



Charles Randolph Uncles

Charles Randolph Uncles was the son of a B & O Railroad worker and a dressmaker mother. Fr Uncles was an extremely bright student in high school and college. He broke the color barrier in Baltimore's St Mary's Seminary, at a time when segregation within and outside the Catholic Church was the norm. Fr Uncles' ultimate achievement, his ordination in 1891, made headlines around the country, including those of the New York Times newspaper.

The Mill Hill Missionary Society (whose American branch would later become the Josephites) recruited several candidates to become priests for their North American mission. In the end, Uncles was the only one. He studied at St. Peter's Apostolic School in Liverpool, England for the task. On returning to the U.S., he studied at St. Joseph Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained in December 1891 at the Cathedral of the Assumption by Cardinal James Gibbons and celebrated his first Mass on Christmas Day.

In 1893, the US provincial for the Mill Hill Fathers, Fr John R. Slattery, requested that the society's American operations be broken off into its own society, to which the Superior General acquiesced. The Josephites were then formed with the Mill Hill priests who wished to remain, including Fr Uncles.

From 1891-1925, Fr Uncles taught mainly in Epiphany College in Baltimore and New Windsor, New York. While residing at Epiphany College, Uncles fell ill and died July 20, 1933, considering himself to be an outcast from the Society due to the racism he experienced therein. He was buried in the college's cemetery but was exhumed in the 1970s and re-buried at Calvary Cemetery in the Josephite Plot.