

**FORMER ST. PATRICK'S PARISHIONER TAKES NEXT STEP
TOWARDS CANONIZATION
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The most Rev. Vincent J. McCauley, C.S.C.'24, has been named a "Servant of God," which is the first of four steps towards becoming a saint. Over 1,000 people attended the July 21 diocesan inquiry at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Snows in Fort Portal, Uganda this past year. They reviewed him being proclaimed "Venerable." After "Venerable," the next two steps are "Blessed" and then "Saint."

At the conclusion of the three-hour ceremony, many people spoke with emotion about Bishop McCauley's goodness saying that "He always took the time to greet me." Another added, "Whenever he would see me on the road, he would always give me a lift in his car." Everyone agreed that the personal suffering he endured never weakened his ardent desire to make God known and loved.

Born March 8, 1906 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Bishop McCauley attended St. Francis Xavier Grade School in the Bluffs and graduated from Creighton Prep in 1924. He then entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, Ind. and was ordained in 1934.

From 1936 to 1944 he served in East Bengal, which is now Bangladesh. It was there that his Prep classmate, Major Hugh Higgins, '24, sought out Fr. McCauley and found him at a jungle outpost. He was full of malaria and phlebitis so bad he could scarcely walk. He was pitifully thin except for horribly swollen legs, the ravages of malaria and jungle insects.

With his life in danger and with no medical help available, Major Higgins, with the aid of his commanding general and Dr. Robert Benford, '23, flew Fr. McCauley to Calcutta. They sewed a chaplain's insignia on his shirt and sent him on to Washington, D.C. and then to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The clinic diagnosed him with cancer and during the remaining 40 years of his life he made 54 visits to the Mayo Clinic primarily for facial cancer treatments and operations.

In the 1940s and 1950s he worked for his Order in Washington, D.C. and raised money for the missions. In 1958 Pope Pius XII asked the Holy Cross Fathers to take over a new mission in Uganda and Fr. McCauley convinced the American doctors to give him medical clearance. He visited Uganda and fell in love with it and promised Our Blessed Mother that if she would take care of his cancer, he would spend the rest of his life in East Africa. She gave him almost 25 more years.

He became superior of Fort Portal Mission, and in 1961 the mission was made a diocese with Fr. McCauley becoming the first bishop. He rebuilt mission centers, founded a seminary, revitalized orders of sisters, and urged the Africanization of the local church. He brought in his Holy Cross brothers and sisters to help the Catholic population grow from 70,000 to more than 240,000 over a 20 year time period.

At the Second Vatican Council he organized the Eastern African bishops. After the Council they asked him to organize the Episcopal conference of East Africa which now operates in seven countries. Many African bishops have said, "He is our father." In his 22 years in Africa, Bishop McCauley led in the complete Africanization of the episcopacy after more than a century of all white bishops. In Uganda, "Bishop Vince," as he was called, was one of the fathers of ecumenism and was one of the co-founders of the Uganda Joint Christian Council. In 1972 he resigned as bishop to become the full-time secretary general of the Episcopal Association of East Africa; a position in which he served until his death.

Bishop McCauley was named Creighton Prep's Alumnus of the Year in 1978. Throughout his life and especially throughout his painful battle with cancer, Bishop McCauley remained a chivalrous defender of the weak, an unselfish rescuer of the needy, gallant, brave and cheerful against all odds. In 1982, Fr. McCauley died at the Mayo Clinic and was buried on the campus of The University of Notre Dame.