

Fr. Raphael C. McCarthy S.J.

Fr. Raphael McCarthy was born on January 20, 1889 in Marquette, Michigan and died in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 30, 1979. He received his Bachelors degree at St. Louis University in 1911 and a Masters degree in theology there in 1913. He received a Doctorate in psychology from Kings College in London, England in 1925. Among the best known of several books he has written are, *Training the Adolescent*, and *Safeguarding Mental Health*.



He taught psychology at St. Louis University from 1925 through 1936, was appointed head of the Psychology department in 1928 and president of Marquette University from 1936 to 1944. In 1947 Fr. McCarthy was appointed president of Regis College in Denver, Colorado and held the position until 1953 when he became director of the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Sedalia Colorado, the retreat house he founded.

While president of Regis College Fr. McCarthy was active in promoting mens' retreats at the college. Upon the end of his presidency he found a new career and a new apostolate. He was determined that Colorado should have a Jesuit retreat house. For years the Layman's Retreat League had retreats in Carrol Hall at the college in the summer when facilities were available. Father dreamed of a retreat house that could be used throughout the year. With the cooperation of dedicated laymen he purchased property southwest of Denver but when new building began to close in on the property he decided not to build there and to look west to the foothills.

When he first came upon the property in the foothills near Sedalia, Colorado, he was moved to build there in the midst of the dry landscape with pine trees and scrub oak. He was warned not to purchase the property as a number of wells drilled there were dry. Nevertheless he placed his trust in God and purchased the property. When the first well was drilled it produced water in abundance. As Fr. Lewis McCabe director of the retreat house , said "It's an oasis in the middle of the desert".

An abbey like building of graceful arches now stands among huge blue spruce trees, flower beds, and a pond afloat with water lilies. Hummingbirds hover about burgundy flowers, rabbits hop across grounds reserved for stations of the cross. The once dry hill has become a place that inspires peace and prayer. The first retreat was held in 1959.