



Father John Kelly

September 26

Who was Father John Kelly?

The Celebration Day for Father John Kelly CES is observed on September 26th each year. Fr. John was a prominent figure in the early stages of the University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto and remained heavily involved with its success almost until his passing in 1986. He dedicated much of his life to the field of Philosophy as well as spreading the Gospel and nurturing the faith of believers at St. Michael's College.

Father John Michael Kelly was born in Scranton Pennsylvania on July 27, 1911. His parents, John Kelly and Mary McAndrews had five children in which he was the second oldest child. Fr. John attended both elementary and secondary school at St. John the Baptist in Scranton before moving to Toronto to obtain his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at St. Michael's College. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate and was ordained a Basilian Priest in 1936 at St. Basil's Parish in Toronto.

Fr. John spent almost forty-five years working at St. Michael's. Throughout these years, he was a professor of Philosophy, earned a Ph.D., served as the Dean of Men, President and Vice-Chancellor, Director of the Alumni Association and the President of the St. Michael's College Foundation. Fr. John Kelly passed away peacefully on September 26, 1986, and those who knew him described his final days as awaiting his death with faith and confidence.

Fr. John Kelly was devoted to pastoral care on campus and off campus. He devoted many hours to sitting and praying with people who had committed crimes and were living on death row at the Don Jail in Toronto. He helped these people find peace in preparation and administered last rights following their deaths.

Fr. John was a favourite Professor to so many of his students and Alumni. His work colleagues enjoyed working alongside him and he was often referred to as having an energetic, charismatic and dynamic personality. He was recognized for many outstanding contributions during his time at the University. One notable legacy came as a result of his passion for growing the University Library; it is now formally known as The John M. Kelly Library and is the largest federated college library at U of T. In 1984 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and over the course of eight years, he was granted honorary doctorates from five different Universities. He was also the recipient of the Georgetown Medal from Georgetown University in Washington Dc, the Centennial Medal from the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto Civic Award.

The Celebration Day for Fr. John Kelly is celebrated to recognize and pay tribute to this inspirational, faithful and dynamic Priest. The day serves as an important reminder of the importance of a faith-centred education. Our school, Fr. John Kelly CES in Maple, is honoured to be named after a man who challenged his students to build a City of God in our midst.

Father John Kelly CES Website [Click Here](#)

We are still trying to acquire more information about Father John M. Kelly. We will update the following information as it becomes available to us.



Quotes

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

-Pope Benedict

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another."

-Romans 12:5

"It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful."

-Pope Francis

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Dear Father

Thank you for our school and for everyone who works and studies in it.

We ask you to please watch over us and guide us in our learning, that we may be open to the tasks at hand each day and that we will gain knowledge as a result.

Help each and every one of us to reach our full potential, as you planned for us. May we be able to see our strengths and build upon them and learn our weaknesses and work to overcome them.

Thank you for your unwavering love for each of us. Please help us to be grateful and show gratitude to those people in our lives who help make a difference.

We thank you for everyone in our lives who work to create the perfect school environment, whether they are teachers, staff, administrators, volunteers or students.

We ask you Lord to please bless all these people with your love and give them strength to continue to teach and learn in your name.

Amen

Dedicated To:

Catholic Education

St. Michael's College at the
University of Toronto

Philosophy &
Philosophers

Basilians





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:
September 26

SCHOOL LOCATION:
Maple, ON

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**Father
John Kelly**

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- St. Michael's College, University of Toronto
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