



Salesian House,  
St. Teresa's Road,  
Crumlin,  
Dublin 12.  
Ireland.

Dear Confreres,

February, 1979.

Sadly we announce the death of our dear confrere Br. Michael McElligott. He suffered a severe stroke while on holiday last May in his native Kerry. Since then he had been hospitalized in the Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee until his death on the morning of the 22nd January, 1979.

His was indeed a hidden life and in his later years a life of patient suffering. Throughout his long Salesian life he worked quietly and unobtrusively in various houses in Ireland and England. A silent man but a man nevertheless of deep faith and simple devotions - a man of prayer and so a man of God.

Bro. Michael was born in Glenaleama, Kilflynn, Co. Kerry on the 30th May, 1903 and baptised the following day in Lixnaw. He entered Pallaskenry as an aspirant in 1936 at the age of 33 years. He was a novice in Beckford the following year. All his Salesian life was spent outdoors on the farms or gardens of Pallaskenry, Warrenstown, Ballinakill in Ireland, Shrigley, Farnborough and Ingersley in England. In 1965 he returned to Ireland spending his remaining years in our house in Crumlin.

In his young days Michael was a strong athletic type of man, very fond of cycling. During the war years he thought nothing of cycling from Pallaskenry to Warrenstown and back. Our good brother was always among the boys and they found that he had a sympathetic ear for them and their little problems. His interest in young people never waned and during his later years in Crumlin was often noticed chatting cheerfully with the novices.

Above all Bro. Michael was a man of prayer. Before the days of concelebration it was his joy to serve several Masses each day. Even failing health never prevented him from being first in the chapel in the morning. When he could so easily and legitimately been excused he never let-up in his Salesian devotions. He was often seen at prayer, always kneeling although crippled with arthritis. He obviously brought many blessings to the house of Crumlin. The sisters and nurses of the hospital in Tralee remarked on the holiness of our brother. Despite the loss of speech and movement he was often noticed to be in union with God by his prayerful attitude. Bro. Michael spoke to God with his heart - he never needed words. He surely tasted the joy of being close to Christ. Our prayer for our beloved confrere is an adaptation of a prayer of St. Francis of Sales on whose feastday we laid our brother to rest in the peace and quiet of the cemetery in Pallaskenry.

"O, Eternal love, his heart sought you eternally;  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love;  
Love, love, O holy love, come possess his heart for ever."

Please remember the Crumlin community in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Don Bosco,

J. Delahunt SDB

For Necrology Coadjutor Michael McElligott SDB born in Glenaleama, Co. Kerry, Ireland, 30th May, 1903 - died in Tralee, Ireland, 22nd January, 1979, in the 41st years of his religious profession; aged 75 years.