

# *The* **REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN J. MCMAHON** *Memorial Scholarship*



*Rev. Frank J Hendrick, Rev. Paul V. Heller, Rev. John J. McMahon, Rev. Donald Vogel. Circa 1950's.*

people of St. James. In 1955, the parish had two active women's groups. One was the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a group reactivated in the 1940's by Father Mullarkey that was a thriving women's group of almost 1,000 members. The other women's group was founded in response to the Bishop's call for women to participate in Parish Women's Councils affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women. For more information, see *Doers of the Word: 125 Years of History at St. James*, by Carol Anne Jones, 2017.

Father McMahon served as the moderator for both groups (which met on different evenings) and at Father Heller's direction, consolidated them under the title "St. James Sodality-Council." Their publication *Tidings* remained in place until 1973 when it was taken over by the Parish Advisory Board and renamed the *Round & About*. The Women's Sodality-Council introduced many wonderful initiatives for the people of St. James. We are grateful to Father McMahon for facilitating its many good works!

It is our hope that the *Rev. Monsignor John J. McMahon Memorial Scholarship* will honor the memory of this generous priest and his belief in the importance of Catholic education. It is also our hope that the recipients of this need-based scholarship will have a deep commitment to the truths of the Catholic faith as well as a strong desire to give back to others the gift of a Catholic education in the future. We are grateful to the family of Monsignor McMahon for making this generous scholarship possible.

**W**E ARE PLEASED to announce that a second endowed scholarship — this one for \$65,000 — has been established for Saint James Catholic School. It is called the *Rev. Monsignor John J. McMahon Memorial Scholarship*. It is named after a beloved priest from the Diocese of Richmond who believed deeply in the importance of Catholic education. Fr. McMahon served as assistant pastor of St. James Parish from 1955 to 1961.

During his short tenure here, Father McMahon cheerfully served the

## **WHO WAS MONSIGNOR JOHN J. MCMAHON?**

- *Ordained to the priesthood of the Diocese of Richmond in 1950, he began his ministry in remote areas of the diocese using the diocesan mission trailer.*
- *Served as the founding pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Chesterfield County; later appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church where he chose not to receive a salary.*
- *Served as diocesan director of Catholic Charities, moderator of the Catholic Interracial Council during the civil rights movement, and board member of the Richmond Chaplaincy Association, Seton House and St. Joseph's Villa.*
- *Was a champion of Catholic education and worked to make it affordable to all who desired it.*
- *Died on February 2nd, 1982. Prior to his death, Monsignor McMahon created an endowment to help fund Catholic schools.*



*If you would like to financially contribute to either the Tate or McMahon endowed scholarship or set up one of your own endowments in memory of a loved one, please contact Kathleen Anderson, Director of Development, at (703) 532-8815 Ext 223 or email her at [kanderson@stjamescatholic.org](mailto:kanderson@stjamescatholic.org). Thank you for your generosity and support!*