

Spring 2010

## Home and Away: Farewell Father Troy 1917-2010

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc>

---

### Recommended Citation

(2010). Home and Away: Farewell Father Troy 1917-2010. *Spiritan Magazine*, 34 (1). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc/vol34/iss1/13>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Spiritan Collection at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan Magazine by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

# Farewell Father Troy 1917-2010

**F**ather Michael Troy died during the night. Early enough for Edmonton's morning TV channels and daily papers to feature his passing. The death of this Spiritan was a significant event in the life of his adopted city. He had lived, worked, played, taught and ministered there for forty-five years.

Prior to that he had been the founding Principal of Neil McNeil High School in Toronto and Director of the House of Philosophy at the Spiritan seminary in Dublin. In Edmonton he was chaplain, teacher and coach at St Joseph's High School and the Father Michael Troy Junior High School was named after him.

Wherever he went, he left large footprints behind him. Physically strong, intellectually talented, athletically gifted, this warm-hearted, outgoing priest touched the hearts and minds of teenagers, their parents and grandparents, countless families and thousands of people.

He belonged to the Métis and First Nations communities, the members of the Holy Childhood and the Propagation of the Faith, the Knights of Columbus, the Legion of Mary, and the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves

No wonder St Joseph's Basilica was crowded for the Evening Prayers and overcrowded for the Funeral Mass the following morning. No wonder the *Edmonton Journal* wrote: "The final send-off for Father Michael Troy was not a thing to

miss." No wonder Edmonton Archbishop Richard Smyth said, "The fact that we have gathered here today in such great numbers, in so many different locales is a powerful testament to the blessings God has poured out on his people through the love of Father Michael Troy."

*Spiritan* has a special reason to be grateful to Father Troy. He was its founding editor and remained in that role from 1983-1994. When its current editors (two were needed to replace its founder) took over, they wrote: "No one person could carry aloft the torch that Michael Troy passes on. The more the team learned about how various issues of *Spiritan Missionary News* were written and published, the more in debt they became to the man who year by year, issue after issue, told the Spiritan story ... Our best expression of gratitude will be to ensure that the high quality of Michael Troy's magazine will not be diminished."

To pray for his eternal "rest" seems somewhat out of character. Instead let us pray that his great, expansive, encouraging, all-encompassing spirit may be in the fullness of eternal life.

*An extended tribute to the person, life and accomplishments of Father Troy will be published in the Summer edition of Spiritan.*



Fr. Troy's sister, Mary (centre), along with nieces and nephews bid their final farewells.

He was a unique pillar of strength, who towered above us all ... physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and educationally. We shall not see his like again!

**Paul-Raymond Wharton, Newmarket, Ontario**

As a child I lived for the summer when he would be home and what wonderful adventures he was going to take us on. From mountain climbing to bus tours, I and all the family have such wonderful memories that are so clear it was like yesterday.

**Eilish Coppola, New York**

He was what I wish so many priests in the Catholic church could be, full of laughter, full of genuine smiles and truly concerned about personal well being. He was the real deal.

**Karen Kutyn, Edmonton**

I cherish my memories of Father Troy ... the Priest, the Mentor, the Teacher, the Sportsman, the Friend, the Story Teller, the Humanitarian. I am truly blessed, I am a better person for having known Father Troy.

**Joan Fedorow (Duff)**

Father was a part of our family for well over 40 years. He shared both the happy and the sad times in our lives. He celebrated with us, counselled us, consoled us, laughed with us and loved us. He was never critical or judgemental and he was always there when we needed him. His life and faith were an inspiration to us all.

**Marilyn Maguire (MacDonald), Calgary**

We former Neil McNeil boys hold Fr. Troy in special esteem. He forever stamped the school with his unique personality, shaping its direction and instilling a lust for life and learning in all of his young charges. We are all better men for having known him.

**Jonathan O'Mara**

Good-bye to a wonderful teacher — who even made religion class interesting.

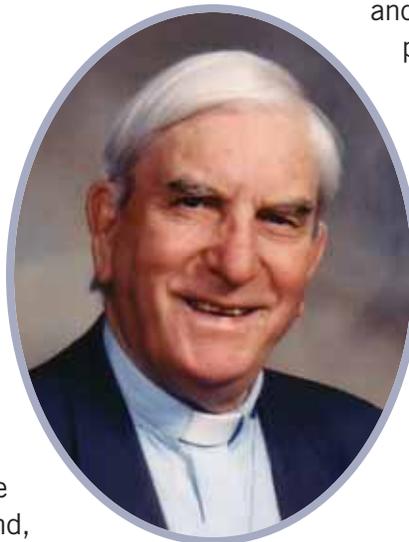
**Iona McGill-Wolstenholme**

Even though there were hundreds of students at St. Joseph's High School you took the time to make each and every one of us feel special. I have never met anyone like you and probably never will. You profoundly changed my life, and I will never forget you!

**Charlene, Edmonton**

We always considered him "our" Father Troy and were so amazed at the number of people who felt the same way.

**Penny LaForge, Edmonton**



Fr. Michael Troy and Bishop Shanahan of Nigeria are the two 'giants' of the Irish Spiritan group. Both were big open-hearted men with a genuine love of people. Both have left behind a legacy that will last for years.

**Gerald FitzGerald CSSp**

His impact on the "regular and ordinary" was profoundly "extraordinary" ... and I am eternally grateful for how special he made each of us "Saints" feel.

**Chrissy Pompei Class of '86, Edmonton**

Somehow we can't see you sitting still in heaven.

**Ian Zaharko, Edmonton, Alberta**

I always loved going to Mass knowing I would see Father Troy. His Sermons were never boring and we always knew that he was going to mention some kind of sport. Father Troy always made us laugh. I will miss his hugs and the hit on the shoulder he would give me. Father Troy would end his Mass saying "The Best is never over, the best is yet to come."

**Kerri Helberg, Edmonton**