

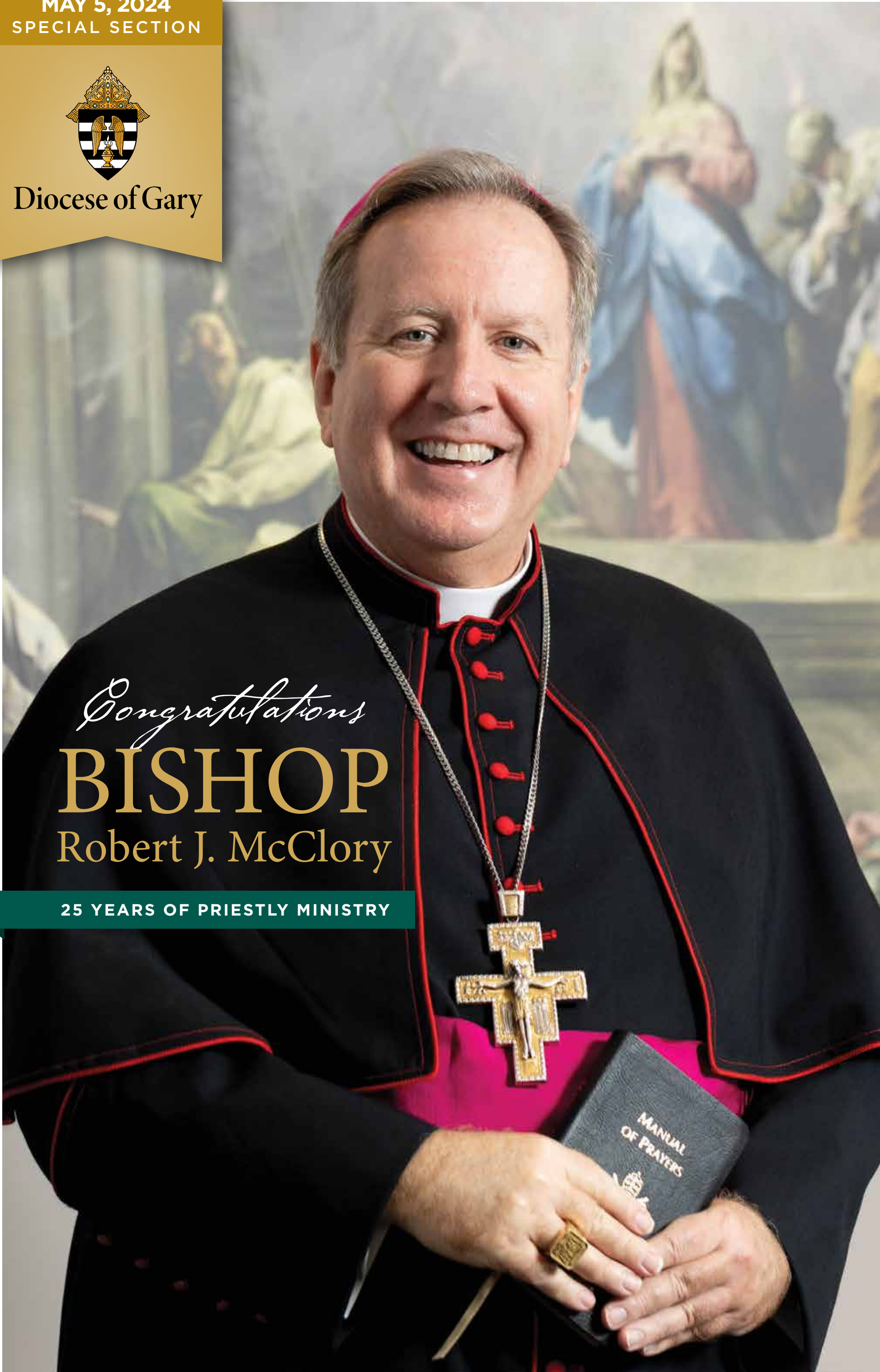
MAY 5, 2024
SPECIAL SECTION



Diocese of Gary

Congratulations
BISHOP
Robert J. McClory

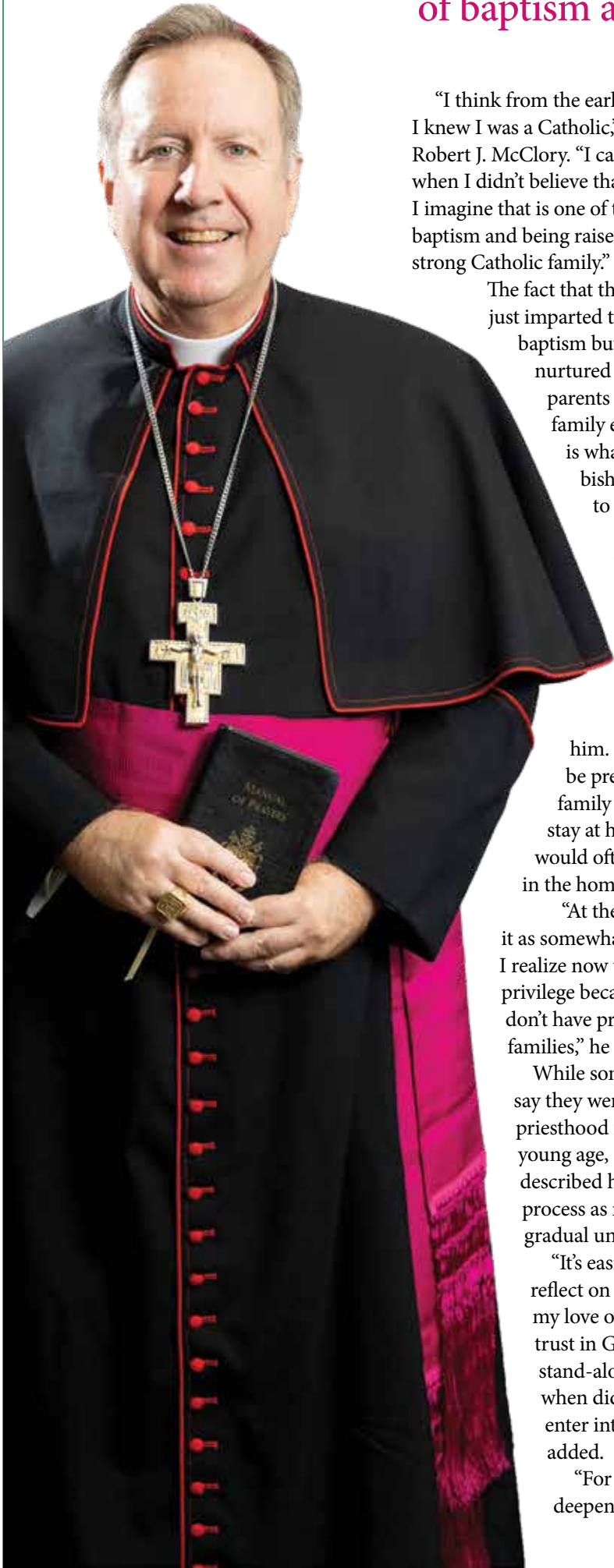
25 YEARS OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY



Joy of Ministry Work Grew into Deeper Love for Jesus

BY ERIN CISZCZON, Northwest Indiana Catholic

“I think from the earliest moments I knew I was a Catholic,” said Bishop Robert J. McClory. “I can’t recall a time when I didn’t believe that to be true. I imagine that is one of the graces of baptism and being raised in a very strong Catholic family.”



“I think from the earliest moments I knew I was a Catholic,” said Bishop Robert J. McClory. “I can’t recall a time when I didn’t believe that to be true. I imagine that is one of the graces of baptism and being raised in a very strong Catholic family.”

The fact that the faith was not just imparted to him through baptism but reinforced and nurtured through loving parents and a loving family environment is what started the bishop on the path to priesthood.

Having two uncles who were priests in the family always made the priesthood very accessible to him. They would be present at major family gatherings and stay at his house so they would often have Masses in the home.

“At the time I took it as somewhat normal, but I realize now that is a rare privilege because most people don’t have priests in their families,” he said.

While some priests might say they were called to the priesthood from a very young age, Bishop McClory described his discernment process as more of a gradual unfolding.

“It’s easier for me to reflect on how I grew in my love of Jesus and my trust in God than the stand-alone question of when did priesthood enter into that,” he added.

“For me, it was a deepening of my trust

in God, my acknowledging Jesus as my brother and Savior, and a deeper sense of the Holy Spirit in my life that intensified in a way that made me open to a calling,” he said.

Bishop McClory acknowledges perhaps the Lord was calling him in his young adult years. After he had been admitted to Columbia University and before he secured housing, he met a priest during a Catholic youth conference who noted there was room in their rectory. He accepted the offer to stay there and was grateful for their openness to host him.

“At that time, I thought maybe God was giving me a big hint . . . that of all the places I could be living in New York City, here I am living in the rectory of a Catholic church in Spanish Harlem,” he said. “So, I did open myself up to the possibility that the Lord might be calling me to the priesthood.”

McClory completed his master’s in public policy and administration and, still not feeling a particularly strong call to the priesthood, moved back home from New York to study law at the University of Michigan. During his second year, his thoughts about the priesthood grew.

“My prayer was ‘Lord if this is your will for me, make it the desire of my heart,’” he shared. “That was a good prayer that opened new pathways for me.”

During this time, McClory was involved with various parish ministries including young adult groups, youth groups and retreats. He began to notice

that the work that he was involved with during his spare time was fulfilling. As those feelings intensified, he wondered “What if my whole life was centered on doing this — being configured to God but also living out that vocational call?”

“I began to think about what that would be like if I was to give everything to the Lord in the priesthood,” he said. “And I began to see that it would be a life well lived, not without hardship or sacrifices, but that would be a life well lived.”

Bishop McClory was 30 years old when he entered the seminary. Although he experienced questions and uncertainty before it, once he made the decision he experienced a sense of great joy and satisfaction.

“I felt like it was the right place for me to be,” he said. “Even surprising to me, given the intensity of the discernment process, once I finally did it, I felt like I was skiing downhill. It was right where the Lord wanted me to be.”

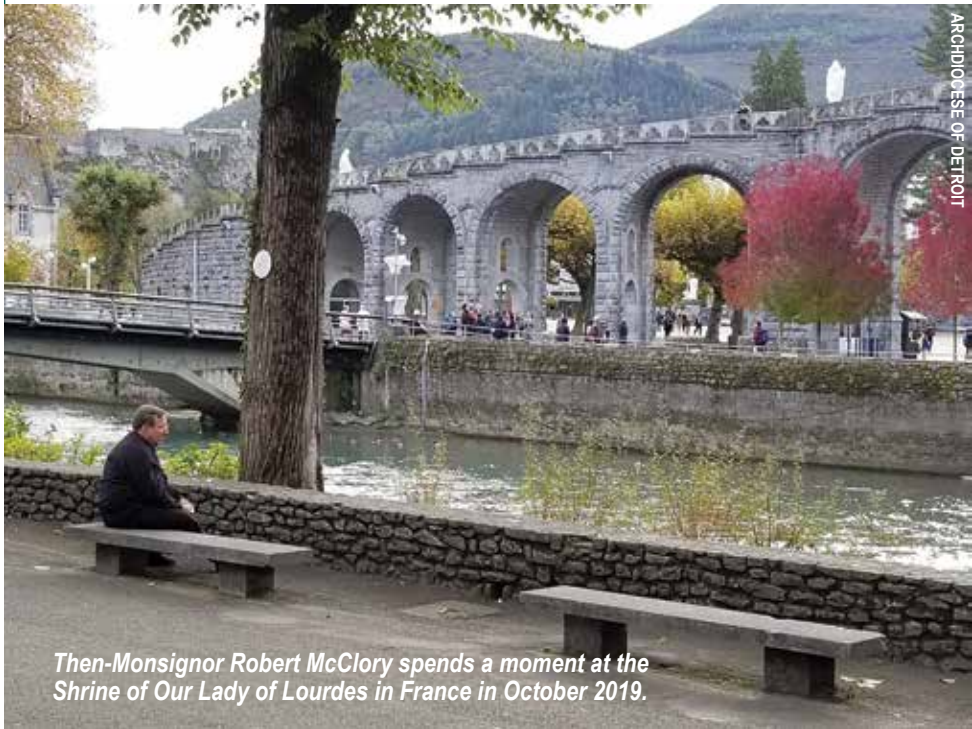
Bishop McClory feels blessed that he entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit with a class that has continued to maintain strong relationships. During the past 25 years, those with ties to the seminary from that year remain committed to gathering for dinner every month.

“I wound up having another lawyer in my class when I entered the seminary in Detroit, and when I went to Rome there were three of us in my class. So, what struck me as somewhat unusual became a source of some solidarity as we had a

Seminarian Robert “Bob” McClory is pictured in 1995 among his classmates in the School of Liberal Arts at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT



Then-Monsignor Robert McClory spends a moment at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France in October 2019.

similar background.”

Bishop McClory also continues to see classmates he studied with at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Over the past 25 years, they have kept the tradition of annual reunions.

“I feel very blessed that I’ve had good brothers in the ministry. In scripture, we read that iron sharpens iron. I think that means that we really kind of shape and form each other. When you invest in those relationships of fraternity and solidarity over time, it’s a great source of support.”

He continued, “I think the fraternity that I had in my seminary in Detroit and my seminary in Rome was very encouraging and is still a big part of my priestly identity.”

During his studies in Rome, Bishop McClory was granted the privilege of giving tours of St. Peter’s Basilica, and not just only of the main level. He was trained and granted permission to serve as a guide to the excavations underneath called the “Scavi.”

“That was part of my seminary experience and part of my ministry, because you weren’t just pointing out facts and figures and dates of things, but you could use all of that to weave a historically accurate narrative of what went into the excavations,” he said. “The

of them in tears and overwhelmed and saying it was life-changing was beautiful. I really enjoyed having that ministerial apostolate.”

After being ordained in May 1999, Father McClory spent summer of parish ministry in Detroit, and then returned for a year as a student priest in Rome. When he arrived back in Detroit full-time, he said it was a joy to “be dedicated to ministry and being immersed in the life of the parish.”

“You go through a formation process on the way to the priesthood. Then, once you’re ordained, you are formed in a new and different way,” he said. “You discover that people’s lives present themselves in need and so you’re responding to where they are. Their needs might be different than you expected.”

In a way, priests are formed by their parish, he said, admitting that his own formation continues to this day.

“Coming to the Diocese of Gary has brought forth in me a need to respond to the needs of our community here and to respond to what the faithful have expressed are their desires as well as what I think the Lord has given to me to

“You give up a lot but what you get back is so much more ... ”

— BISHOP MCCLORY

point of that grand basilica was that Peter was real. He gave his life in defense of the truth that he had seen the Risen Christ. It’s not about a building, but it’s about Jesus and it’s about Peter.”

“That was a great way to have my seminary experience be blended into sharing the faith with others,” he said. “To be able to give those tours and at the end lead them in prayer, and some

do,” he said.

Bishop McClory’s experience comes from a blended ministry, having taught in the seminary and having multiple responsibilities within diocesan leadership as chief of staff in Detroit. Those roles were coupled with other forms of pastoral outlets.

In one instance, Bishop McClory served as pastor of a small African

American parish, Presentation/Our Lady of Victory, which required of him “an openness to a culture other than the one I was raised in, a sensitivity to the Black experience in the Church, and the warmth and joy of a culture that is very family-centric and very deeply connected to faith.”

“I tried to learn from that community how to serve,” he said. “Within that small parish, there was a heightened expectation for longer preaching because the Word was very central, and I came to appreciate even more the importance of family. The more I could give examples from my own family situation, the more that seemed to connect.”

Reflecting on how he approached the role of pastor, he said, “I try to bring people together. I try not to be a lone ranger in the parish or the diocese. I try to respect the insights of others and to empower them as they want to share their gifts.”

He added he often calls to mind the word that Pope Francis uses which is “accompaniment,” that describes how Catholics are to walk with each other in life situations, learning about the gifts and questions of one another.

“I think I’ve tried to lead but do so with a sensitivity to involving others around me,” said Bishop McClory. “We have outstanding laity in the Church in the United States who have talents and skills in their faith formation, and I’ve been blessed to be surrounded by some really good lay coworkers over the years.”


Bishop McClory truly loves being a priest and encourages those considering a priestly vocation to “take it to prayer,” and talk with a trusted priest.

“You give up a lot but what you get back is so much more,” he said. “It’s not a boring life, but a life of great fulfillment.”



Congratulations
Bishop
McClory
on 25 years of priestly ministry!

Thank you for shepherding your flock with love
and wisdom. Your leadership is a blessing!



Diocese of Gary

COAT OF ARMS

of His Excellency The Most Reverend
Robert J. McClory Bishop of Gary



“...I’m delighted that the Eucharistic presence of Jesus is dominant in the coat of arms, that the chalice and the host point us to one of the central goals of a bishop, but also one of the central teachings of our Church – that we are actually receiving the real presence of Jesus...”

— BISHOP MCCLORY

While the Catholic Church speaks and is heard in many languages, the language the Church speaks the best is that of signs and symbols.

The military language of heraldry was eventually adopted by the Church as a way of non-verbally communicating the identity of the local bishop and the place where he serves. It thus came into practice that a bishop and a diocese would have its own coat of arms.

In the medieval manner of indicating marriages between households, a bishop’s personal coat of arms would be joined – or “wedded” to that of the diocese he serves. It is a sign of the close, loving relationship the bishop and the people of his diocese need to show toward one another.

The coat of arms of the Diocese of Gary was created in 1956 at the direction of the Most Rev. Andrew Grutka, its first bishop. Honoring the steel industry, there are seven alternating black and silver (white) bars or ingots to indicate the seven sacraments through which the Church offers grace.

Upon this background are **two gold angel wings** to honor the titular patrons of the Cathedral – the Holy Angels. Dating back to 1906, Holy Angels parish was the first Catholic church founded in the City of Gary. Fifty years later, Pope Pius XII named Holy Angels as the cathedral when he established the Gary diocese. In what may be an homage to its mother diocese, the Seraphic Angel wings, which appear in the Diocese of Fort Wayne coat of arms, were carried over in a simplified form.

Beneath the angel wings is a thurible emitting **three tongues of incense** indicative of prayer to the three persons of the Blessed Trinity. From Old Testament times until now, incense symbolizes something pleasing and acceptable offered to God. In the vision John has of the final heavenly liturgy, the elders hold harps and gold bowls of incense.

Bishop Robert J. McClory’s coat of arms is centered by a **white host and gold chalice**, signifying the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the centrality of the Holy Eucharist in the life of the Catholic Church and the life of a bishop. “It’s about Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the gift of my parents and the faith that has been passed on to me by them and patron saints that have

been a part of my faith journey over the years,” said Bishop McClory as he prepared for his ordination.

“So I’m delighted that the Eucharistic presence of Jesus is dominant in the coat of arms, that the chalice and the host point us to one of the central goals of a bishop, but also one of the central teachings of our Church – that we are actually receiving the real presence of Jesus. The Eucharistic image is very important to me, and the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith.” It is also a reference to Bishop McClory’s priestly ordination in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit, Mich.

To the left of the chalice is a **brown pine cone**, acknowledging the Bishop’s baptismal patron, St. Robert Bellarmine (1542 -1621), an Italian, Jesuit Cardinal and one of the most important figures of the counter-reformation. It is native to Montepulciano, the Italian birthplace of Bellarmine, and is found on the Bellarmine Family’s coat of arms.

To the right of the chalice is a **red rose**. Roses are often used to reference St. Therese. Born in Lisieux, France in 1873, Therese was a Discalced Carmelite nun popularly known as the “Little Flower of Jesus.”

St. Therese is the patronal saint of the McClory family. Bishop McClory

celebrated his first Mass as a priest and eventually became the pastor and rector of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Mich., from where he was called to the episcopacy.

Girdling the base of the chalice is the **white triple-knotted cincture** used as an emblem of the Third Order of St. Francis. The knots stand for the cardinal virtues of faith, hope and love as well as for the Holy Trinity. “The cords represent my parents (James and Ann), who met through the Third Order of St. Francis (at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit), and it also has a reference to the Trinity and some of the theological virtues. But I look at that really kind of visually (representing) my parents and my vocation coming from the gift they gave me,” Bishop McClory said. The cincture honors St. Francis of Assisi, but more significantly the bishop’s parents and the sacrament of matrimony.

The bottom of Bishop McClory’s coat of arms features a **key**, which in this case references the Order of Porter – the first of the former Minor Orders leading to priesthood. The basic duties of “porter” were to care for the opening and closing of the church building as well as to care for the temporalities of

the church. It is used here to recall the “Porter of St. Bonaventure Monastery” from Detroit, the recently beatified Father Solanus Casey. “It’s only been a couple years now that Blessed Solanus Casey was beatified, and so I don’t know that many coat of arms, if any, have had an explicit reference to Blessed Solanus Casey, and that’s found in the key, which fundamentally represents Blessed Solanus Casey, who was the porter of Saint Bonaventure,” noted Bishop McClory. “He’s just been a hero in my own faith journey and kind of shows me bringing Detroit a bit with me.”

Bishop McClory, while vicar general and moderator of the curia in the Archdiocese of Detroit, participated in the pre-canonization planning for the beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey.

All of the above symbols are displayed against a **blue background**, which pays homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Shortly before receiving the call to the episcopacy, the bishop had completed a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady in Lourdes, France. His ordination to the episcopacy took place on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11.

Covering the top of the shield is the **green galero**. It is also known as a “pilgrim’s hat” because of its wide brim protecting the traveler from the elements. In this context, the galero indicates a bishop’s willingness to journey to distant places for the faith – while at the same time expecting the protection of the shadow of God.

The galero has a **cord** attached to it. It is flanked by two sets of **six tassels, or “flocchi.”** Tradition dictates that a bishop’s galero and cord are depicted in green, with six tassels in three rows on either side.

Above and behind the shield, there appears a gold processional **Jerusalem cross** consisting of a large center cross with four smaller Greek crosses (a cross with four equal arms) in each quadrant. The **large cross** symbolizes Christ and the **smaller crosses** symbolize the four corners of the earth.

The Jerusalem Cross is used here as an emblem of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, of which Bishop McClory is a Knight. The Order assists those who work to maintain Christianity in modern day Jerusalem.

BIOGRAPHY

Most Reverend Robert J. McClory Bishop of Gary



Most Reverend Robert J. McClory was appointed by Pope Francis as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Gary on Nov. 26, 2019, and ordained and installed bishop at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary on Feb. 11, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Born in Detroit, he is the youngest of four children of James and Ann McClory (both deceased). He attended grade school at St. Francis DeSales in Detroit and St. Mary in Royal Oak and graduated from Dondero High School in Royal Oak.

Bishop McClory earned a bachelor's in political science and communications from Oakland University in 1985, a master's degree in public policy and administration from Columbia University in 1987, and a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1991.

After practicing civil law for three years, he entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. He continued as a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he obtained a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 1998 from the Pontifical Gregorian University and a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical University of St.

Thomas in Urbe (Angelicum) in 2000.

Bishop McClory was ordained a deacon by Cardinal Edmund Szoka in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, on Oct. 8, 1998, and ordained a priest at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit by Cardinal Adam Maida on May 22, 1999.

Then-Father McClory served as associate pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Shelby Township and St. Isidore Parish in Macomb Township, with weekend assignments at Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford; St. Blase in Sterling Heights; and St. Andrew, Rochester. He served as a judge on the Metropolitan Tribunal and was administrative secretary to Cardinal Maida before being appointed chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit in 2003.

In 2005, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI and given the title of monsignor.

In 2009, Archbishop Vigneron appointed then-Monsignor McClory to become moderator of the curia and vicar general, where he served as chief of staff, coordinating the central offices of the archdiocese. During this time, he also served as pastor of Presentation Our Lady of Victory parish in Detroit.

In 2017, then-Monsignor McClory became pastor and rector of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak where he served until his appointment to the Diocese of Gary.

Bishop McClory taught canon law as an adjunct faculty member at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and

served on the archdiocesan College of Consultors, Episcopal Council, Presbyteral Council, Priest Assignment Board, and New Evangelization Council. He served on numerous boards during his time with the Archdiocese of Detroit, including Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom and Loyola High School in Detroit.

Bishop McClory also served as a consultant to the Catholic Leadership Institute, priest-observer to Region VI of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), spiritual advisor for the Catholic Lawyers Society of Detroit and chaplain to Legatus, an association of Catholic business professionals.

He is a member of the Canon Law Society of America, a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus and serves as spiritual advisor to Detroit Team Eight for Teams of Our Lady, a marriage enrichment apostolate.

Bishop McClory is a member of the Board of Governors of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He serves on the USCCB Budget and Finance Committee and the Committee for Religious Liberty.

Since his installation as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Gary, Bishop McClory has embraced the vision delivered on that occasion on behalf of Pope Francis by the papal nuncio "to lead the people of the Diocese of Gary to

be both disciples and missionaries."

In 2020, Bishop McClory guided parishes through the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 virus with ingenuity and encouragement to the faithful to "thrive" and be a light in the darkness.

A principal project for Bishop McClory has been to reinvigorate the 2017 diocesan Synod by initiating Synod '21. Listening sessions were held throughout the diocese including priests, religious, deacons, parish leaders, multicultural representatives, youth and other faithful to discern areas of focus for the diocese.

In response to synodal listening sessions, on Feb. 2, 2022, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Bishop McClory released, "We Proclaim Jesus as Lord!" – his first pastoral letter – on missionary discipleship. The letter has been used by parishes and Catholic schools to continue a synodal way of listening and explore how the faithful can respond to their call to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Bishop McClory followed up with intensive visits to all parishes in 2023 to hear of parish progress on synod goals. The diocesan pastoral center was reorganized to emphasize missionary discipleship through ministry collaboration and parish support to help the faithful grow in their call to share Christ in word and deed.

Congratulations
Bishop Robert J. McClory
on the anniversary
of your priestly ordination



From Fr. Lourdu Pasala &
Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Church
in New Chicago

Congratulations
BISHOP ROBERT J. MCCLORY
on the 25th Anniversary
of your ordination to the Priesthood

God's Blessings on you
and thank you for all you do
in the service of God!

Parishioners of
St. Stanislaus Kostka,
Michigan City



Celebrating 25 Years

Shepherd Continues to Guide Faithful as Bishop of Gary

BY ERIN CISZCZON, Northwest Indiana Catholic

During the four years Bishop Robert J. McClory has led the Diocese of Gary, he has guided Catholics in Northwest Indiana in matters of health, faith and spirituality. With a focus on the Eucharist and missionary discipleship, the bishop continues to spread the message that Jesus is Lord and to trust in Him.

The Coronavirus Pandemic

Bishop McClory was installed as the 5th Bishop of Gary on Feb. 11, 2020. A month later the COVID-19 virus created concern among the public, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines delayed the new shepherd from visiting parishes and being physically among the faithful.

A key group of diocesan leaders joined the bishop for online meetings every morning at 8:15 a.m. throughout the pandemic. Kelly Venegas, chief human resources officer, recalled during one of these meetings, at the height of the pandemic, the team was discussing recent information released from Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb.

"Bishop McClory shared that he had read the Executive Proclamation that was released the night before and shared the salient points with the team and what it might mean for our respective disciplines. I remember thinking, 'Wow, he is unlike any bishop I have ever met!'

We were abundantly blessed to have him as our bishop during this crisis."

Venegas added she felt Bishop McClory was "amazing; organized, focused and mindful of everyone's well-being throughout the process."

Michael Wick was the diocesan chief of staff in 2020. He also felt Bishop McClory handled the pandemic well both spiritually and practically.

"What stood out to me was his incredible administrative skills," Wick said. "He had been at the Archdiocese of Detroit as vicar general, chancellor, moderator of the curia and in these various roles, he learned very well how to handle such crises."

Wick said he watched Bishop McClory remain proactive rather

than reactive during this time. He established a \$1 million COVID relief fund by instructing the diocesan finance department to work with the Lily Foundation and earmark funds that could be used for parishes to purchase equipment needed to livestream liturgies on the internet and keep their congregations connected.

"In those early days when we couldn't do anything, unbeknownst to anyone else, he would take personal pilgrimages and drive to parishes, park in the parking lot and just pray. In a sense, he wanted to connect with them, although he couldn't do it with the congregation physically present, he did it spiritually," said Wick.

similar listening sessions but with a narrowed focus to reflect the signs of the times, especially, how the Church must navigate in a post-COVID-19 context.

Deacon Dan Lowery, who now resides within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, said Bishop McClory's approach to the synod was unique in two respects. First, it shifted the responsibility for developing implementation strategies and plans to the individual parishes of the Gary Diocese.

"This had the effect of 'extending' the synod's reach and impact far beyond the timetable established for dioceses across the country," he said. "In this sense, the synod developed under Bishop McClory's leadership complemented



Bishop Robert J. McClory blesses Mary and Jake Neary during a visit to Sacred Heart Church in LaPorte on March 5, 2020.

Congratulations Bishop Robert McClory

On this milestone in your Priestly ministry. May God continue to bless you in your service as our Bishop

From: Rev. Peter John Mufia,
Rev. David Krolczyk,
Deacon Gary Blue,
and the Parishioners of St. Joseph, Dyer



Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Dyer

Congratulates Bishop Robert McClory

on his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

the approach employed in the synod developed under Bishop Hying.”

Second, Bishop McClory wrote his first pastoral letter on the several themes that emerged from the synod process.

“His pastoral letter on missionary discipleship has provided a theologically rich foundation for parishes to reflect upon as they’ve developed their own parish-centric synod plans,” he said. “More importantly, perhaps, Bishop McClory’s pastoral letter has clearly animated the first several years of his episcopacy.”

The diocese’s current synod coordinator, Matt Kresich, feels all the faithful’s input is valuable and a crucial part of spreading the Good News. He pointed out that the beginning of the Synod on Synodality began fairly close to the bishop’s ordination. As opportunities for synodal participation developed, Bishop McClory was able to use these processes to establish a vision for the diocese, walking closely with the people he shepherds.

“This was evident in our diocesan gathering in October 2021, his pastoral letter released in February of 2022, and now with this most recent round of listening sessions,” Kresich said. “As we continue to understand what it means to be a listening Church, the journey of synodality has already shown a fruitful expression of involving the whole Church.”

“Bishop McClory has been a strong advocate for the dignity and sanctity of human life, and has always supported the endeavors and initiatives of the Office of Pro-Life Activities in the diocese.”

— FATHER RICK HOLY, diocesan pro-life director

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization

The ruling delivered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization in June 2022 recognized that there is no constitutional right to abortion, overturning the decision of Roe v. Wade. Bishop McClory called it “a landmark decision, answering many prayers in the ongoing effort to protect the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.”

In a letter to the faithful, he stated, “We are very encouraged by the decision, as it moves us forward in building a culture that respects and values all life. This issue will now primarily be decided at the state level with ongoing federal action as well. Therefore, while we are grateful for this progress, we must remain steadfastly committed to cultivating communities that serve the needs of all people”

He encouraged Catholics in collaboration with local service agencies, to provide women, couples, and families with resources to assist them when they are most vulnerable. He recommended putting greater energy into advancing even more resources to support women facing challenging pregnancies – both before and after birth.

“This is an important time to examine our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, as well as how we offer mercy to those suffering from abortion,” said Bishop McClory.

Father Rick Holy, diocesan pro-life

director, continues to promote the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Walking with Moms in Need” as referenced by the bishop as a favorable addition to parish plans for reaching those on the margins, or to build on ways parishes can love and care for moms (and dads).

“Bishop McClory has been a strong advocate for the dignity and sanctity of human life, and has always supported the endeavors and initiatives of the Office of Pro-Life Activities in the diocese,” Father Holy said.

Eucharist Revival

This summer diocesan faithful will attend a National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis. This is the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years and is expected to attract tens of thousands of laypeople, clergy and religious to Lucas Oil Stadium in the state’s capital on July 17–21. Bishop McClory encourages those who have note already registered for the Congress to consider joining the Diocese of Gary for a one-day trip (with bus transportation) to the Congress on Saturday, July 20. To register, the faithful can visit dgary.org/2024Congress.

“Joining together in such a large and

festive setting brings to life our faith. Being encouraged by our brothers and sisters helps us know that we are not alone in our love for our Eucharistic Lord,” said Bishop McClory.

The Summer of Eucharist Revival will celebrate the gift of our Eucharistic Lord throughout the diocese over the summer months with opportunities for the faithful to experience the eucharistic miracles exhibit, explore adoration chapels and join in small group sessions. For more details, visit dgary.org/2024Revival.



ABOVE: Bishop-elect Robert J. McClory attends his first ad limina pilgrimage with Bishop Dale Melczek Dec. 9-12, 2019, including visits to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul and a meeting with Pope Francis.

ANTHONY D. ALONZO



LEFT: Newly ordained Bishop Robert J. McClory displays the papal bull, or mandate from Pope Francis appointing him as the fifth Bishop of Gary, at Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary, Ind. on Feb. 11, 2020.

RIGHT: Ss. Monica and Luke parishioner James Henley (left) shakes hands with Bishop Robert J. McClory during the Sign of Peace at the Mass marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Gary parish, on May 15, 2022.



ANTHONY D. ALONZO

The Faith Community
of Saint Patrick Parish in Chesterton
would like to congratulate
Bishop Robert McClory
for 25 years of Service to God.


GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!

The Parishioners of Saint Patrick,
The Saint Patrick School Family,
Father Jon J. Plavcan

Congratulations Bishop McClory

Our One Catholic Family
celebrates your 25th anniversary
of ordination into the priesthood!

Holy Spirit St. Helen St. Mary
Winfield Hebron Kouts




Congratulations


BISHOP ROBERT McCLORY


on the 25th Anniversary
of your priestly ordination

*Thank you for your faithful service
to the people of God*



THE DIACONAL COMMUNITY OF THE DIOCESE OF GARY






CONGRATULATIONS

Bishop Robert J. McClory

Be assured of our prayers and support.


Saint Francis de Sales
SEMINARY




SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SEMINARY
SAINT FRANCIS, WISCONSIN | SFS.EDU

We are grateful to God for
Bishop Robert McClory
on the occasion of
his 25th presbyteral jubilee.




~The faculty, staff and students of Sacred Heart Major Seminary






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CONGRATULATIONS




Most Rev. Robert J. McClory
on your
25th Anniversary of Ordination
Our prayers are with you!



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Family Rosary Across America – a LIVE and
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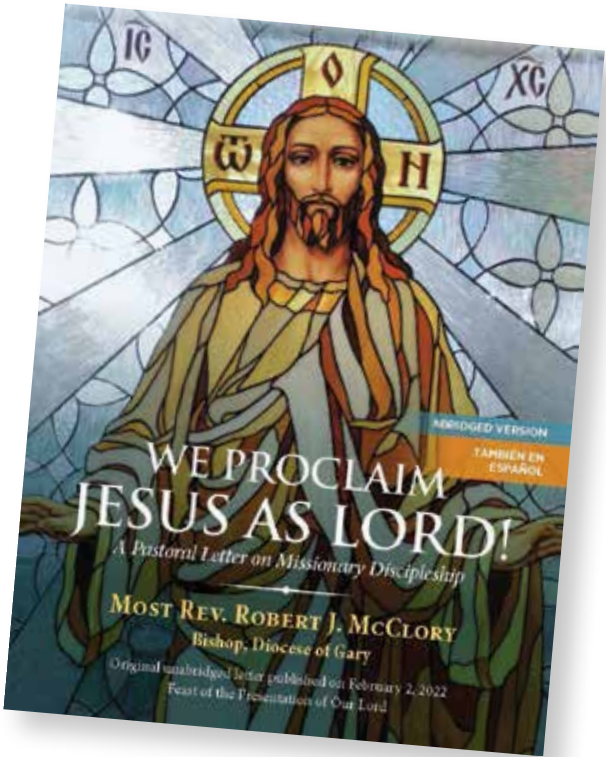
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Pastoral Letter Invites Catholics to be Missionary Disciples

BY ERIN CISZCZON, Northwest Indiana Catholic

“The Holy Father wants a missionary Church and His Holiness is counting on you [Bishop McClory] to lead the people of the Diocese of Gary to be both disciples and missionaries.”

— ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE, the Papal Nuncio to the United States



Top Ten lists have always appealed to Bishop Robert J. McClory. Annually, we are often treated to end-of-the-year “top ten” lists of news stories or movies, and the bishop admits to being drawn to those types of lists as a simple way to get an overview of a topic. On Feb. 2, 2022, Bishop McClory issued a pastoral letter, “We Proclaim Jesus as Lord,” which focuses on missionary discipleship. In the letter, he shared a list of what he called the Ten Principles of Missionary Discipleship.

The pastoral letter provides detailed explanations and walks faithfully through each of the Ten Principles of Missionary Discipleship:

1. **We proclaim Jesus as Lord.**
2. **We are all called to be missionary disciples.**
3. **We invite others into a personal encounter with Jesus.**
4. **This is God’s work, not our own.**
5. **Prayer and hard work are required of us.**
6. **Our efforts as missionary disciples will require our own ongoing conversion.**
7. **Joy should be evident in our invitation to others to enter into a personal encounter with Jesus.**
8. **Healing and reconciliation are central to our efforts.**
9. **An inviting and welcoming outreach is essential to our efforts.**
10. **We should embrace a sense of urgency in this work.**

Shortly after the letter was released, Bishop McClory began hearing people react by choosing their “favorite” principle. He noted a brother priest shared his appreciation of principle four, “This is God’s work, not our own.” The priest went on to explain that sometimes when we undertake our missionary efforts, we forget that God is really the one doing the work through us.

Later, while at lunch with the third-year class of Lay Ecclesial Ministry students, the group shared a

conversation they had about continuing formation. They said that principle six offered insight regarding their discussion: “Our efforts as missionary disciples will require our own ongoing conversion.”

Bishop McClory hoped that as the faithful delved into the pastoral letter, they might find a principle or two that was particularly applicable or appealing. He encouraged the faithful to review the reflection questions through the lens of his or her own journey.

“My prayer is that as we strive to live out these principles (and plenty more that are not contained in this list), we will experience great blessings in Northwest Indiana,” he said.

Father Christopher Stanish, vicar general and moderator of the curia for the diocese, said the high call of evangelization is an important part of the lives of Christians but to be missionaries of the good news, he feels we must first encounter Jesus through a personal experience of the love and presence of God.

“These principles help us to recognize the call to participate in Jesus’ mission as well as our utter dependence on God,” he said. “People can say what they want about the Diocese of Gary, but why not us?”

Father Stanish has led various groups through these principles and has enjoyed seeing the excitement and deeper appreciation for what it means to follow Jesus. He said the relationship between prayer and action is what people often struggle with when it comes to missionary discipleship.

“The saints prayed in order to know what to do, and not merely before doing something. Missionary discipleship is about restoring the initiative to God and following the will of the Father just like Jesus did,” he said.

He added that he hopes the Diocese

of Gary can become a beacon of evangelization wherein all our parishes and schools are places of encounter and as a result of this encounter with Jesus, all will surrender into the loving hands of God the Father, and allow their lives to be transformed.

The Diocese of Gary released a series of short videos during the 2024 Easter Season for those interested in diving deeper into the ten principles. The faith community is encouraged to view the video clips at <https://dcgary.org/DiscipleshipSeries>. The full pastoral letter can be found at dcgary.org.

Bishop Robert J. McClory delivers a presentation concerning the main directives for the “Synod 2022 our journey continues” initiative after he presided at Mass in the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary on Feb. 6, 2022. The gathering of clergy and diocesan faithful prayerfully focused on an updated Synod 2017 roadmap and implementation course and guests received a copy of the bishop’s Pastoral Letter “We Proclaim Jesus as Lord!”



ANTHONY D. ALONZO




Bishop Noll Institute sophomores including Julissa Muniz (left) and Jara Zamora (right) discuss their feelings of relating to the principles of the pastoral letter “We Proclaim Jesus as Lord!” at the Symposium on Youth Evangelization in a classroom at the Hammond school on April 26, 2023.

ANTHONY D. ALONZO


ARCHBISHOP CHARLES C. THOMPSON
AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH
IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN INDIANA
SEND GREETINGS OF
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE

**MOST REVEREND
ROBERT J. MCCLORY**

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PRIESTLY ORDINATION**



ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS



Congratulations

Bishop Robert J. McClory


on the

25th Anniversary

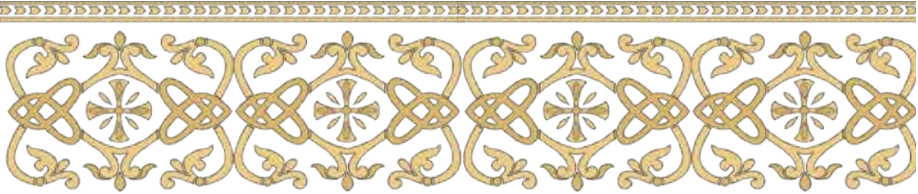
of your Ordination into the Priesthood!

May God generously bless you for your
pastoral leadership in the Diocese of Gary
and in our Province.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel
and the people of the Diocese of Evansville.



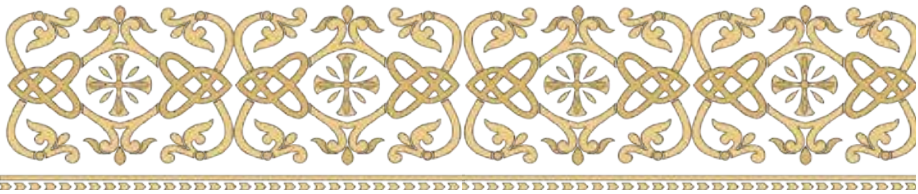
The Catholic Church in Southwestern Indiana




Congratulations
Most Rev. Robert J. McClory,
Bishop of Gary,
on the
25th Anniversary
of
ordination to the priesthood




DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
& BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES





DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA



**BISHOP TIMOTHY L. DOHERTY,
BISHOP EMERITUS WILLIAM L. HIGI,
the clergy, religious, and laity of
the DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA
send heartfelt congratulations to**

BISHOP ROBERT J. MCCLORY

**ON THE 25TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION
OF HIS CONSECRATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD.**

Youngest Brother's Priestly Vocation Came as No Surprise to Siblings

BY MARLENE A. ZLOZA, Northwest Indiana Catholic

"A beautiful gift" is the way Therese Norris describes her brother's priesthood 25 years after Bishop Robert J. McClory's ordination, a thought echoed by his two older brothers, Michael McClory and Dan McClory.

All three siblings plan to attend his silver jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving on May 10 in the Diocese of Gary, where he has led the faithful since his episcopal installation on Feb. 11, 2020.

"His presence, his priestly guidance, the sacraments we have received from him, his wisdom and knowledge – all of it is really, really a blessing," said Norris, who resides in the family's home state of Michigan. "We have so much access to the path to God through Bishop Bob. I know he was a great comfort to my parents as they aged. "It is all very humbling and I am in awe at the access we have to his guidance," she added.

Middle brother Dan McClory, who has lived in California and Italy for more than 40 years, recalls being in a Rome hotel when his younger brother, a lawyer for several years, called to announce that he was switching careers. "He said, 'I have some really important news' and I asked if I should sit down. He told me, 'I've been thinking and praying and I have decided my calling is the priesthood.'"

"I was surprised, not because he wasn't a religious person, but because he had had accomplishment after accomplishment, from becoming a national debating champion in college to earning a master's degree at Columbia University to graduating from the University of Michigan School of Law and working for a good law firm in Detroit; he had a lot going for him," Dan McClory explained.

"What I remember saying to him is, "That's great, and I'm sure you thought about it a lot, but don't lose your ambition. You have become very accomplished and have been a high-performance person. When you serve God, you don't wear your ambition on your sleeve, but keep achieving, keep being outstanding ... and he has continued accomplishing, adding a great number of skills and putting them to good use."

Himself a successful businessman, the bishop's brother agreed that Bishop McClory is a better priest than he would have been an attorney. "He could have been a TV talk show host, a \$25M-a-year venture capitalist or one of 100,000 great U.S. lawyers, but his impact on people and their lives is far greater as a priest.

"He always applied himself and got things done. He got to stand up and deliver, and now he's doing it for God," added Dan McClory.

Just two years older than the brother she calls "Bishop Bob," his only sister saw him as excellent priest material. "He was always gentle, kind and sweet, a good person with good judgement even as a youngster. He worked hard in school and continued using his gifts as he grew."

When Robert McClory told his mother he was entering the seminary, she had an even bigger surprise for him, recalled his sister. "She told him that at his confirmation, our brother Mike had his hand on Bob's shoulder as his sponsor, and my mom heard God say: 'He will be a priest.' At first she thought, does God mean Mike or Bob? Then she heard it again," said Norris, but she never revealed that 'prediction' until her youngest son had made up his mind.

"When she told him, he said, 'Gee, Mom, it would have been easier if you had told me earlier.'"

Norris agrees Bishop McClory is a better priest than lawyer. "He would have had a good career, but his heart and soul would not have been fulfilled," she said.

"Bob always had a strong faith and was in practice just a few years – working in business planning and litigation just a few blocks from my office – when he came to me and said, 'You know, I'm going to be leaving the law to enter the seminary,'" recalled Mike McClory, a Michigan judge five years older.

What Mike McClory remembered most in 2020 about his youngest brother growing up is that he was "very earnest, a hard worker and always a good leader. We were never in school together, but we did a lot of the same activities, and he came out better."

Dan McClory said the best part of his younger brother becoming a priest was seeing "the effect it had on my parents, especially my mother, who almost became a nun herself. The joy of that fulfillment



TOP: Siblings Dan McClory, Therese Norris, Mike McClory and then-Msgr. Robert McClory add a snapshot for the family album in September 2019 at a family gathering. All four were together again on Feb. 10-11, 2020 for Bishop Robert McClory's episcopal ordination and installation as the fifth bishop for the Diocese of Gary.

ABOVE: Robert J. McClory (center) gathers with his parents Ann and James McClory after passing his bar exam at the Oakland County Circuit Court House in Pontiac, Mich., in 1991.

meant she couldn't stop smiling." While neither parent lived to see him ordained and installed as a bishop – Ann McClory passing away in 2017 and Jim McClory in 2019 – "They saw him become a monsignor," noted Dan McClory.

"Bob has always had a connection with our (three) children," Dan McClory said. "He checks in with them, knowing about their graduations and marriages. He's on top of all that with all nine nieces and nephews."

Having a brother who is a priest "gives me an interesting topic to talk about," quipped Dan McClory, who continued, "I'm really able to connect with him because he's so multi-faceted ...having an extraordinary bishop as a brother is a tremendous gift."

Norris attended both her brother's ordination as a transitional deacon in Rome and his priestly ordination a year later at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. "I also remember his first Mass at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, now a national basilica," she said. "The consecration and other rites of the Mass were very emotional for him, and his gratefulness and humbleness showed.

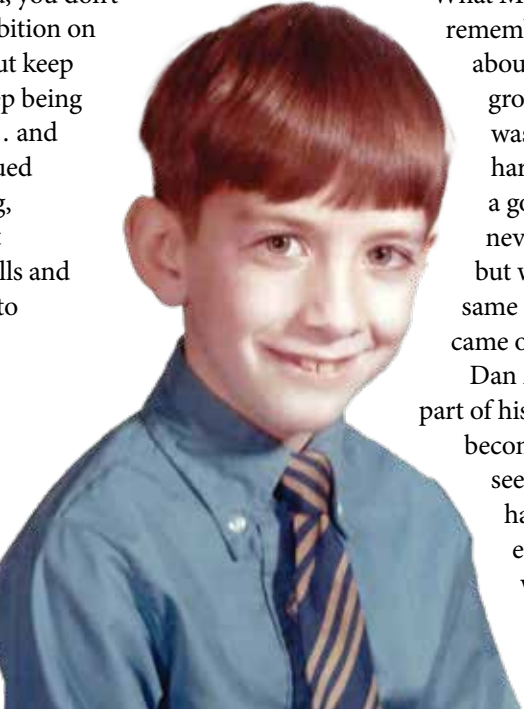
"It has been beautiful to see the

sacraments he has given to his nieces and nephews – First Communion, marriage, even a couple of first reconciliations. He has blessed their homes and recently baptized my grandson, Charles Norris," who will also be witnessing the Mass of Thanksgiving on May 10. Their sixth child is a first-year religious novice in Ann Arbor.



Bishop Robert J. McClory, a Detroit native, joyfully visits Ann Arbor in July 2023 to congratulate his niece, Sister Judith Marie, as she took her first vows with the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist. She is the daughter of his sister and brother-in-law, Therese and Matt Norris.

Seven-year-old Robert McClory sits for a school picture at St. Mary in Royal Oak in 1970.



A glimpse of 25 Years

BISHOP ROBERT

Photos provided by the Archdiocese of Detroit



2002 2008 2015

2016 2019

2020

2002
Ordained to the priesthood in 1999 for the Archdiocese of Detroit, then-Father McClory baptizes Elizabeth, daughter of his sister Therese Norris.

2008
Then-Monsignor McClory and Monsignor John Zenz share a moment at a farewell party for Msgr. Zenz on June 6. Msgr. McClory would succeed Msgr. Zenz as moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

2015
Then-Monsignor Robert J. McClory and Archbishop of Detroit Allen H. Vigneron celebrate the first Mass in the chapel of the new Archdiocese of Detroit Chancery on March 26.

2016
Then-Monsignor McClory gathered with family in February 2016. (front row, left to right) Mike McClory, brother; Bishop McClory (back row, left to right) Therese Norris, sister; Ann McClory, mother; Jim McClory, father; Dan McClory, brother.

2019
The Detroit Tigers mascot Paws stands with then-Monsignor McClory.

2020
A. Bishop McClory (center) is accompanied by Bishop Emeritus of Lansing, Mich. Carl F. Mengeling (right) and Bishop of Madison, Wisc. Donald J. Hying (left) during his Mass of Ordination and Installation at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary, Ind. on Feb. 11.

B. Bishop McClory blesses a well-wisher during a welcome reception at Sacred Heart Church in LaPorte on March 5.

C. At Sacred Heart Church in LaPorte, Bishop McClory poses by a cake welcoming him to the Diocese of Gary.

D. Bishop McClory ordains Deacon Jacob McDaniels to the priesthood, his first for the Diocese of Gary, at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary, Ind. on June 6.

Years of Priestly Ministry

ROBERT J. MCCLORY

Chicago, Northwest Indiana Catholic and others.



2021

2021

- A.** Bishop McClory poses with Bishop Dale Melczek following Mass on Sept. 19, 2021.
- B.** Bishop McClory sprinkles holy water on the faithful as he celebrates the Easter Vigil at Queen of All Saints on April 3.
- C.** Bishop McClory is captured while recording a message to the faithful at St. John the Evangelist's studio in St. John.

2022


2022

- A.** Bishop McClory bows as he approaches the casket of Bishop Dale Melczek during the Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary on Aug. 29.
- B.** Bishop McClory addresses the Diocesan Pastoral Council as he reflects on the fruits of Synod '21 and introduces his first pastoral letter, "We Proclaim Jesus as Lord" on Feb. 2 at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary.

2023-2024

- C.** Bishop McClory leads faithful through the Stations of the Cross at The Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John on Good Friday.
- 2023-2024**
 - A.** On April 26, 2023, Bishop McClory observes Bishop Noll Institute students as they discuss his pastoral letter on missionary discipleship during the school's symposium on youth evangelization.


- B.** Bishop McClory baptizes Keira Ruffner during the 2024 Easter Vigil Mass at St. John the Evangelist.
- C.** On Holy Thursday, the bishop presides over Mass of the Lord's Supper and the traditional Washing of the Feet.



Happy 25th Anniversary

To the Man
with the most
difficult
White Collar Job
EVER!

Congratulations
Most Reverend Bishop McClory



NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR

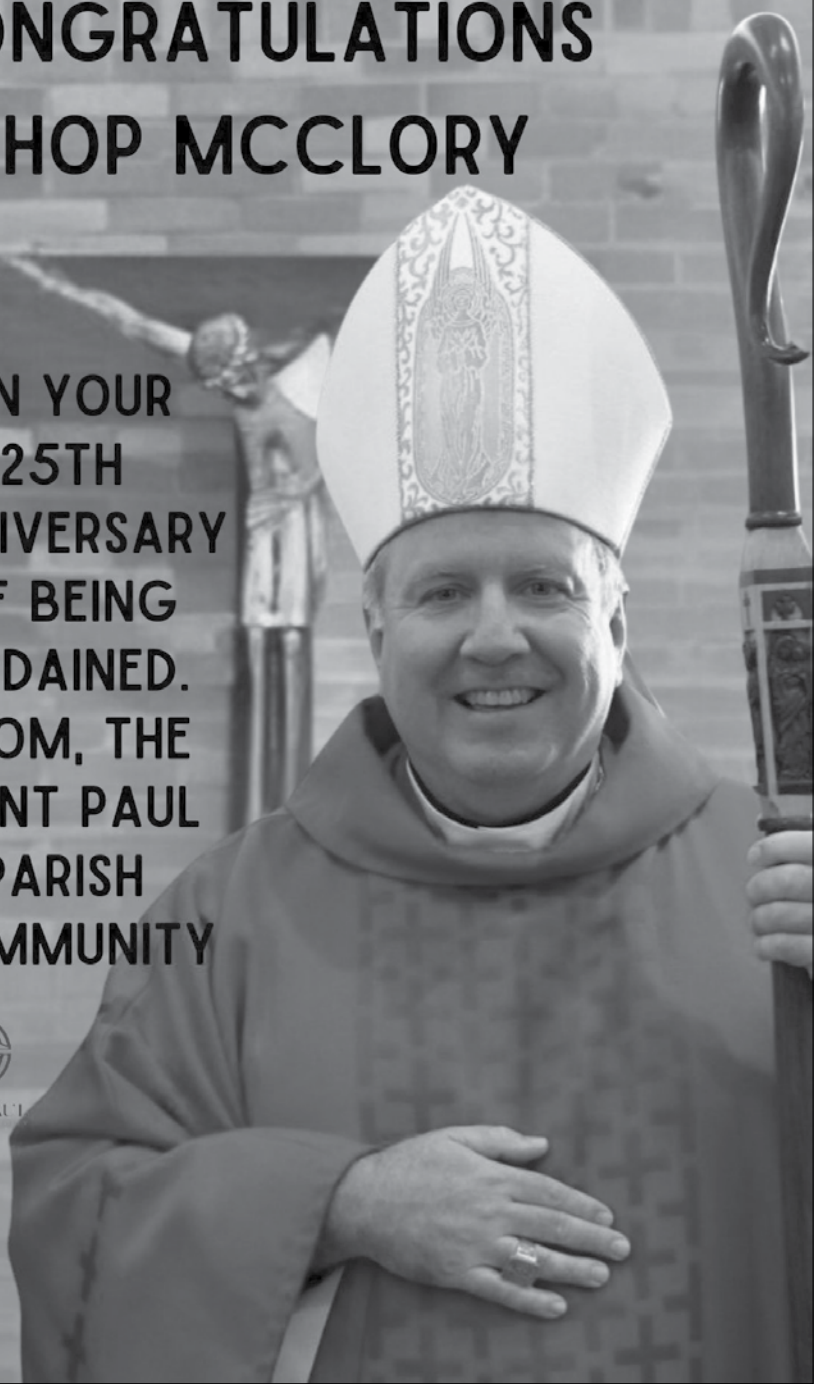
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
PORTAGE INDIANA


Holy Mass
Weekdays 8 am
Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 8 & 11 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm
nativityofoursavior.org
f noosce

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP MCCLORY

ON YOUR
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF BEING
ORDAINED.
FROM, THE
SAINT PAUL
PARISH
COMMUNITY

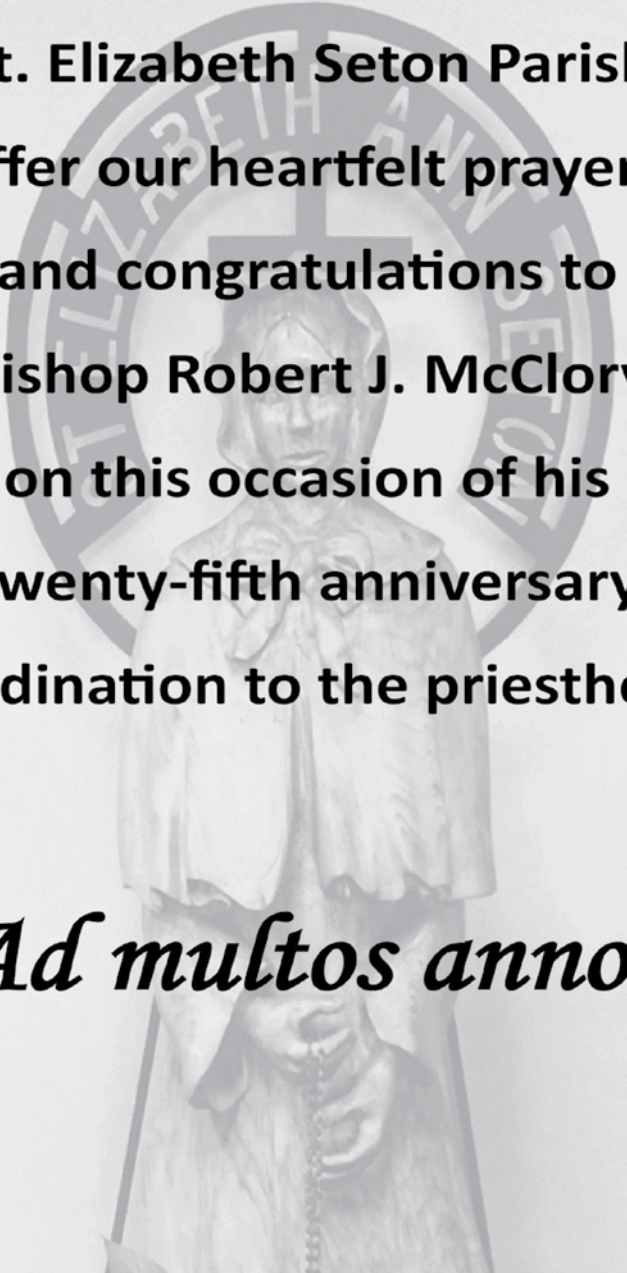




SAINT PAUL


The clergy and lay faithful of
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
offer our heartfelt prayers
and congratulations to
Bishop Robert J. McClory
on this occasion of his
twenty-fifth anniversary
of ordination to the priesthood.


Ad multos annos




BISHOP ROBERT J. MCCLORY

*Congratulations
and continued blessings
on the occasion of the
25th anniversary
of your ordination to the priesthood.
You are a gift to the faithful
of the Diocese of Gary.*







**ST. EDWARD
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

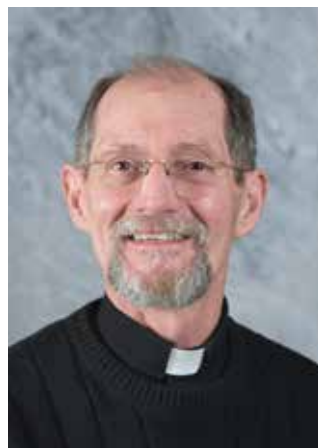
PORTER DEANERY

Appreciative of Bishop's Openness to Listen, Dedication to **Missionary Discipleship**



After working with Bishop McClory

Father Kime serves as dean of the LaPorte/Starke Deanery. He is pastor of Queen of All Saints and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Michigan City.



One of his first pastoral decisions was to ask all of the deans to host a reception for all of us throughout the diocese to get to meet him personally. As dean of Porter County, the St. Paul Catholic Community hosted Bishop McClory on March 12, 2020.

May our Lord Jesus continue to
bless and guide Bishop McClory in this
jubilee year of his priesthood.

Father Mayer serves as dean of the Porter Deanery. He is pastor of St. Paul in Valparaiso.

*With love and gratitude,
Holy Martyrs and Our Lady of Consolation Parishes
and Aquinas Catholic Community School*

Our Lady of Grace Parish
congratulates
BISHOP MCCLORY
on his 25th anniversary
of priesthood!

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

Congratulations

Bishop Robert J. McClory

On your 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood

*The parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Griffith and
St. Ann Parish in Gary*

*Rev. Keith M. Virus, Pastor of St. Mary and
Administrator of St. Ann*

Rev. Joseph Uko, priest - in - residence of St. Ann, Gary



St. Mary Church, Griffith



St. Ann Church, Gary

*Happy
Anniversary,
Bishop
McClory*

*With appreciation for your
witness & ministry.*

*With gratitude for your
leadership & partnership.*

*Thank you for sharing
the joy of the gospel!*

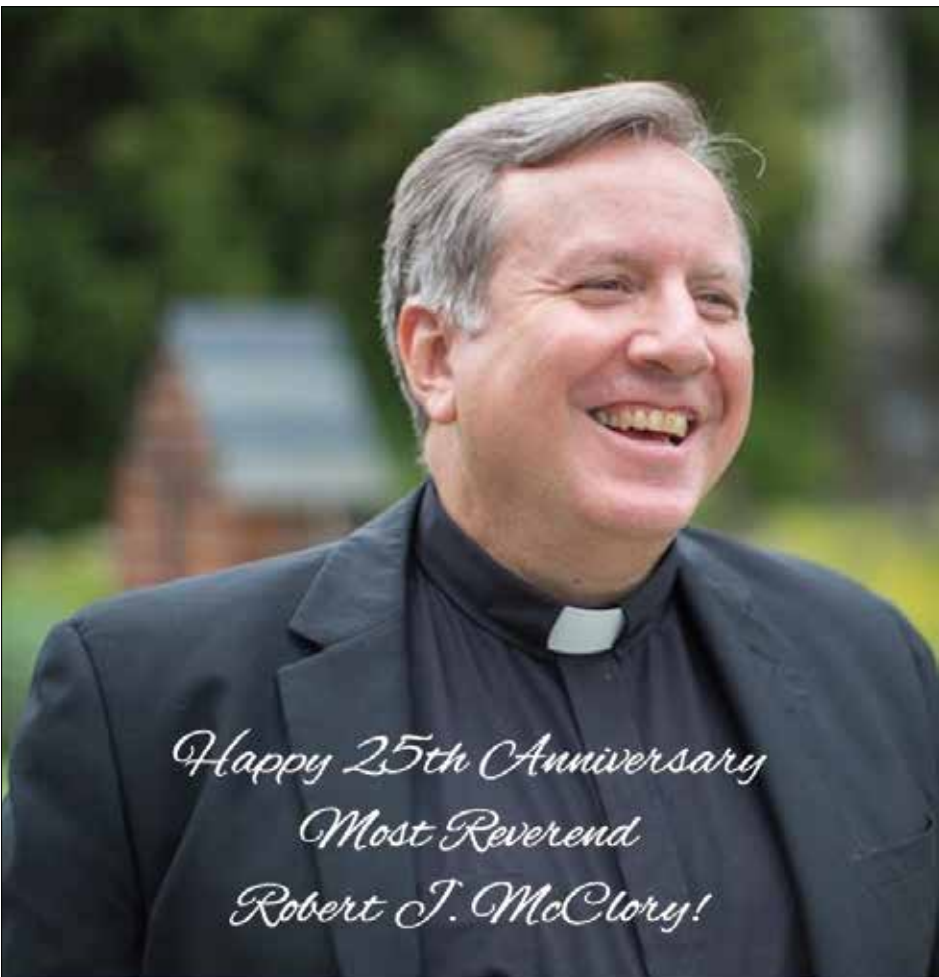


*Bishop McClory,
Congratulations on the
25th Anniversary of your
Ordination!*

Ad multos annos



*From the Community at
St. Mary Parish
Crown Point*



*Happy 25th Anniversary
Most Reverend
Robert J. McClory!*

*Wishing you a heartfelt congratulations
on the anniversary of your ordination!
May this special day be filled with blessings,
joy, and continued guidance in your
sacred journey.*

St. Matthias Parish

NORTH LAKE DEANERY

Bishop Engages Students, Makes Faithful Feel Important



BY VERY REV. JEFFREY BURTON

When the announcement was made that then-Monsignor Robert McClory was appointed the next bishop of Gary, I did what any Xennial priest would do: I texted a former classmate who had him as a canon law professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and asked what he thought of him.

“Good guy,” the response simply stated. During the last four years here in the Diocese of Gary, I’ve witnessed and experienced firsthand what a “good guy” Bishop McClory is, namely through his relatability and presence to his people and his priests.

Whether it’s been at a backyard cookout or a black-tie gala, Bishop McClory’s authenticity shines through. He is as infinitely comfortable talking about how the Detroit Lions might win a game or two this season as he is discussing his vocational calling, or where he sees the Holy Spirit igniting the next generation of disciples.

In his visits to St. John Bosco Catholic School in Hammond, I’ve been particularly struck by his desire to engage with our young people. At our all-school Masses, the bishop doesn’t hesitate to ask questions of the grade schoolers as he helps them dig into the Word. It was toward the end of our first all-school Mass together when the bishop leaned over toward me at the end of Mass and asked what door the students used to get back into the school. There he greeted every single student and wished each one a good day.

Now, I’ll be honest, with the little ones, it can be an easy win. Any school priest will tell you that on your toughest of days, just walk into the kindergarten class, and they’ll treat you like a rockstar. Middle schoolers and high schoolers, though, are a tough crowd.

Last year, Bishop McClory spent an entire day with our sophomores at Bishop Noll Institute. The students had been studying his 2022 pastoral letter, “We Proclaim Jesus as Lord,” in their theology classes. Throughout the day, the bishop unpacked the document with them and encouraged the students to let their voices be heard. He took the opportunity to really listen to the concerns of the young church, and also saw the hope they have for the future. In sharing his own roundabout journey to the priesthood, he helped ignite a spark in a couple of our students to see priesthood as a viable path to a joyful and fulfilling life.

It’s that sense of presence to the people of God and to the priests of the diocese that has made a big difference in such a short period of time. Recently, I had dinner with some folks, and one remarked that in a recent conversation with the bishop, he remembered she had a daughter in college and asked how she was doing. She was amazed that he remembered that detail about her family. She said it made her feel like she mattered.

That’s the fruit of being real and being truly present to another soul: People know they matter and that they are loved. I think that’s the biggest way Bishop McClory proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and I have every confidence that his witness is bearing fruit that will last in the Calumet Region.

Father Burton serves as dean of the North Lake Deanery. He is pastor of St. John Bosco and administrator of St. Joseph, both in Hammond.

SOUTH LAKE DEANERY

Gratitude for Bishop’s ‘Yes’ to God’s Call



BY VERY REV. JAMES WOZNIAK

Our diocese is blessed to be able to celebrate the year of Bishop Robert J. McClory. During this celebration of the 25th anniversary of Bishop McClory’s ordination to the priesthood, we need to not only celebrate the event but also God’s call and Bishop McClory’s ‘yes.’

A call from God to the priesthood is usually not a loud roar or an explosion of thunder, but as with Elijah on Mount Horeb, God speaks in a whisper. I believe many people miss hearing the voice of God in their lives. It is not easy to listen to. We need to take the time and effort to listen. Bishop McClory listened. Again, remember that this was not easy. On this day, we need to celebrate Bishop McClory’s listening to the whisper of God.

Then, Bishop McClory answered ‘yes’ to God’s call. Remember God never forces His will on anyone. Our bishop had the option of saying ‘no.’ Many people using the world’s standards would say he should have said ‘no.’ He could have been rich and

powerful. That is successful by the world’s standards. Instead, he said ‘yes’ to God’s call. How ridiculous according to the world. On this day, we need to celebrate Bishop McClory’s saying ‘yes’ to God.


A priest, when asked when he decided to be a priest, would answer “this morning.” Of course, what he was being asked was how long ago he first heard God’s call. But his answer was so true. Yes, there is an indelible mark in priestly ordination, but like the indelible mark of baptism, we can live as we should or choose not to. On this day, we need to celebrate Bishop McClory’s daily ‘yes’ to God.


Today, finally, we need to celebrate Bishop McClory being our bishop. Working with Bishop McClory, I see how he continues to listen to God and says ‘yes’ to his will. Whenever our bishop needs to make an important decision he says, “I will now think and pray about this.” He listens and responds to God in his responsibilities as bishop. On this day we need to celebrate Bishop McClory’s continued discernment of God’s will.

Bishop McClory, congratulations on the 25th anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood. We give thanks to God for you and the gift of yourself to God.


Father Wozniak serves as dean of the South Lake Deanery. He is pastor of St. Matthias in Crown Point.


The families of St. Casimir Church congratulate Bishop Robert J. McClory on the 25th Anniversary of your priestly ordination.






Bishop Robert J. McClory
AD MULTOS ANNOS
*from Notre Dame Parish,
Michigan City*





Bishop McCloy, your dedication to serving the Church and leading us with wisdom and compassion has truly been a blessing to all of us. Your unwavering faith and commitment to spreading the message of Christ's love have inspired us all to strive for greatness in our own lives. May God continue to guide and bless you in your ministry for many years to come. Congratulations on this milestone achievement! With gratitude and admiration,
The St. Teresa of Avila Community.





Blessings on the 25th Anniversary of your Priestly Ordination, Bishop McClory!

Join us in extending heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Robert McClory for his unwavering dedication and compassionate leadership in the Diocese of Gary. On the occasion of his 25th Priestly Ordination Anniversary, we offer our sincerest blessings and prayers for continued guidance and success in his ministry.

Diocese of Gary
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELIZATION

Fr. Declan McNicholas
Lisa Curley Mayela Garza
Vicky Hathaway Rosanne Kouris Sean Martin

BISHOP MCCLORY, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

THANK YOU FOR SHEPHERDING US.
SERRA CLUB OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

FOREVER FRIENDS

Bishop McClory's Beloved Appreciate his Legacy, Remain Close

BY ANTHONY D. ALONZO, Northwest Indiana Catholic



Then-Monsignor Robert J. McClory speaks with parishioners at a parish ministry fair at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica Catholic Church in Royal Oak, Mich. in 2019.

From those associated with Bishop Robert J. McClory, a common thread emerges in describing how quickly their relationship transitioned from acquaintance to a genuine friendship – with an enduring bond.

Long before he became the fifth Bishop of Gary, a young Robert or

“Bob” McClory was a sharp student, an initially nervous altar server, a student government leader and a page at the Pontiac Silverdome, where concerts by the top New Wave or Hard Rock acts enlivened his job.

The son of Jim and Ann McClory, Bishop McClory, grew up among four

children in a devout Catholic family in Royal Oak, Mich, a suburb of Detroit. He advanced through undergraduate and law school in the state as he continued to add friendships to his life.

When Ralph Martin met Bishop McClory, they were both in graduate school at the University of Michigan. Noting his “friendly, open” demeanor, the young men connected in the classroom and the practice of their

Catholic faith.

“Bob was very engaged with things that the Lord was doing at the university,” said Martin, who in 1980 began the antecedents of what is now the international Renewal Ministries, based in Detroit. “He came to prayer meetings and was evangelizing even then.”

Martin’s calling would not lead him to the priesthood as his friend’s did. Yet, as Martin helped spread his evangelistic ministry, he saw his “good brother,” then-Father McClory, ministering to married couples and working with Teams of Our Lady along with his responsibilities as Archdiocese of Detroit chancellor, then vicar general and moderator of the curia.

Among numerous organizations he has served with, Bishop McClory is a member of the board of directors for Renewal Ministries.

“Over the years, he’s been the same kind of person; he’s been a man of the

people and a man of God,” Martin explained.

In Martin’s opinion, “This is exactly what bishops should be like.”

Ultimately, Martin appreciates the friendship of someone who can joyfully keep the faith, in all seasons. “(Bishop McClory believes) Jesus is Lord, the Holy Spirit is real. Let’s light a candle rather than curse the darkness.”

St. John Paul II said of authentic relationships, “Friendship, as has been said, consists in a full commitment of the will to another person with a view to that person’s good.”

Likewise, Harry Kemp, senior vice president, chief administrative officer and general counsel of Lear Corporation, said his association with Bishop McClory has helped to make him a better person.

Kemp came to know him about 20 years ago when then-Msgr. McClory was working in the chancery in Detroit, via an introduction from then-Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit Allen H. Vigneron. An attorney, Kemp served as chairman of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica parish’s finance council.

Though much of their discussion focused on matters of faith and financial stewardship, the pastoral spirit of then-Msgr. McClory included lighter moments of gathering to share dinner or to watch a football game. “I think he’s good at friendship and friends share good news with each other,” Kemp added.

An email, a text or phone call cannot replace the fellowship Kemp, his wife and five children enjoyed with their former pastor, but they have collectively tried to see in recent years the bishop’s assignment in Northwest Indiana as sharing a gift with others.

“We recognize, at the same time, that God gave (Bishop McClory) the gifts that he has for the benefit of the broader

Congratulations


to our Shepherd

Bishop Robert J. McClory

on your Silver Jubilee of Priesthood!


Thank you for your ongoing encouragement of the Mission of Christ in the City of Gary.

“May God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to fulfillment.”



The Gary Parishes
Cathedral of the Holy Angels
Saint Joseph the Worker
Saints Monica and Luke
Saint Mary of the Lake

Franciscan Friars
Province of
Our Lady of Guadalupe



Sacred Heart Catholic Church Whiting, IN
“Burning Strong since 1889”

CONGRATULATIONS MOST REV. ROBERT McCLORY!
Rejoicing with you on this special occasion as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. May you continue to be sustained by His grace, and may your episcopal ministry in Northwest Indiana be filled with God’s blessings and joy. The Sacred Heart parishioners are praying for you.

Greetings from:
Rev. Jay Nuthulapati and the Faithful Community of Sacred Heart, Whiting

Congratulations

Bishop Robert J. McClory

on the 25th Anniversary
of your ordination to the priesthood

The parish family of St. Bridget, Hobart






PHOTO PROVIDED

LEFT: The Proctor family of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica gather with then Bishop-elect of Gary Robert J. McClory at a farewell event in early 2020 at the parish school in Royal Oak, Mich. Pictured are (left to right) Ella (then 17), Jim, Bishop-elect McClory, Annemarie and Chase (then 15).

BELOW: Bishop-elect Robert J. McClory (second from right) joins family friends (from left) Leslie Kemp, Joseph Kemp, (then 12), and Harry Kemp at the send-off for the bishop-elect at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica Grade School, Academy and High School in Royal Oak, Mich. on Feb. 2, 2020. The Kems and Bishop McClory were raised in the Detroit suburb, and Bishop McClory served as pastor-rector of the shrine from 2017-2020.

Church ... we're thankful for it, even though we don't get to see him as much," Kemp said.

Kemp points out that he is "not trying to canonize" Bishop McClory, but merely shares in the court of public opinion, that the people are dealing with the real thing.

"He's a person who is a friend and a role model for me, for not just what it means to be faithful but what it means to be a good human being," Kemp said. "I know I'm a better Catholic, father and manager because of the lessons I've learned from Bishop McClory."

A "vacation with some religious aspects to it" in Mackinaw Mich, was where financial consultant Annemarie Proctor and her husband and children first became acquainted with then-Msgr. McClory. It was an opportunity to see the lighter side of their pastor, though the favorable introductions were confirmed when she found him to be

"warm and engaging."

Back in the archdiocese, Proctor said then-Msgr. McClory dedicatedly helped Archbishop Vigneron as the diocese dealt with many challenges. His "insightful and entertaining" personality made her think Msgr. McClory was "someone that you always should have known."

Proctor said the future bishop's eagerness to share the Catholic faith served him well as he helped efforts to promulgate the diocese's "Unleash the Gospel" initiative. And since he was always looking out for the best in and for people, his strategic guidance was an asset to the National Shrine of the Little

Flower Basilica parish in Royal Oak where she served on the finance council.

"It was really enlightening in terms of the transparency he provided to the parish and the leaders in the parish, setting the bar high," Proctor explained.

As with Kemp and other friends,

"He's a person who is a friend and a role model for me, for not just what it means to be faithful but what it means to be a good human being."

— HARRY KEMP

PHOTO PROVIDED



distance (Bishop McClory's cathedra is 250 miles southwest of Detroit) did not derail their friendships.

"He had been over to our house several times for gatherings with our family; our kids loved him and his homilies," Proctor said of her children,

who are now 22 and 20. "We were very lucky to have him ... he still comes back (to visit). He's always been that kind of engaging person, no matter how busy he gets."

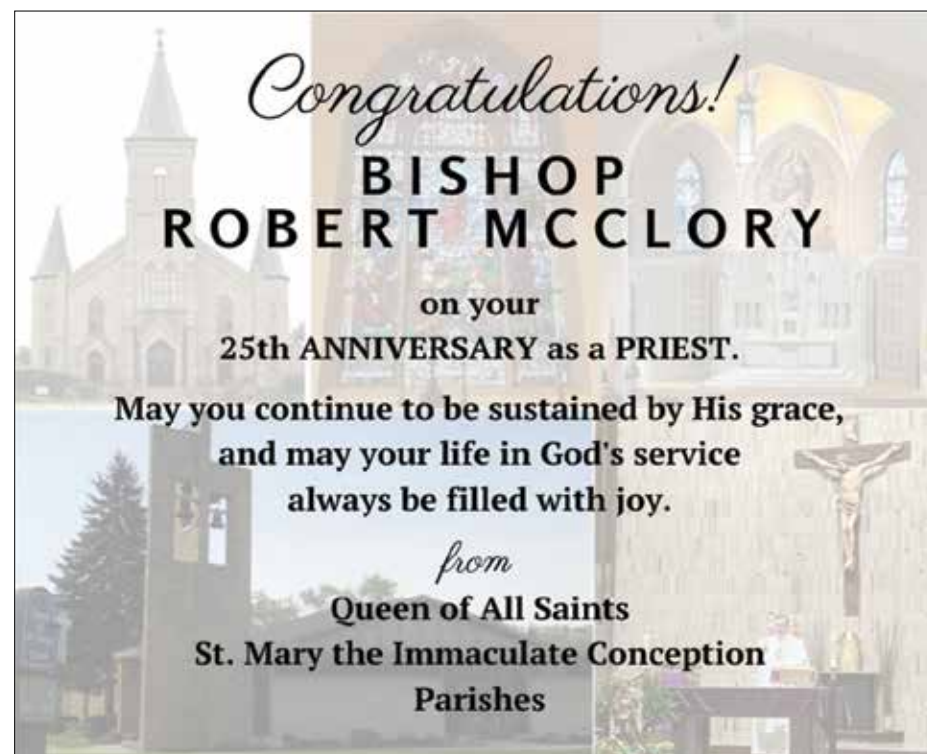
WRCC
Whiting
Robertsdale
Catholic
Community



**Congratulations,
Bishop Robert J. McClory,
on the 25th Anniversary of your
ordination to the priesthood.**

May God continue to grace your life with wisdom and strength,
As you joyfully serve the Gary Diocese with the love of Jesus.

The Lord bless you, and keep you!
The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord
look upon you kindly and give you peace!
(Numbers 6:24-26)



HEART OF SERVICE

Friends, Clergymen not Surprised Bishop Builds on Success

BY ANTHONY D. ALONZO, Northwest Indiana Catholic

A closeness is shared among friends of Bishop Robert J. McClory who have worked both in proximity and far from each other, a testimony to more than just texting, but of admiration and faithfulness.

A brother priest and a Eucharistic preacher has maintained a spiritually close friendship with the bishop though their ministries have diverged. Father Roger Landry of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., recalls meeting then-seminarian Robert McClory in 1995 on a flight from New York to Rome enroute to studies at the Pontifical North American College.

Father Landry, who is a chaplain at Columbia University in New York City, looks with happiness on the Gary shepherd's ministry.

"He's retained his first love for the Eucharistic Jesus," said Father Landry of Bishop McClory. "I'm thrilled to see that be a gift now for the faithful of the Diocese of Gary."

Lauding Bishop McClory's intelligence and organization, Father Landry said, "He likewise is clearly a man of prayer; he does not rely solely upon himself but relies heavily on the Lord's help in things big and small."

Father Landry is preparing no small plans for this spring and summer. He has committed to walking the entire 1,500-mile Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. Among a small group of youthful "perpetual pilgrims," he wishes to emphasize the core focus of Catholic faithful's worship, and something he believes his brother priest and friend makes the center of his ministry.

"Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to be

the source and summit, root and center of any Christian life and all priestly and episcopal life, and the Eucharist is clearly the source, summit root and center of Bishop McClory's life," Father Landry said. "I saw that as a seminarian, how he would regularly make Eucharistic Holy Hours before the Lord."

catalyst to keep our class together and help us grow together."

Father Landry sees "The Lord's hand in matchmaking," in sending Bishop McClory to Northwest Indiana.

"We, his classmates who love him very much and are very close to him have noticed the very positive impact of

"He's retained his first love for the Eucharistic Jesus. I'm thrilled to see that be a gift now for the faithful of the Diocese of Gary."

— FATHER ROGER LANDRY

Bishop McClory and Father Landry are set to visit their priest-classmates this summer with plans for a larger-than-usual celebration of their silver anniversary of priestly ordination. The Eucharistic preacher said that his bishop-friend "has always been a

the Catholics of Northwest Indiana in helping to perfect his priesthood," Father Landry said.

One corporate executive said Bishop McClory has an impressive record helping to build both the intangible, and the more concrete.



The Sacred Heart Major Seminary priestly ordination class of 1999 gathers with Cardinal Adam J. Maida (center) in Detroit. Then-Father Robert McClory stands at bottom, left.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

ABOVE: Then-Monsignor Robert J. McClory (right) greets Monsignor Timothy Hogan of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

RIGHT: At the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica Catholic Church in Royal Oak, Mich. then-Monsignor Robert J. McClory (second from right) is flanked by associate pastors (left to right) Father Joe Lang, Father John Kopson and Father John McKenzie at the Royal Oak, Mich. shrine in 2019. Bishop Robert J. McClory served as pastor and rector of the shrine from 2017 to 2020.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Mike Vlasic has built a business encompassing oil and gas exploration to venture capital management. The Bloomfield Hills, Mich. resident's mantra of "sustained success" for clients reflects the qualities he saw in his friend since early in his priesthood.

Both Vlasic and then-Msgr. McClory donated their talent, aiding Stewards of Tomorrow, an effort by the Archdiocese of Detroit under the direction of then-Archbishop Adam J. Maida to restore the Cathedral of the Most Blessed

Sacrament and create a plaza in the distressed neighborhood.

Vlasic named certain qualities that make Bishop McClory a good leader and steward of resources.

"First of all, he's a man of great faith, and that's what drives his actions and communications," Vlasic explained. "Second, he's a realist in human behavior – he's not the one to have wishful thinking. (Finally,) he said we have to be transparent and look truth in the eye."

As moderator of the curia and vicar

general, Msgr. McClory assisted the diocese and greater metropolitan area through the financial crisis that gripped the country and hit Detroit hard in 2009.

Of course, Vlasic sees Gary's shepherd through the eyes of friendship. He, his wife and three children grew in their relationships with him while he served in the archdiocese.

"I think of his big smile; I love Bishop McClory," said Vlasic. "We've worked together a lot, but I would consider him a really good friend. I just think he has a great personality and is a really good guy to be around."

Another brother priest whose association with Bishop McClory extends more than 25 years is Father Jeffrey Day, also a member of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ordination class of 1999. He succeeded then-Msgr. McClory as vicar general and moderator of the curia in 2017.

Father Day remembers the day in April 1994 when the two searchers met at a Sacred Heart Major Seminary for the first time. The Detroit institution was hosting a discernment weekend for those exploring calls to the priesthood.

"We hit it off and became friends and we entered the seminary together," Father Day recalled. "I remember the day seeing him praying in the main chapel ... you can tell he was pouring his

heart out in his private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I found out that was right after he received word he was going to be sent to Rome."

Father Day said it was bittersweet to learn that seminarian McClory would be going to study at the Pontifical North American College in the Eternal City. However, the gift of a 1985 Pontiac Grand Am – signed over to him by his traveling friend – went a long way to helping him get around the Motor City.

Nine years his junior, Father Day has witnessed his older friend Bishop McClory blaze a vocational trail. He said with the bishop's "good mind to think things through," and "daily prayers on his heart" there is much the bishop can offer to the faithful of the Region.

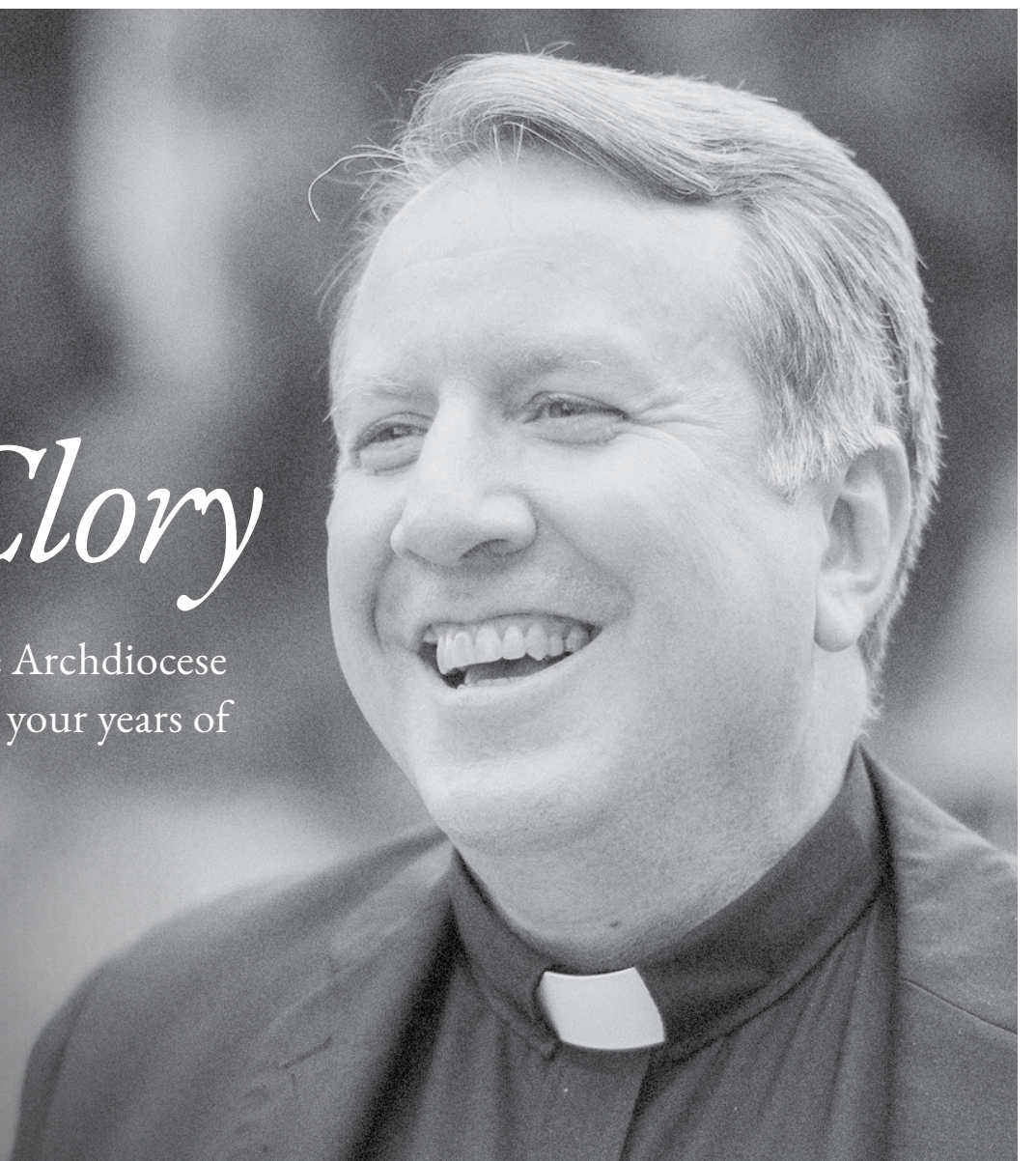
From Detroit to Gary, the two men maintain a close bond of friendship with parallel responsibilities to build up the Body of Christ. Father Day recalled a message displayed on then-Msgr. McClory's computer at the Detroit chancery that spells out how it can be done.

"When Bishop McClory had my job in Detroit, he had something on his screen saver, something along the lines of 'putting ministry into administration,'" Father Day said. "I think he's always tried to do that."

CONGRATULATIONS

Bishop McClory

The clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit offer prayers of thanksgiving for your years of dedicated service to the Church.



Congratulations Bishop McClory

25th In Celebration of
your Anniversary of
Priestly Ordination



*It was to this life that God called you
when you firmly professed your faith
before many witnesses.*
1 Timothy 6:12



**ST. MICHAEL
PARISH**
Schererville, Indiana



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION
Congratulations
MOST REVEREND ROBERT J. McCLORY

God Bless You, Bishop McClory!

Thank you for your many years of generous service
to the people of God.
You have been a source of comfort, inspiration and strength.
With prayers of gratitude and joy for all your faithful work,
we send our most

Heartfelt Congratulations & Prayers
on this special anniversary.

The Parishioners, Students & Staff of
St. Thomas More
Church & School
Munster, IN

Bishop Robert J. McClory

On the occasion of your 25th anniversary
of ordination to the priesthood
we congratulate you
and wish you all the blessings
of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ,
and may Our Lady of Czestochowa
protect you and guide you
in your continued ministry
to God's people.



*With the gift of prayers,
Salvatorian Fathers*

Congratulations & Gratitude

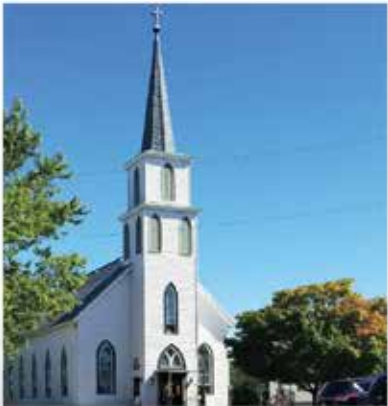
for 25 years of
priestly ministry.
Thank you and
God bless!



Our Lady of Sorrows



St. Martin, LaCrosse



Sacred Heart, Wanatah



St. Mary, Otis

Congratulations

BISHOP

ROBERT J. MCCLORY

B.A., M.P.A., J.D., S.T.B., J.C.L., D.D.

on the occasion of the
25th Anniversary of Your Priestly Ordination.

Thank you for your partnership
in support of Northwest Indiana scholars.

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

**Big
Shoulders
Fund.®**

NORTHWEST INDIANA

25 | **TH**
ANNIVERSARY
Celebration

CELEBRATING 25 BLESSED YEARS



Congratulations to Bishop Robert J. McClory on the 25th anniversary of his ordination
May God continue to bless you and the faithful people of the Diocese of Gary



CONTINUING CHRIST’S MINISTRY IN OUR FRANCISCAN TRADITION