



## Rev. Dennis E. McNally, SJ

March 3, 1944 - May 6, 2020

Remembering Fr. Dennis McNally, SJ, beloved painter and professor of fine arts at Saint Joseph's University

Rev. Dennis E. McNally, SJ, was born in Flushing, NY on March 3, 1944. He graduated from Regis High School and entered the Novitiate of St. Andrew on Hudson in 1964. He earned his Bachelor's in History from Loyola Seminary in Shrub Oak, NY, a Master's in Art Education from New York University and his Master of Divinity from Weston Jesuit Community in Massachusetts. He also received a Doctorate in Studio Arts from New York University, completing much of his studies in Italy. He was ordained a priest on June 8, 1974.

Catholic priests, especially Jesuits, rarely call home the same place for long periods of time. Fr. McNally, however, after serving for a year following ordination at a parish in Tucson, AZ, came to call Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia home for nearly 50 years. Arriving in 1975 as an instructor of fine arts, he began what would become a 45-year tenure at the school, teaching, leading and ministering to countless students across multiple generations. His key roles included professor of the fine arts, co-director of the University gallery, resident advisor and minister, and chair of the Fine Arts Department. He especially enjoyed leading students through immersion experiences.

A prolific painter himself, Fr. McNally's work reflected his faith, and he often likened his process of painting to prayer. He enjoyed life and work to the end, continuing to teach until his passing on May 6, 2020 at the age of 76. Saint Joseph's University was set to award Fr. McNally the Lindback Award for

Distinguished Teaching and will do so posthumously in his honor.

Those wishing to honor Father may contribute to The Corpus Christi Scholarship Fund which was established through the generosity of the Jesuit Community and Dennis McNally, S.J., Ph.D., to assist art students who demonstrate financial need. Address contributions to: Corpus Christi Scholarship Fund, St. Joseph's University, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-1395 or online at: [giving.sju.edu/McNally](http://giving.sju.edu/McNally).

# Cemetery Details

## **Jesuit Cemetery**

Wernersville, PA

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

RU

“ Hello, I am the daughter of Dr Ruth Barnhouse who was a friend of your Dennis. I have a painting he did - of clouds - it is now at my son's house in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, Hastings. We have always loved this painting. I was given it when my mother passed. I remember Dennis - he was sweet and always kind to me, I can see him in my mind's eye standing in my mother's office in Cambridgeport - I wish we had reconnected before he died. I wish you happiness in the midst of the sorrow of losing a beloved person.  
Sincerely, Ruth Tiffany Naylor

Ruth - November 16, 2025 at 11:39 AM



“ Rev. Dennis E. McNally, SJ

February 03, 2023 at 04:11 AM

BI

“ He was a great teacher and mentor and friend. We will all miss him and his ability to connect

Bill - November 01, 2021 at 08:47 PM

BS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Dennis. I only wish I could have seen him again. He has always been in my thoughts every day of my life since I met him. Not one day went by without me thinking of him. When I paint or draw he was always there in my head. I will truly miss him. Rest in Peace Dennis.

Bill Speziani  
August 27 2020

Bill Speziani - August 28, 2020 at 11:07 AM

PS

“ I just learned of this online Memorial Mass...

*The Jesuit Community, the USA East Coast Province of the Society of Jesus and Saint Joseph's University will host a Memorial Mass on Tuesday, August 11 at 11:30 a.m. for our deceased Jesuits: Fathers Richard Dimler, S.J., Michael Hricko, S.J., Edward Dougherty, S.J., John Lange, S.J., Frank Moan, S.J., John Kelly, S.J., and Dennis McNally, S.J.*

*Physical attendance is limited to invited family members and invited friends. However, faculty, staff and students are invited to join via livestream and join in our remembrance at [sju.edu/livestream](http://sju.edu/livestream).*

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**Peter Shire** - August 10, 2020 at 07:37 PM

KM

“ Thank you Fr. McNally, you were dear friend and constituent of my father, John Mullen at St. Joe's for many years; he so enjoyed your company and insights; as he too was a philosopher at heart. My sister Alice passed away unexpectedly at the age of 35. She adored Fr. McNally and he was kind enough to celebrate her funeral mass. He spoke of her essence and her brilliance; he really knew her and was a huge consolation to our family. His gentleness and candor touched us immensely. Thank you for all you did for so many, Dennis. Rest in Peace. Enjoy reengaging with Alice and my dad, I know they are overjoyed to see you.

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**Kathleen M Mullen** - May 23, 2020 at 02:13 PM

CP

“ Fr Dennis & I met @ St Joseph’s College in 1975 & worked together on an event to celebrate International Women’s Year in 1975. We became friends & remained for 45 years! He baptized my daughter & married her to her husband 27 years later. He buried both of my parents & very happily married my husband & I just 2 years ago. He has been such an integral part of my life. He was one of the most special people in the world. He was kind, & smart & talented & so, so giving!

May he Rest In Peace.

Our deepest condolences to his family.

Love, Carol Parlett

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**Carol Parlett** - May 16, 2020 at 02:27 PM

JO

“ I had the privilege of knowing Fr. McNally. He had helped me through a very dark time in my life many years ago. I will never forget his unconditional kindness. The world has lost a wonderful man and I am a better person for having known him.

Judy O’Meara

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**Judy O’Meara** - May 12, 2020 at 07:58 PM

MA

“ Fr. Dennis McNally touched, poignantly and deeply, the lives of all those fortunate enough to have known this magnificent priest and professor. His warmth, sense of humor, love of his subject, and most of all, love for God and his fellow man made an indelible and moving impression upon all who loved him. May he rest in luminous peace and joy as the consummation of everything he engendered while among us.

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**Monica Antonucci** - May 10, 2020 at 11:06 PM



“ 1969 Freshman year at St. Peter's Prep and the art teacher was Scholastic, Rev. Mr. Dennis McNally, SJ. A great man, teacher and priest. 51 years later and he was still that same man. +RIP Dennis. Ralph and Nancy Quaglia and family

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**Nancy Quaglia** - May 09, 2020 at 11:15 PM