

The Joyous Life of Fr. Clark McAulay Celebrated (1924-2016)

redemptorists.ca/news/the-joyous-life-of-fr-clark-mcaulay-celebrated-1924-2016

By MC Havey, Archivist (all photos courtesy of the Archives)

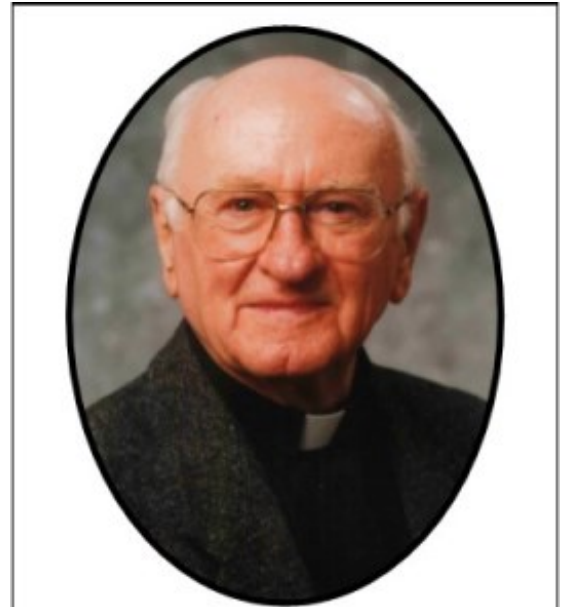
The joy, which Fr. Clark McAulay spread throughout his life, was captured at the Mass of Resurrection in St. Patrick's church, Toronto, on November 24.

Masterfully intermingling humorous anecdotes in his homily, Fr. William Fitzgerald recounted the Redemptorist life of Fr. McAulay, who died on November 20 at Providence Healthcare, Toronto. Fr. Fitzgerald capsulized Fr. McAulay's priestly life into the three ministries of friendship, preaching God's good news and music and song.

Within the Redemptorist community, Fr. McAulay brought pleasantness, graciousness, an absence of complaints, numerous anecdotes, often self-deprecating and a civility with cheery greetings during the day, Fr. Fitzgerald added. A total of 10 confreres concelebrated the Mass with Vicar Provincial Fr. Santo Arrigo as the main celebrant.

At the funeral reception, parishioners and close friends from three parishes, where he served – St. Patrick's, Quebec City (pastor 1966-1981 and 1988-1999); St. Teresa's, St. John's (1981-1984) and Holy Redeemer, Sudbury, ON (pastor 1984-1988) – paid similar tributes, recalling his pastoral presence during his appointments and afterwards in happy and sad times.

Perhaps Fr. McAulay's roots in Prince Edward Island accounted for his sunny personality. Born on August 10, 1924 in Charlottetown, Fr. McAulay, one of 10 children, grew up in St. Dunstan's Basilica parish, where he received the first sacraments, sang in the boys' choir, served at the altar and celebrated his First Solemn Mass. His body returned to St. Dunstan's on November 28 for the Mass of Christian Burial, celebrated by Fr. Charles Chevrier, a long time friend, and with Brother Frank Dunphy wearing his Redemptorist habit as the First Reader. Celtic music, a lone fiddler and the Basilica choir filled the 109-year-old church with music loved by Fr. McAulay. Burial followed at the Redemptorist plot in the city's Catholic cemetery.



Fr. Louis Clark McAulay, C.Ss.R.

Born: August 10, 1924

Professed: August 2, 1949

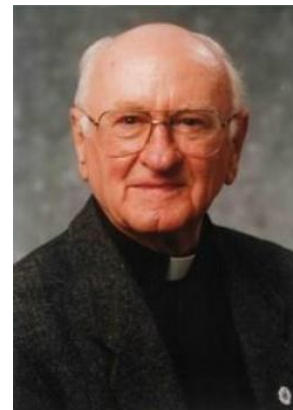
Ordained: June 29, 1952

Died: November 20, 2016

Rev. L. Clark McAulay C.Ss.R.

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The death occurred on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 at the House of Providence in Toronto, Ont., of Rev. L. Clark McAulay, C.Ss.R., age 92. The last surviving member of the late Louis and Carrie (Clark) McAulay family. He was predeceased by sisters Alma Sheehan, Florence McAulay, Jessie Dunsford, Carol Ann Wakelin and brothers Loman, Elliott, Milford and Frank McAulay. Survived by sisters-in-law Betty McAulay and Marie McAulay. Uncle Clark is fondly remembered by numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-grandnieces and nephews.



Fr. Clark grew up and was educated in Charlottetown, attending Queens Square Primary School and St. Dunstan's High School. After graduating from St. Dunstan's University, Fr. Clark attended St. Mary's College (1947-1948) and entered the Redemptorist Novitiate (1948-1949) at St. Alphonsus Seminary in Woodstock, Ont. He made his First Profession of Vows on Aug. 2, 1949. Fr. Clark was ordained on June 29, 1952 and celebrated his first Solemn Mass at St. Dunstan's Basilica in Charlottetown. During his studies in Rome (1953-1956) Fr. Clark dined with Cardinal Roncalli, the future St. Pope John XXIII in Venice. Fr. Clark earned a J.C.L. (Doctorate) in Canon Law at Lateran University in Rome. Back in Canada, Fr. Clark was Professor of Canon Law at St. Alphonsus Seminary, Woodstock, Ont. (1956-1957) and Holy Redeemer College, Windsor, Ont. (1957-1966). Since 1966, he served at the following Redemptorist Parishes: St. Patrick's, Quebec City (Pastor 1966-1981 and 1988-1999); St. Teresa's, St. John's, Nfld (1981-1984); St. Peter's, Saint John, NB (1999-2006); and St. Patrick's, Toronto, Ont. - The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help - from 2006-2015. Fr. Clark moved to Providence Center, Toronto, Ont., in May 2015. Fr. Clark was immortalized in St. Patrick's Parish, Quebec City, with a bronze bust, sculpted by Anglican Archdeacon Peter Joyce. A gifted tenor, Fr. Clark recorded a CD of Irish and Scottish songs at the age of 80, to raise funds for a church building and renovation project for Chapel Grove, NB. Fr. Clark had a wonderful sense of humor and loved a good laugh. He was able to connect with people from all walks of life and was a gifted story teller. Father Clark greatly valued family and traditions and took great pride when he would discover new family roots. We are privileged and very grateful to have loved and been loved and to have shared life with this wonderful, dignified gentleman.



Educated at Queen's Square primary school, he attended St. Dunstan's High School and St. Dunstan's University, graduating in 1947 with a bachelor of arts. While considering a vocation during university, he began attending Mother of Perpetual Help devotions at the Redemptorist parish of Holy Redeemer. Upon deciding to study for the Redemptorist priesthood, he attended St. Mary's College, the Redemptorist juvenate in Brockville, ON (1947-1948) and entered the Redemptorist novitiate (1948-1949) at St. Alphonsus seminary in Woodstock, ON, where he professed first vows on August 2, 1949 and was ordained on June 29, 1952.

During studies in Rome (1953-1956), he dined with Cardinal Roncalli, the future Pope John XXIII, in Venice and earned a J.C.L. (doctorate) in canon law at Lateran University. Back in Canada as professor of canon law at the Woodstock seminary (1956-1957) and Holy Redeemer College, Windsor, ON (1957-1966), Fr. McAulay was well-prepared, punctual but strict, noted Fr. Fitzgerald, one of his students.



Fr Clark McAulay with children on Easter Sunday in Sudbury in 1988

When the seminary closed, Fr. McAulay began four decades of parish appointments. “In each parish, he lived among the people as a missionary disciple,” Fr. Fitzgerald observed, “He loved each one.” Known for preaching, McAulay delivered short, clear homilies. Marieileen McCabe of Toronto appreciated “his simple but powerful three-sentence homilies that we could never forget. I tried to persuade him to write them down and I would type them up for publication, but he always felt he was not worthy.” Fr. Fitzgerald recalled another parishioner’s description of Fr. McAulay ending the homily poignantly and dramatically with the closing of the book and a slow walk back to his chair on the sanctuary.

At St. Patrick's, Québec City in 1999, he was immortalized with a bronze bust (pictured at left), sculpted by his friend Anglican Archdeacon Peter Joyce and sits at the back of the church. Upon seeing the sketches of the bust, Fr. McAulay asked if more hair could be placed on the bald head.

Moving to St. Peter's parish, Saint John (1999-2006), he provided pastoral care at St. Bridget's church, the parish's cherished church in Chapel Grove. During this time, his ministry of music and song blossomed. A gifted tenor, he joined the music scene, singing solo and in choirs at city concerts, often in sold-out performances. To raise funds for a church building and renovation project at Chapel Grove, the 80-year-old Fr. McAulay recorded Irish, Scottish and English folk songs on a CD, entitled *Songs of My Spirit*.



Fr Carl Schmidt and Fr Clark McAulay

After the Redemptorists' departure from the Saint John parish, Fr. McAulay lived at St. Patrick's, Toronto (2006-2015). In declining health, he moved to Providence Healthcare, Toronto in May 2015 and received a summer visit from Superior General Michael Brehl, a confrere from a joint appointment to St. John's in the early 1980s.