

Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J.

Born in Boston in 1948, Fr. Michael McFarland grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts, after living for a time in California, and later graduated from Xavier High School (a Jesuit high school, now closed) in Concord, Massachusetts. He earned a bachelor's degree majoring in physics at Cornell University in 1969, and a master's degree (1978) and Ph.D. (1981) in electrical engineering (computer engineering) at Carnegie Mellon University.

Fr. McFarland entered the Society of Jesus in 1975, and studied at the Weston School of Theology where he earned a master's degree in divinity and a Th.M. in social ethics. He was ordained in 1984.

He worked as a consultant at the AT&T Bell Laboratories, doing research in computer-aided design of digital systems. He continued this research and his collaboration with Bell Labs while teaching at Boston College for 10 years as an associate professor of computer science, serving as chair of the department for three years. In addition to creating new courses in ethics and computers, computer architecture and digital systems, he created a laboratory for digital electronics and developed tutorial materials for a course on computers in management. Fr. McFarland has published articles in the *Proceedings of the IEEE* (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the *IEEE Transactions on Computers*, the *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems*, *Formal Methods for System Design*, the *Journal of Systems and Software*, *Computer*, and *Technology and Society*. He was an associate editor of the *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems* for three years and has been on numerous program committees for conferences such as the Design Automation Conference, the International Conference on Computer Design, the International Conference on Computer-Aided Design and the High-Level Synthesis Workshop.

In 1996, Fr. McFarland became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He was at Gonzaga for four years, where he was also a professor of computer science. He left in 2000 to become the President of the College of the Holy Cross, where he served until January 2012.

At Holy Cross, he oversaw the *Lift High the Cross Campaign*, which concluded in 2006 and raised \$216 million for strategic priorities, ranging from securing additional resources for financial aid to establishing new faculty positions. Under his leadership, the landscape of the College changed, most notably with the March 2010 completion of the \$64 million integrated science complex. In addition, the College completely renovated the Mary Chapel, built two new residence halls and added new athletics facilities, including a soccer stadium, a turf field for football and lacrosse, and renovated tennis courts. Even more important, during his tenure, Holy Cross more than doubled the

percentage of students coming from needy families and the percentage from underserved racial and ethnic groups, established an Office for Community-Based Learning and expanded its already extensive service programs.

Fr. McFarland was instrumental in shepherding critical partnerships in the City of Worcester, including the establishment of the Nativity School of Worcester, helping to bring minor league baseball to the city, and facilitating affordable housing and other initiatives of the South Worcester Neighborhood Improvement Corporation.

In addition to his academic endeavors, Fr. McFarland has been involved in working with poor communities, including in the Southwest with Native Americans, in Appalachia and in inner-city neighborhoods and parishes

While at Holy Cross, Fr. McFarland was a member of the board of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (AICUM), the University of Scranton, St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA, the Patriot League, the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives, Worcester Catholic Charities, the Worcester Municipal Research Bureau, and the Colleges of Worcester Consortium. He was also a member of the Advisory Council of PricewaterhouseCoopers USA and the NCAA Executive Committee and Division I Board of Directors.

In January of 2013, Fr. McFarland became the Treasurer of the New England and New York Provinces of the Society of Jesus. In that role he oversaw the finances, investments, property management, health care benefits, insurance and human resources of the two provinces, totaling more than 500 Jesuits. He also laid the groundwork for the merger of the two provinces, which occurred in 2015. He is now the Treasurer of the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus, the product of that merger. In addition to this service to the Province, he is a member of the boards of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, Campion Center, the J. Homer Butler Foundation, the Ecclesiastical Faculty of Boston College, St. Peter's Prep, St. Louis University and Boston College High School and is the chair of the Jesuit Health Trust, which funds the health care of essentially all the Jesuits in the United States. He was also a delegate to the 36th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus.