



William Monson McClellan

July 8, 2020

A beloved husband, father, deacon, friend, social justice advocate, and amateur magician, William Monson McClellan, passed away on July 8, 2020. He was a man of deep faith who enjoyed the simple things in life: ice cream cones, baseball games, a long walk, and always, a good book. His quiet strength, humor, and deep well of patience was deployed in raising four strong daughters, and his kindness touched everyone who crossed his path.

Bill was born in Groton, Massachusetts, on January 7, 1934. After childhood and teenage years in New England, he headed west to attend Colorado College (BA 1956), where he met his love, Jane Muir. They were married in Tucson, Arizona, in September 1955. After receiving a master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan, he was appointed the Music Librarian at the University of Colorado and then, the University of Illinois. During his 32 years at Illinois, Bill had a distinguished career which included designing a state-of-the-art music library in the 1970s. He was active in a number of professional musicological and library organizations, serving as President of the Music Library Association and Editor of the journal *Notes*. Bill helped mentor all those who came in touch with him – students, faculty, colleagues – who benefited from his deep knowledge of the profession as well as his commitment to the services and collections of the music library.

Bill's compassion led him to deepen his faith and service to others by pursuing

a role as Deacon in the Catholic Church. He was ordained Deacon in May 1992 in the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois. In both Illinois and Colorado, Bill focused his ministry on social justice. In Illinois, he was involved with the ecumenical Cursillo program, Christ Renews His Parish Program, and at St. Jude's Catholic Worker House. In Ft. Collins, Bill was active in the Interfaith Council, volunteered at the Day Shelter, advocated for affordable housing, brought the Just Faith Ministries to Northern Colorado, and was part of a core group to establish a L'Arche community for people with intellectual disabilities. He also created the first library at St. John XXIII.

For Bill, everything essential leads to matters of the heart. A quote that resonated with him from Henri Nouwen: "It is not so much the ability to think, to reflect, to plan, or to produce that makes us different from the rest of creation, but the ability to trust. It is the heart that makes us truly human. . . the central place of the mystical experience in human life."

He was dearly loved by his wife, Jane (65 years of marriage); daughters: Jennifer Pfiester (James), Anne McKinzey (Joel), Meg McClellan (Jim Barlow), Amy McClellan (Jeff Faunce); seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and his sister, Marjorie Feeney.

A private mass for family will be held at 10:30 am, Wednesday, July 15th and will be streamed online at <https://youtube.com/c/SaintJosephCatholicChurchFC>

A celebration of his life will follow after the pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bill's memory to the Friends of L'Arche of Northern Colorado at <https://friendsoflarchefc.org> [719 Fir Place, Loveland, CO 80538] or c/o Goes Funeral Care.

Previous Events

Mass of the Resurrection

JUL 15. 10:30 AM (MT)

Online / Streaming

Tribute Wall



“ *William Monson McClellan*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Thank you so much for allowing us to attend and celebrate with you the funeral Mass for our dear friend and fellow traveler, Bill! We are so saddened in our loss but grateful for the opportunities we had to share in retreats at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass and retreat reunions with you and Bill over the years, Jane. We have pictured Bill catching the wings of a flock of magpies that lifted him heavenward.*

Our prayers for you all, Jane and Jennifer, and your family in the coming days.

*Much love,
Anne and Ralph*

Anne Beavan - July 15, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ *Bill was always so kind to welcome our family into his family during a number of holiday celebrations. We thoroughly enjoyed spending that time with him and seeing his pride in his family. We know how dearly he was loved and will be missed by his family.*

Fondly, The Scheffler Family (Jeff, Lori, Lauren & Jacob)

Lori Scheffler - July 14, 2020 at 10:15 PM

MW

“ Steve Faunce and I enjoyed every opportunity we had to spend time with Bill and Jane. Bill was a wise and gentle man and we are grateful for his life and his family. Blessings to Jane and all the family. Margee

Margee Faunce Wheeler - July 11, 2020 at 01:50 PM

MW

“ Steve Faunce and i always enjoyed the special times we were with Bill and Jane. Bill was a wise and gentle person. I am so grateful to have known him. Blessings to Jane and all the family.



Margee Faunce Wheeler - July 11, 2020 at 01:44 PM