



THE VIEW FROM THE BLUFF

DECEMBER 2018

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



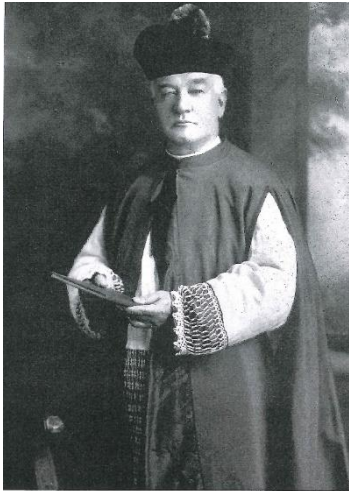
Monsignor John T. McElroy
Ecclesiastical Superior

1917-1928



John T. McElroy was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on January 16, 1867. He attended the parochial schools in Baltimore and Loyola College graduating with an A.B. degree. He then pursued theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and was ordained a priest by Cardinal James Gibbons on June 20, 1896. Shortly after his ordination Father McElroy came to the Diocese of Charleston and was appointed first assistant to Father J.D. Budds in Greenville. After three years he was transferred to Charleston as Assistant Rector of St. Patrick's Parish.

On September 16, 1901 Bishop Northrop appointed him Pastor of St. Peter's Church, Charleston, which served Black Catholics of the City. In response to Father McElroy's request for Sisters to staff St. Peter's School, Mother Loretto Quinlan assigned Sister Stanislaus Hanley and Sister Petronilla Cannon to St. Peter's on February 2, 1902. With money he obtained from Mother Catherine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Negroes, Father McElroy converted the former school building, 51 Society Street, into a convent for the Sisters. The school was transferred to old St. Paul's Church also on Society Street, between Meeting and Anson Streets. The convent, named Saint Catherine's in honor of Mother Drexel, opened



RIGHT REVEREND JOHN T. McELROY, V. G.

on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, September 24, 1902. Father McElroy and the OLMs remained at St. Peter's until 1917.

Bishop William T. Russell, who became the Bishop of Charleston in 1917, appointed McElroy to succeed Father Joseph Budds, as Pastor of the Cathedral

of Saint John the Baptist, Charleston. Prior to his death, Father Budds had recommended Father McElroy to succeed him. The Bishop also appointed Father McElroy Ecclesiastical Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and brought the Oblate Sisters of Providence from Baltimore to replace the OLMs at St. Peter's and Immaculate Conception Schools. Two years later, 1919, Father McElroy became the Pastor of Saint Patrick's Church, Charleston. He also was the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools and Vicar General of the Diocese. In 1923 he was named Monsignor.

Due to failing health Monsignor McElroy resigned as OLM Ecclesiastical Superior in May 1928. He died on August 1, 1929 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Baltimore, where he had gone for surgical treatment. On August 6, 1929, after a Pontifical High Mass at which Bishop Walsh was the celebrant, Monsignor McElroy was buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery, Baltimore. A solemn high Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Charleston, at the same time the Mass was being celebrated in St. Paul's Church, Baltimore. Monsignor McElroy was the last Diocesan priest to serve as the Ecclesiastical Superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Bishop Emmet Walsh, who succeeded Bishop W.T. Russell as Bishop of Charleston in 1927, filled that position until 1949. The revised Constitutions adopted by the Community on June 16, 1949, eliminated the office of Ecclesiastical Superior.

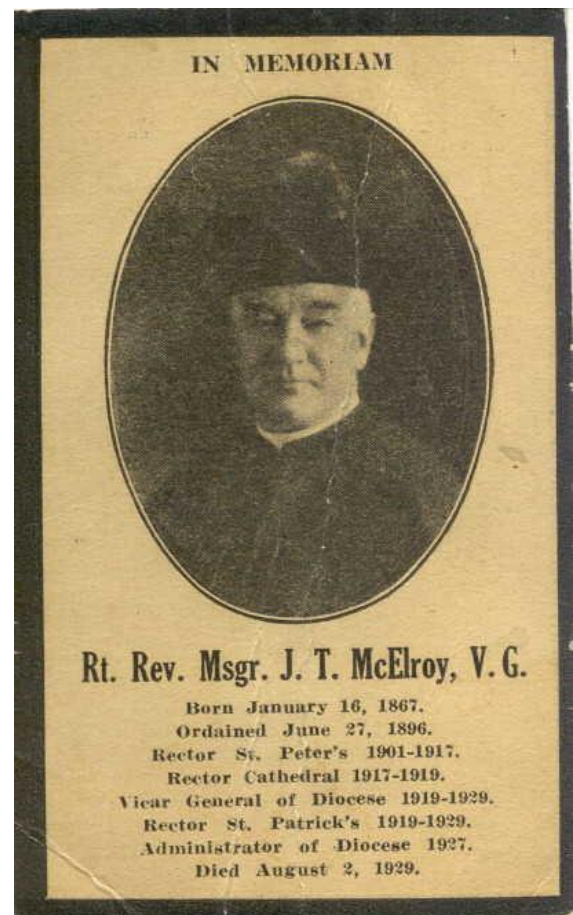
**MSGR. J. T. McELROY,
CHARLESTON DIOCESE
VICAR GENERAL, DIES**

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Baltimore, Aug. 6.—Funeral services for the Rt. Rev. John T. McElroy, Vicar General of the Diocese of Charleston, S. C., were held here today. Msgr. McElroy died Friday, following an operation performed at St. Joseph's hospital.

The Rt. Rev. Emmet M. Walsh, Bishop of Charleston, celebrated the requiem Mass in St. Paul's church. He was assisted by the Rev. James A. McElroy, brother of Msgr. McElroy, and the Very Rev. James J. May, rector of the Cathedral of Charleston.

At the time of his death Msgr. McElroy was pastor of St. Patrick's church, Charleston. He was born in Baltimore, where his mother, Mrs. Annie C. McElroy still resides. Msgr. McElroy was 61 years old.



ANSONBOROUGH

63-65 SOCIETY STREET,
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
(GERMAN CHURCH)

*Constructed circa 1840; renovated as a
Catholic Church 1861; altered late-1940s*

First constructed as a rectangular building to house a lecture room for the Second Presbyterian Church (replacing an earlier lecture room destroyed in the fire), the current edifice was subsequently acquired by the Philharmonic Society and then by the Diocese of Charleston, serving the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy as the locus for a free school. With the desire for a new parish to serve German Catholics in the area, Bishop Lynch appointed the Reverend William Beerschneider as priest. After the raising of funds, the architect Louis Barbot was chosen to convert the lecture room into a church, and his additions of Romanesque style details and steeple were complete by 1861. After the war, dissension over the use of the German language and the shrinking of the congregation resulted in closure of St. Paul's in 1869. In the 1880s some of the congregation moved to a new church on Wentworth Street (now the site of St. Katherine's convent, a modern building at 36 Wentworth Street) and the old St. Paul's was again used as St. Mary's School. Acquired by the Palmetto Post of the American Legion in 1947, the building was altered extensively on the ground floor, the windows of the sanctuary were filled in, and the openings of the remaining portion of the steeple were blocked.



St. Peter's School in
the old St. Paul's
Church building.



December 1 – World AIDS Day has become one of the most recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and preventive services.

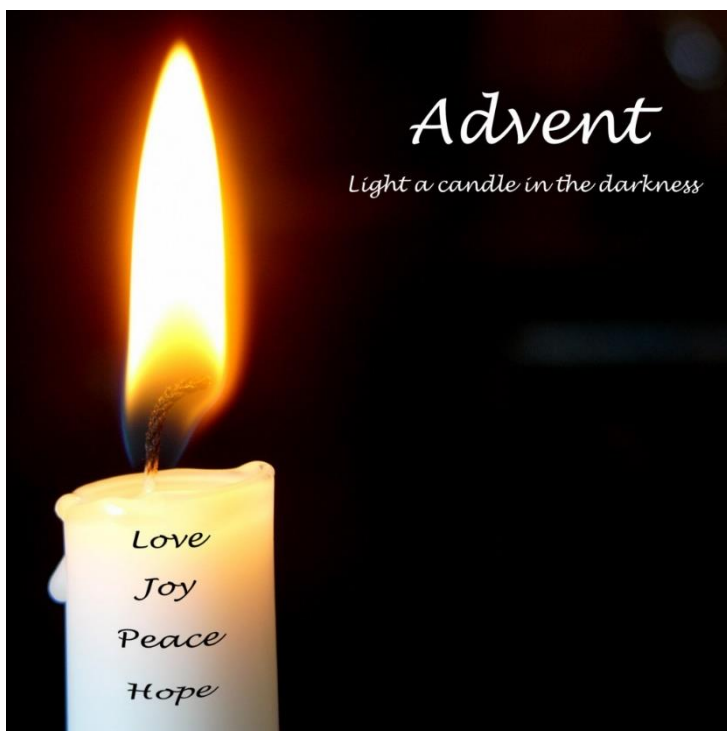
December 10 – International Human Rights Day

commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be widespread in all parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred

prey on people's fears. It is time to reaffirm the dignity and rights outlined in the declaration.

December 18 – International Day of the Migrant; marks the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families. There are more than 244 million migrants in the world today. One of every six migrants is under the age of 20. Children also comprise more than half of the world's refugees.

Blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas to all.




 FOR
 unto us a
 Child^{is}_{born,}
 unto us a Son
 is given; and the government
 will be upon His shoulder. And
 His name will be called
 Wonderful
 MIGHTY COUNSELOR,
 LIGHT I GIVE
 Everlasting Father
 PRINCE OF PEACE
 PRINCE OF PEACE
 ISAIAH
 9:6