

Late Senator Is Lauded As Portrait is Unveiled

Archbishop McGuigan Officiates at Impressive Ceremony in Newman Club

by J. Fred Young – Church Editor Evening Telegram – October 21, 1940 (p. 21)

“He possessed the genius of common sense and balanced judgment enriched by experience and unhindered by fear: he built his life on the stable tripod of integrity, of charity and sincerity.”

Such was the tribute paid by Most Rev. J.C. McGuigan, M.R. D.D., Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toronto, as he referred to the late Senator Frank O'Connor yesterday afternoon at Newman Club, Toronto, in an address at the unveiling of a painting of the late senator.

More than 500 citizens witnessed the unveiling ceremony and among distinguished guests present was Hon. Dr. H. J. Cody, president of the University of Toronto. Brief addresses were heard from Dr. Cody and John Weir, president of the Alumni Association.

The portrait, gift of His Grace the Archbishop, was presented to the club as a personal mark of the archbishop's respect and gratitude for the good works of this great Canadian.

“The late Senator O'Connor knew the failings of human nature; he was deeply conscious of his own failings, but he loved mankind and saw in all humanity the image of his Creator,” His Grace the Archbishop declared in his address. “He was direct and practical in mental vision and speech. There was nothing in him that even remotely flavoured of the artificial or laboured for effect,” Archbishop McGuigan declared.

“He knew that he himself was a frail weak human mortal and because of that knowledge no weakness of humanity seemed to surprise him, except the denial of it integrity, charity and sincerity were his characteristics.”

Donald R. Morand occupied the chair and the gift was accepted by William J. O'Brien on behalf of the club.