

## *Legacy Project*

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **Brother Alan (James) McNeil, C.S.C.**

*born: 5 March 1878*

*died: 4 October 1959*



Alan was born in Arisaig, Nova Scotia. After his schooling, he worked in fishing and mining for a number of years. He joined Holy Cross in 1909, went to Notre Dame and made his first vows in 1911. He served as a prefect and rector of Brownson Hall. He followed all the sports programs at Notre Dame and was active in organizing interhall competitions. Alan was interested in finding activities to keep his students physically fit. In 1920 he trained a group of boxers and organized a boxing event to support the Holy Cross foreign missions in India. An issue of the *Bengalese* described the boxing event which raised \$286 for the Bengal missions. This was the origin of the famous Bengal Bouts that developed in the 1930s. In 1926 Alan left Notre Dame to serve as a canvasser for the *Ave Maria* magazine, a position he held for 28 years. His role included being a considerate, kind, and proficient salesman as well as a trusted adviser. The *Ave Maria* office received many letters describing Alan's gentleness and kindness to people he had met. He was assigned to Columba Hall in 1954 and then moved to the Community Infirmary, where he enjoyed the remaining days of his fruitful and generous life.

*Pray that the aid I carry to all may be accepted. I shall be very happy to enjoy a period of rest. -- Romans 15:31*

*The only ones who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. -- Albert Schweitzer*