

May We Always Remember

William C. McInnes, S.J., '44, MA'51, a member of the committee that planned the memorial dedicated to Boston College's fallen soldiers on November 11, 2009, was hospitalized for illness on the day of the dedication and was unable to attend. He sent the following handwritten message, which was read aloud at a luncheon honoring the donors who contributed the funds to make the memorial possible. A former Boston College faculty member, academic dean, and alumni chaplain, McInnes passed away on December 8, 2009.

My Friends in the Lord:

Let us pray for God's blessings as we gather to honor those who have given their lives in the service of their country. By the dedication of this living memorial, we gather to remember the sacrifice they have made, and we gather to renew our own sense of purpose in bringing justice and peace to this world.

It has taken nine years to bring us to this day at Boston College. Perseverance has paid off: each year marked by civic and spiritual growth; each year marked by remembrance and resolution, but also calling us to a deeper sense of rededication.

What would these men say to us if they could speak?

Karl Rahner, the distinguished Jesuit theologian, reminds us of the beautiful truth of the Communion of Saints: that those who went before us are still members of our spiritual family and that those who love one another never say goodbye for the last time.

We are all forever members of the family of God.

So Lord we ask your blessings on us all.

May we always remember. May we never forget.

William McInnes, S.J.
Chaplain Emeritus, Boston College