

Rev. Lt. Francis J. McManus, USN

Born	January 18, 1905, Cleveland, Ohio
Ordained	April 6, 1930, Innsbruck, Austria
Ministries	Assistant Pastor, Sts. Ignatius and Malachi Parishes, Cleveland, Ohio Assistant Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Lorain, Ohio Volunteer service, United States Navy
Died	December 15, 1944

A graduate of Cleveland's Cathedral Latin School, Rev. Francis McManus was the first Priest from the Cleveland Diocese, to be killed in World War II. He volunteered for service, joining the Navy as Chaplain in November 1936, and served on the U.S.S. Canopus. He was commended for his gallantry, on December 29, 1941, when the ship was bombed in Mariveles Harbor, Bataan, and a General Magazine explosion seemed imminent, Fr McManus, although he was not required to be on board, assisted in removing the wounded and administered the Last Rites of the Church to the dying. It was considered, that his action was in accordance with the highest traditions of the Naval Service. For the intrepidity shown on this occasion, he was given a commendation.

Father McManus wrote a letter to his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard F. McManus, in May 1942, that he was slightly injured, when a Japanese machine gun bullet hit his right arm, but he added that it did not require him to be laid up.

He was awarded the Navy Silver Star for bravery, for his actions when an armor-piercing bomb exploded in the vicinity of the after magazine, crushing or exploding 70 rounds of ammunition, killing six men, wounding six others, and starting fires in adjacent compartments. Chaplain McManus, with complete disregard for his own safety, entered the smoke and steam filled engine room, and assisted in removing the wounded, and administered the Last Rites of the Church to the dying.

Lt. McManus became a prisoner of war in the Philippines when the Japanese took Corregidor. He was wounded again, while aboard an unmarked Japanese prison ship, which was sunk by the Allies. He Died December 15, 1944, and was posthumously given The Legion of Merit in 1946.