

Mike Doser '90
*Director of Alumni &
External Relations*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Mike Doser (585) 256-6136

**McQuaid Jesuit mourns loss of
Alumni Chaplain Fr. Francis J. McNamara, S.J.**

[Read remembrances of Fr. Mac from the McQuaid Jesuit family](#)
[Fr. Mac in his own words](#)

ROCHESTER, N.Y., JAN. 7, 2008... Fr. Francis J. McNamara, S.J., McQuaid Jesuit's alumni chaplain, passed away on Monday morning, after a brief illness. He was 84.



Fr. McNamara, born on July 8, 1923, entered the Jesuit novitiate in Poughkeepsie in 1941 after graduating from Brooklyn Preparatory High School. Fr. McNamara spent the next 15 years following a course of studies that would help prepare him for his vocation. Ordained in 1954, Fr. McNamara first came to McQuaid Jesuit in 1956 to teach English, religion and Latin. He stayed until 1959, when he was transferred to Brooklyn Preparatory. For the next 26 years, Fr. McNamara served as a guidance counselor, first at Brooklyn Preparatory, then at St. Peter's Preparatory in Jersey City and Regis High School in Manhattan. In 1985, Fr. McNamara returned to

McQuaid Jesuit to become a guidance counselor for upper grade high school students.

In 1995, Fr. McNamara was appointed the alumni director for McQuaid Jesuit. In this capacity, Fr. McNamara planned alumni reunions, and worked with the alumni association. He also served as the moderator of the McQuaid Jesuit Circles, which are comprised of mothers of McQuaid Jesuit alumni, and moderator of the parents' association. In 2004, he was named alumni chaplain.

Since the 1980s, Fr. McNamara also assisted with parish Masses every weekend, most recently at St. Joseph's Parish in Rush. He was involved for many years working with married and engaged couples, and worked with the Engaged Encounter organization located in Rochester. Since October, he was the resident chaplain at the Legacy Senior Living Home at Clover and Blossom.

Bill Hobbs, McQuaid Jesuit's president, characterized Fr. McNamara as an unselfish man and one who could never say no. "Fr. McNamara wore many hats and whenever there was a need to be fulfilled, he would do it. He was committed to McQuaid Jesuit and to the people he served. As alumni director, he understood his role and the need to engage alumni whenever possible. He did it well and he did it admirably," said Hobbs.

Hobbs also noted that Fr. McNamara's true strength was his ministry as a priest and his administration of the sacraments. "He gave strength to so many because of his ability to teach and comfort through the administration of the sacraments. He never forgot that he was a priest first and foremost," said Hobbs.

Sr. Alice Cooney, former pastoral administrator at St. Joseph's Parish in Rush, where Fr. McNamara was last assigned, echoed the same sentiments: "He was faithful to his commitment as a priest. We loved him and admired him."

"Fr. McNamara was a true friend and father figure. He was a classic Jesuit; he was there for you and with you when you needed him," said Timothy J. Nally '67, former president of the McQuaid Jesuit Alumni Association. "If there was an issue you needed to discuss with him, he would offer different perspectives. He was never judgmental. Fr. McNamara was real," Nally added.

Reflecting upon his life's calling and the many experiences he enjoyed at his different posts throughout the years, Fr. McNamara once mused, "God's in charge. We join up and let the Lord call the shots."

Calling hours are Wednesday, 4 to 8 p.m., at McQuaid Jesuit, and Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, corner of Rhinecliff and Imperial Drives. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Donations in Fr. McNamara's memory may be made payable and mailed to McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.

McQuaid Jesuit is a private, Catholic college preparatory school for young men in grades 7-12. It is named for the first Catholic Bishop of Rochester, the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid. The school's mission is to foster the development of the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and aesthetic talents of young men through personal concern for each student, competitive educational programs, a distinctive Jesuit spirit, and a formative sense of community. McQuaid Jesuit offers financial aid to students in grades 7-12 who qualify academically, but don't have the financial resources to attend.