

**Salesian College,
Pallaskenry,
Co. Limerick**

FR. JOSEPH PATRICK LOWE

Dear Confreres, Family and Friends,

On the morning of Friday 7th November Fr. Joe Lowe passed away peacefully in his sleep in St. Paul's Nursing Home, Dooradoyle, Limerick City. Since January he had been cared for by the Sisters and staff of St. Pauls and while there, on July 20th, he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of priestly ordination.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in Pallaskenry on Sunday 9th November. The main celebrant was our Provincial, Fr. John Horan, and the Homily was preached by Joe's old friend of missionary days, Fr. Joe Brennan. They were joined in the College Chapel by confreres, Sisters, members of Fr. Joe's family and friends. Fr. Joe's final resting place is Pallaskenry where he began his long journey with the Salesians in September 1931.

As a young man working in one of the local drapery shops in Kilrush, Joe made his intention of studying for the priesthood known to the local curate Fr. Smith. Fr. Connie Grey arrived one day in Kilrush on a visit to Fr. Smith who sent word to Joe; "There is a man below in the presbytery and if you don't go with him you won't go with anyone". Joe did. He spent two years as an aspirant in Pallaskenry and then sailed with three other lads, John Murphy, Lawrence Sheridan, Michael McGraine, via Turin to Buenos Aires where he made his first profession in 1936. Joe arrived back in Pallaskenry in 1941, final profession was in 1943 and, following some years studying theology at Cowley and Blaisdon, was ordained priest with Fr. Bill Drohan at Pallaskenry on 20th July 1947.

Fr. Joe began his priestly and religious endeavours in such disparate places as the Antilles for six months, three years in Australia, ten in South Africa, and eight in Malta. Finally he returned to Ireland in 1969 and gave long years of service to the Salesian Sisters in Brosna. In 1987 he returned to his roots in Pallaskenry. The Sisters showed their appreciation by their frequent visits to Fr. Joe in Pallaskenry and the Nursing Home, and by their presence at his funeral.

Fr. Joe spent his eventful life in humble service to his confreres and the many people, young and old, who crossed his path on his long journey of life. His life was not always easy but his determination and sense of responsibility enabled him to spend his life sharing Don Bosco's vision and Christ's mission with those who were fortunate to have known and benefited from his presence among them.

Fr. Joe was the youngest of nine children. As he said himself "the last to come in and the last to go out from the world". We believe this good man is now enjoying the blessings of heaven and no doubt catching up with the latest news in Paradise through the medium of the mother tongue.

*Ar dheis Dē go raibh an sagart Sailiseach seo,
A thug a bheata ar son na hOige.*

Fr. Tony McEvoy S.D.B.

OBITUARY DETAILS

FR. JOSEPH LOWE S.D.B.
R.I.P.

Born – Kilrush, Co. Clare
10th January 1912

Professed – Argentina
25th January 1936

Ordained – Pallaskenry
20th July 1947

Died – Pallaskenry
7th November 1997