

His Excellency Robert Fidelis McKenna

July 8, 1927 – December 16, 2015

IN MEMORIAM

On the sixteenth of this month, close to the most sacred and peaceful night in history, His Excellency Bishop Robert F. McKenna gave his soul to God the Lord and Judge of all men. Everything transient, everything fleeting, all the accidental things that can happen in a person's life and the gravity of the Holy Church's last few decades all gave way to eternity for his soul.

Every man, except for those who were so intimately close to the Savior during His mortal life, owes something to God. The judgment of a whole life and, above all, the determination of an eternal destiny, are things that belong exclusively to God, but those of us who have known something of those who are no longer here and have pulled back the curtain of eternity can give some testimony so that their remembrance may shine in our memory.

Bp. McKenna was a priest, a bishop, a religious. Those who benefited from his priestly duties know clearly how much he did to sustain the Christian souls which were confided to his care and those that sought him out from far and near. He was a bishop because of the necessity of the times in which we live, to keep the Faith untouched in the face of Modernism, to multiply the priests and preserve the Catholic episcopate in others, thereby successfully contributing to the perennity of the Church. He was a religious, all of us who knew him can testify that he was one in all his conduct and in his manner of thinking and working. Both his priesthood and his episcopate were marked by his religious state without ever seeking the spotlight or trying to claim a leading role, fulfilling his duties in the service of Truth. Bp. McKenna worked to preserve in the Catholic Church the treasure of the Religious Life with his sisters, helping other religious, supporting, as long as his strength permitted, the Dominican brothers in Lawrence, MA, promising to help and ensure the continuation of our religious family himself and all the members of the Catholic Bishops Alliance (Bishops McKenna, Oravec, Vida Elmer, Hesson, and Martinez), a voluntary promise which we will always be thankful for.

The life of a good man leaves behind silent lessons that continue to teach us even though we may no longer have the consolation of his presence.

Having seen the example, let us do good and do it well. Let us teach good doctrine, and let our daily life be its best argument.

Let us confidently pray that Bp. McKenna's soul be, now and forever, intimately close to God. May God Our Lord bless his soul and all of ours.

Blessed Christmas!

Patagonia, December 19, 2015

† Bp. Andrés Morello.