

August 15, 1920

Father P.J. MacCorry, CSP



Father MacCorry was born in Dublin, Ireland, July 31, 1868. He entered the novitiate of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle (the Paulists) Aug. 16, 1893, and was ordained June 24, 1897.

His first appointment was to St. Mary's Church, in San Francisco, Calif., (1897-1900). He was then assigned to St. Paul the Apostle in New York City (1900-05), and Old St. Mary's in Chicago (1905-11).

He left the Paulists in 1911, but the Society's initials, C.S.P., accompanied him throughout his life.

Father MacCorry was assigned to the Cathedral in Wichita in 1914. He served briefly as chaplain of the Catholic Church Extension Society's St. Peter Chapel Car that year. During his chaplaincy, the chapel car had stops at Nickerson, Sterling, El Dorado, Pratt, Stafford and Elkhart.

Father MacCorry was a renowned missionary and a Lyceum and Chautauqua orator. Two of his lectures were "The Story Beautiful," the life of Christ, illustrated with reproductions from the famous paintings of the world, and "Rambles in the Realm of Childhood" containing material gathered in the study of child life.

During World War I, he was engaged as a staff-lecturer under the U.S. State Council of Defense. His tongue became paralyzed during a lecture in 1918. He suffered from cancer of tongue for the rest of his life.

Father MacCorry died at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Chicago on Aug. 15, 1920, at the age of 52. Father Richard Cartwright, C.S.P., celebrated the funeral Mass at the St. Lawrence Church, Weehawken, N.J. Burial was in the MacCorry family plot in the parish cemetery.