

## *Msgr. Jerome V. MacEachin "Fr. Mac"*

Msgr. Jerome V. MacEachin, affectionately known as "Fr. Mac," was an institution in the Lansing area. With a gregarious personality and a keen sense of humor, he drew people together, building strong ties within his parish family and the Catholic community for nearly forty-five years.



A native of Ubyly, Michigan, he was ordained in 1932. The broader community experienced his leadership as he served the Diocese of Lansing in the capacity of Superintendent of Schools from 1940-1955. In the fifteen years of his administration, he saw Catholic education double. Appointed as the second pastor for St. Thomas Aquinas Church in 1943, Father Mac's spiritual commitment took him far beyond the role of parish priest. Thousands of Michigan State University students remember him as the Newman Club chaplain and the priest who celebrated Mass in the basement church on Abbott Road. Others remember a theology lecturer and director of Catholic Student Affairs at Michigan State University. For more than thirty years, Father Mac also served as chaplain of the MSU Football Team. In 1960, he was instrumental in acquiring the present site of Lansing Catholic High School.

All his life he sought to do some spiritual good for each person he met whether young or old, without regard to creed. Fr. Mac was a cherished leader and innovator in our Catholic community in educating our children and instilling in them the Truth of the Catholic faith. The scholarship fund is a fitting tribute to Father Mac's many years of service and dedication to Catholic education

### *Fr. Mac Facts*

- Born, December 6, 1904
- Attended Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, OH
- Attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC where he received a master's degree in Education
- Ordained in 1932
- Appointed as the first Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Lansing from 1940-1955
- Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in 1943 until his retirement in 1978
- He founded the St. Thomas Aquinas parish grade school in 1949
- He founded the St. John Student Center at Michigan State University in 1957
- He was a lecturer in theology at MSU from 1943-1966
- He was elevated to Monsignor on August 8, 1954 by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII
- Humble servant to God until his death, December 2, 1987

*The soul of education, is the education of the soul.* –Fr. Mac