

Salesian College,
Battersea,
London, SW11 3PB

1st July, 1978



Dear Confrères,

It was in the quiet of Sunday afternoon, 25th June, 1978, that, fortified by the Rites of Holy Church, a well-loved member of this community

REV. FATHER DANIEL McKEOWN, S.D.B.

passed into the eternal Hands of God. He will be greatly missed by us all.

For over forty years, during which he had dedicated himself to the truly Salesian apostolate of teaching, he had been stationed at Battersea. Generations of pupils had passed through his hands. Their love and respect for him was manifested over and over again throughout the years at gatherings of Old Boys and of Parents, and, indeed, on every social occasion. He had a positive gift as a raconteur and this stood him in good stead as a teacher of history and, with his religious brethren, in the friendly chatter of community life.

He was one who loved intensely his sacred priesthood and his Salesian vocation. To them his life was most zealously given.

By no means what is to-day understood by the phrase 'an intellectual,' he was, instead, an ardent student, a voracious reader and a man of deep knowledge and wise judgment. He has recently been heard to remark that it was his ambition to be second to none in his acquaintance with both dogmatic and moral theology.

The fruits of all this were very evident, not merely in the classroom but also — in a most profound way — in the pulpit and in the confessional. He was much in demand in both these realms of priestly activity and was sought after as a giver of retreats. His kindly manner and counsel in dealing with old people in nursing homes and with nuns in their convents revealed him again as a quiet but ardent 'hunter of souls.'

He was born in the dockland area of Glasgow, Scotland, on 11th July 1903. His early upbringing in areas of hard work, poor pay and unemployment left a deep mark on his life. No wonder that his social conscience was strong. It was matched by that strong faith which is so often the accompaniment of lives whose foundation has been laid in a poverty which was mingled with genuine goodness because it was rooted in the Church and in God.

His yearly visits to Northern Ireland were to him not only a source of great enjoyment but refreshing exercises in the ardent love of the Faith as well.

'Father Dan,' as he will always be fondly remembered by his brethren, came to the Salesians on 8th September, 1927, when he entered the novitiate at Cowley, Oxford. There, two years later, he made his first profession. There followed a period at Warrenstown, Co. Meath, Ireland, and then his perpetual profession at Battersea on 11th August, 1934.

His philosophical studies, combined with the practical triennium, were distributed between Cowley (1928-30), Warrenstown (1930-32) and Battersea (1932-33). He studied theology at Shrigley (Cheshire) from 1933-36 and at Blaistown (Glos.) 1936-37. It was at Blaistown that he was raised to the priesthood on 25th July, 1937.

From then onwards, his life was spent at Battersea in the humble but truly apostolic environment of the classroom. There he gave his all and who would deny that there Don Bosco would vouch that there is to be found a field wide-open for vocations and for souls!

Father McKeown will be laid to rest with his departed Salesian confrères at Morden cemetery on July 3rd. May he rest in peace!

We ask your prayers for the repose of his soul, for his bereaved relatives and for this community.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,
Fr. Austin Malloy, S.D.B.
Rector.

Data for the Necrology. Rev. Father Daniel McKeown, S.D.B. Born Glasgow (Scotland) 11.7.03. Perp. professed 11.8.34. Died Battersea 25.6.78.

R.I.P.