



Father Henry Mullaney.

Salesian College,
Ballinakill,
Co. Laois.
Ireland.

January 1979.

It is with deep and sincere sorrow that I inform you of the sudden death of our beloved confrere Father Henry Mullaney on December 7th, 1978, after a lifetime of devoted service in Salesian houses in Ireland and England.

After his early boyhood in his native Belfast, where he was born in 1913, Henry Mullaney went to Shrigley in 1929 as a member of the first group of boys to enter the newly established aspirantate there. Under the conditions in Shrigley during that first pioneering year life was not easy for a boy of 16 away from home for the first time but it helped to develop the determination and unobtrusive steadiness which were such a feature of his life in later years.

He made his novitiate in Cowley where he was professed in 1934 and there followed the usual pattern of studies and training -- Philosophy in Cowley, practical training in Pallaskenry and Blaisdon and Theology in Blaisdon where he was ordained priest in 1943.

Father Henry was an administrator of a very high order and the care and the competence with which he dealt with practical matters were very obvious. From the time of his ordination, with the exception of a year or two, he was in positions of administration in various houses in Ireland and England, -- Prefect in Warrenstown (twice), Prefect here in Ballinakill, Rector in Blaisdon (twice), Rector in Pallaskenry, (twice), and Rector of Warrenstown. He was one of a team set up to discuss the details of the establishment of the Irish Province on its separation from the English Province in 1969 and for a short period he acted as Provincial Economist in the new Province.

The majority of his confreres remember him as an efficient manager and director but, as well, as someone to be trusted as reliable and competent who was, above all, considerate for the welfare of others and the well-being of the community, eminently reasonable in all his dealings and showing little or no consideration for himself. But there were other sides to his life -- he had a fund of humour and a way of recounting incidents in the life of the houses which were vastly entertaining; though he taught for only a year or two, he was a true son of Don Bosco in his love for boys and in his care for them. His role in the house gave him fewer opportunities to mix with the boys but it was obvious that he was supremely happy when he was with them, enjoying their repartee and cracking jokes. He was not the kind of man that revealed himself easily and he was undemonstrative and, most of all, uncomplaining; those who knew him closely, however, knew of the depth of his feeling for others and the real warmth that was there -- the fact that boys felt so much at home with him is a sure sign of this.

A year ago, at the beginning of 1978, he first experienced a mild case of heart attack and spent some three weeks in hospital. Throughout the following year he was never really well and the death of his mother in July was another trial to be borne. When he came to Ballinakill in September he was happy to do what he could, acting as confessor to the boys and helping the Headmaster with lists and forms. He was working at these on the day of his death, in his usual neat, careful way; he put them aside at lunch-time and went to his room. Here he was found by a confrere who went looking for him when he did not join the community in the refectory.

The Requiem Mass in the Parish Church was concelebrated by nearly 40 of his confreres, among them one from the English Province where he had worked for so long and had been so well known. He is buried now in the quiet College cemetery where he will always be fondly remembered by the Community and boys. Please keep him and all of us in your prayers.

C.J. Archer, S.D.B.
Rector

Data for Necrology Fr. Henry Mullaney, born Belfast, Ireland, 1913,
Ordained 1943, Died Ballinakill, Ireland. 7/12/78.

