, without telling us why. That, and the need to cram for exams, and probably sheer luck, enabled us to receive our diplomas instead of summonses to court and likely expulsion from school.

Yes, I remember Father McGroarty well, and the memories grow fonder as the years pass.

Ed Kelleher, Class of '66

Edward M. Kelleher - November 28, 2012 at 06:51 PM

JG

“ *Fr. was in charge of the Swint Hall dorm my Freshman year. He was firm, yet fair, when it came to dealing with our pranks. Perhaps the best of these was when we short-sheeted his bed. He never let on that he was the victim of this prank.*

May God rest his soul.

Joe Ganim '61

Joseph Ganim - November 28, 2012 at 03:15 PM

RS

“ *So Sad. Father was a wonderful man. After I graduated from WC I worked as his secretary for 2 years. I couldn't have had a nicer boss. He was always caring and considerate. The students were his number one priority. We've kept in touch several times a year ever since. He will be missed.*

Jeannie Santer Studzinski

Regina Santer Studzinski - November 28, 2012 at 03:13 PM

RO

“ My condolences to his family and his brothers at the Jesuit community.

My most vivid memory of him was as the "grey ghost." We called him that because he would drive around campus in his grey station wagon at night trying to catch us coming in late from Moxie's. As the dean of students he, of course, was seen as a disciplinarian. In reality, he took the time to get to know each of us and always had a good sense of humor. With his insight into each person, he knew the best way to address each situation.

I have thought of him often over the years. Know that he has been and will be missed. He was one of the best.

Rogers, WC '67

Rogers O'Neill - November 28, 2012 at 12:48 PM



“ Fr. McGoarty's relationship with the student body is one of my fondest memories of my time at Wheeling, his sense of humor and teasing attitude certainly created that special relationship that the students had with the Jesuit community on campus. May God bless him and accept him into his eternal home.

Thomas Ryan - November 28, 2012 at 12:01 PM

JJ

“ Our condolences to and prayers for the family of Fr. McGroarty. Anne and I attended Wheeling from 1965 through 1970, respectively.

I served as an RA at Wheeling, reporting to Father who was the Dean of Students during my time at Wheeling. I was also one of those responsible for working to reform an archaic set of rules governing dorm life for those over 21. Part of that reform was to remind the school administration of the high ideals stated in the college catalogue.

Fr. and I had a "deep conversation" on the matter as befitting the Dean of Students and an RA reporting to him who was in essence rebelling against the "old rules" as essentially un-enforceable. The reforms were accepted and a new policy was put in place to allow those over 21 the rights which were "constitutionally" granted to us.

Shortly after this event there was a discipline issue which arose over those rights -- something ironically I reported to him and had to -- it was a public incident. There was quite a bit of pain involved for the person involved for several reasons. Fr. asked me, in a bit of surprise, what I thought should be done, given the additional information. I asked for a day to consider this information.

I reported to him the next day and gave him my thoughts on the matter. I was surprised he accepted the proposed solution and the matter was put to rest.

I appreciated the tough job he had and began to see him in a much different light, the light of Jesuitical response to challenges where the best outcome was the one which created the most love and peace.

He was a great man as well as a great Jesuit!

In sadness and with gratitude for the honor of knowing him, we will

pray for him.

Peace and Blessings to the family!

warm regards,

Jim Maloney '69 and Anne Sullivan Maloney '70

James D. Maloney, Jr. - November 28, 2012 at 09:47 AM

DK

“ *I was privileged to know Fr. McGroarty during my 4 years at Wheeling College ('67). It was a universal opinion that he knew absolutely everything that happened on campus. Yet, he was not a stickler for rules -- if we were violating a rule to serve the college, he knew it, and accepted it. While he exuded authority, he was always approachable, and *always* friendly (with exceptions of major violations!). The world is poorer for his loss, and heaven is richer.*

David W. Knoble, Mary J. Knoble - November 28, 2012 at 08:32 AM

JP

“ *A man with a gentle heart, and great higher educational leader.*

Joseph A. Polka - November 28, 2012 at 08:32 AM

RJ

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of Fr. McGroarty. I am a 1967 grad of Wheeling College, and Fr. McGroarty was the Dean of Students at that time. He was a great role model for young people. He followed the rules, but he was always flexible and fair. I remember a time our sophomore year when several of us who lived at McHugh Hall went out for a late night snack and we came in about 30 minutes after our curfew (we really did have them at that time). He met us at the front door of the dorm. We told him where we were, and all he said was, "Be careful. You don't want that tough, old Dean of Students to see you". He had a sharp wit with a great sense of humor. I'm sure you'll miss him. Our prayers will be with you.

Bob Theobald
Class of '67

Robert J Theobald Jr - November 28, 2012 at 07:43 AM

LV

“ Back in the fall of 1966, when I was a freshman at Wheeling Jesuit, I received a cut over my eye during the annual freshman/sophomore flag football game. This was during the first week of school when, in those days, almost everybody gathered to watch the slugfest, including the Jesuits, especially Fr. McGroarty, who was checking out the "quality" of the new students. I was bleeding profusely but not seriously, but he took me over to the infirmary in Swint Hall and proceeded to alcohol and bandage me. You always remember your first act of kindness at a new place. Rough and unpolished as I was (and still am), Fr. McGroarty inducted me into Wheeling College with his gentle gesture and kind words -- I have never lost my affection for the Jesuits.

Thanks for everything, Fr. Bill. May you rest in laughter and peace.

Louis A. Volpe, Wheeling College, 1970

Louis A. Volpe - November 28, 2012 at 07:41 AM

BY

“ He came as our first Dean of Students, an older and well seasoned Dean after his previous career. His motto, he told us, was to believe nothing of what he heard and only one-half of what he saw. That seemed like a pretty fair philosophy to us. He became a most beloved Dean of Students and a caring and loyal friend. R.I.P. Barbara Creamer Yeager, Class of '59.

Barbara Creamer Yeager - November 27, 2012 at 09:15 PM



“ Fr.McGroarty was perhaps the greatest influence on my life. I was two doors down from his room in the dorm at WJU. He saved me from getting thrown out of school for starting a fire off campus. He interceded to get me on the basketball court 6 weeks after practice had already started. He influenced my writing habits & penmanship to a much needed higher level by showing me his 8th grade notes, which were amazing. His little talks with me influenced me immensely. I looked up to his service in WWII & how he fought through the battle of the bulge! He would invite me over to his room & we could talk for hours. He was a fount of knowledge. He was a terrific example to try to live up to. I have been so privileged to have known him. Rest in peace, Fr. for you served God to your fullest. All of us at WJU loved you & always will. Thank You!! Pat Elder

Patrick Elder - November 27, 2012 at 08:18 PM

DB

“ I feel blessed to have had Father McGroarty as our Dean of Students during my years at then Wheeling College. He had a heart of gold, a warm and friendly spirit, a quiet sense of humor. He genuinely cared for all of the students, keeping a watchful eye over us as a father over his young adult children. May he rest in peace. And may God's peace and comfort be with his family.

Dorothy Torrese Bardin - November 27, 2012 at 06:41 PM

ES

“ Thanks Fr. Mac for all you did for me and others. We needed your strong hand and keen sense of humor to guide us at Wheeling College. Ed Shahady MD Class of 1960

Edward Shahady - November 27, 2012 at 06:35 PM