

Salesian College
Battersea
LONDON, SW11 3PB

24th May, 1971



Dear Confrères,

It was during the night which ushered in the feast of St. George, April 23rd 1971, that the soul of

REV. FATHER DANIEL FRANCIS MURPHY S.D.B.

went quietly and peacefully to God. With his death, a great void is left in this house and throughout the province. He was a man ever remarkable for his sublime charity, his unfailing kindness, and his utter disregard of personal suffering and discomfort. Never, though he had years of ill-health, and, at times, periods of what must have been great agony, did a moan escape him. His life was spent smiling and bringing happiness to others. Parents of our pupils here and elsewhere speak often of the heartiness of the welcome he gave them on their first, and subsequent, visits to our schools. Boys idolised him.

He was born in Knocknagree (diocese of Kerry), Co. Cork, Ireland, on November 28th 1909, and was baptised on that same day. With his brother, Michael, he came to our college at Farnborough in the early 1920's and was one of a remarkable group of boys who were later destined to do great work as priests in God's Church. He entered the novitiate at Cowley in 1928, was finally professed there in 1932, and did his philosophy there also. He began theology at Shrigley and then, in 1936, was sent to the Crocetta. He was raised to the sacred priesthood in Turin on July 3rd 1938. His qualities had early been recognised, and he was responsible for much good work as Assistant to aspirants and students long before his ordination. It was as a Teacher and Assistant to the students at the scholasticate that he began his priestly life. Then, after a year as Catechist in Pallaskenry (Ireland), he returned to his old love, Farnborough, and there, for over twenty years, fulfilled a

remarkable apostolate in various offices, including those of Prefect and Catechist, as well as Teacher. He also did good work as an officiating chaplain to the Forces.

What will always be gratefully remembered by those who knew him then will be, not only the friendliness and warmth of his character, but his gifts as a peacemaker. His contribution to the harmony of community life was a truly great one.

For a short period, from 1961-2, he acted as chaplain to the De La Mennais Brothers at Cheswardine Hall, Shropshire. 1963 saw him back at Cowley as Confessor, and, in 1965, he received what was to be his final appointment as teacher and assistant at Battersea. To evaluate the apostolate he carried out during those last years, and indeed throughout his Salesian life, one must turn to the Tabernacle. Never was he so much at home as there in the presence of Our Lord. He would gladly serve Mass after Mass. Never had a priest to look for a server—still less to ask for one—when he was around. To him, the service of the priest at the altar was, after the privilege of offering the Mass itself, the supreme honour and joy. In that spirit, he made a host of friends among the boys. He always had a circle of boys around him, making the responses, etc., as he said his Mass. They would not be denied their joy. No wonder, then, that he was a priest who fostered vocations. God alone knows how many he has encouraged on their way to the goal. He had Don Bosco's ideas of the love of the Mass and the Sacraments to perfection. How much we can learn to-day from the memory of his example! In his dealings with others, Father Murphy provided all the honey that St. Francis of Sales might have desired! It is simple truth that, in his gentle, loving kindness, he became "all things to all men that he might save all." Pray that he may speedily enjoy the happiness of heaven.

I ask your good prayers also, for myself and for this house which, in a period of little more than a year, has three times suffered sad bereavement.

Yours very sincerely in Our Lord,

FRANCIS TREANOR S.D.B.
(Rector)

DATA FOR THE NECROLOGY

REV. FATHER DANIEL J. MURPHY S.D.B., born, Knocknagree, Co. Cork, Ireland, 28th November 1909; died at Battersea (London), 23rd April 1971. Aged 61 years.