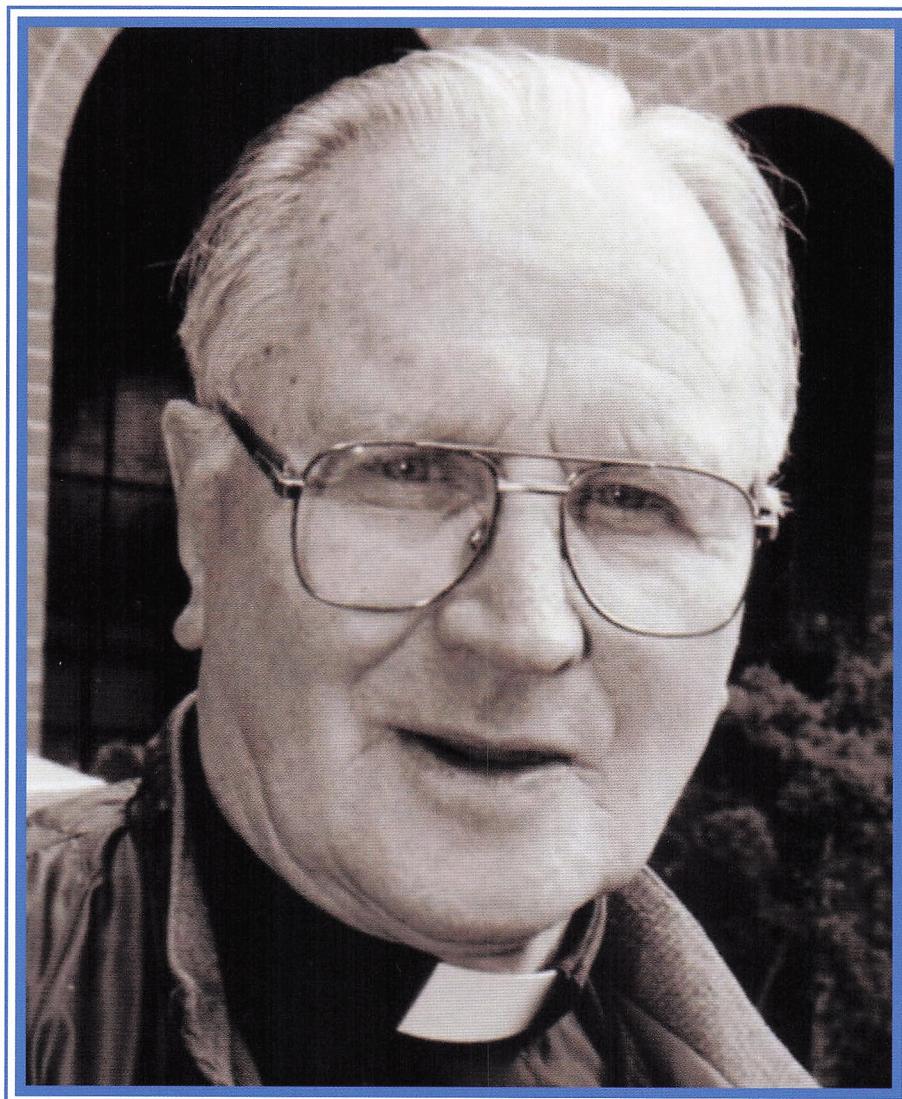


In Loving Memory of

Fr. Daniel O'Sullivan SDB



Born	10 July 1918 Cork, Ireland
Religious Profession	31 August 1938 Beckford, England
Ordained a Priest	20 July 1952 Beckford, England
Entered Eternal Life	30 August 2014 Bairnsdale, Australia

After a life that spanned 96 years, the oldest Salesian member of the Australia-Pacific Province, Fr Daniel O'Sullivan, passed away peacefully on 30 August 2014 about noon at Maddocks Gardens Residential Aged Care in Bairnsdale, Victoria. He was a legend, a much esteemed and loved Salesian who may well have said with St Paul, "I have fought the good fight; I have run the race

Dan was born on 10 July 1918, the son of James O'Sullivan and Agnes Donovan in the district of Durrus, County Cork, Ireland. He attended the Durrus Primary School and the Christian Brothers College for his Secondary schooling. He retained a respectful admiration for the Christian Brothers throughout his whole life.

There were no Salesians in Cork but he had heard of the Salesians from some Salesian Co-operators who introduced him to the life of Don Bosco. Dan loved the land and wanted to follow his father in farming. He was told that the Salesians had an Agricultural College in Palleskenry, County Limerick. So he enrolled there. His contact with the Salesians was very positive; so much so that at the age of eighteen he expressed the wish to become a Salesian. In September 1936 he was admitted as a pre-novice at Cowley, Oxford, England and in August 1937 he made his Novitiate at Beckford, England with the legendary Fr Simonetti as Novice Master. In 1938 he took his first religious vows.



Dan offered his life to God for the service of youth. In 1939, just before the Second World War started, he volunteered to work in the missions in India. At Sonada near Darjeeling, India, he completed his course of Philosophy and teacher training. Until very recently Dan often recalled in beautiful and colourful words the settings of the sun over the Himalayas, illuminating Mount Everest. As is customary amongst the Salesians, Dan started his three years of practical training before completing his priestly studies. His first assignment was teaching in a boarding school in Calcutta (Kolkata) and later he also taught in a school at Shillong where he also started his Theological Studies. While he was doing his practical training, the Second World War was raging. No damage was done to the schools, but all around him he saw the ravaging of war with its consequences.

In 1944 he made his Religious Perpetual Profession in Shillong at the hands of Fr Peter Ricaldone, who was then Salesian Rector Major.

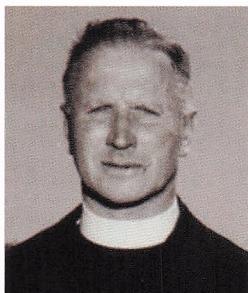
After the war things had changed in India; there was the movement for Indian Independence and Europeans were not welcome by some sections of society. Coupled with this, there was a certain tension between some missionaries as some of the Salesian confreres had come from Axis countries and were interned in concentration camps during the war period, while those on the Allied side were left free to go wherever they wanted. These events upset Dan's missionary dreams and so two years later he returned to his Anglo-Irish Province.

After about three years' adjustment in which he taught at Salesian College, Oxford, he continued his Theological Studies and was ordained a priest at Beckford, England, on 20 July 1952 by Bishop Rudderham. The ordination took place at the great Benedictine Abbey of Downside. This Abbey was a treasured and much loved place for Dan, as he often talked about it.



However, barely six months after ordination Dan found himself in Australia. The connection with Australia started with Dan's father, James, who had a very successful dairy farm in Queensland in the early 1900s, but returned to Ireland and married Agnes Donovan who had also returned to Ireland after being a successful chef in the U.S.A. They had three children, Veronica, Daniel and Austin. Veronica and Austin had already migrated to Queensland after World War II.

Fr Dan was an accomplished teacher of Mathematics and Latin and his University records are marked with 'High Distinctions'. I shall quote from the report of Mr Glastonbury, a Senior Inspector of Schools in South Australia, who wrote:



"This is to certify that in the years 1953 and 1954 I examined the teaching done by Fr O'Sullivan at the Salesian College, Brooklyn Park, South Australia. During that time it was necessary for me to assess the value of his work as a teacher in the secular subjects of the curriculum. I have spoken to several people interested in the qualities of teachers about the excellent work done by Fr O'Sullivan. Fr O'Sullivan is one of the finest practising teachers whom I have ever examined. His discipline is fine. His teaching technique is exceptionally effective. His understanding of the Philosophy and meaning of education is profound. I have no hesitation in saying that Fr O'Sullivan fulfils all the requirements needed for a fully qualified teacher."

Fr Dan's Salesian vocation led him to many communities of the Salesian Australian-Pacific Province. His first appointment was that of Prefect of Studies at Salesian College, Brooklyn Park, South Australia. Thence followed 52 years of appointments. He held senior positions at Glenorchy, Chadstone, Sunbury and Port Pirie. He was Rector and Principal at St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully from 1967 to 1972. In 1991, after one year at Auxilium College, Lysterfield ministering to the spiritual needs of the confreres, the Novices and young Salesians in training and being also available at the Retreat Centre, he was asked to go to Nagle College, Bairnsdale. There he taught Religious Education as well as being a support teacher in the Mathematics and Italian Departments. He especially helped a number of students who were finding difficulties in the latter two subjects mentioned. Dan was also available to the various Parishes of Gippsland for Mass supplies and other services. He was also involved with the meetings

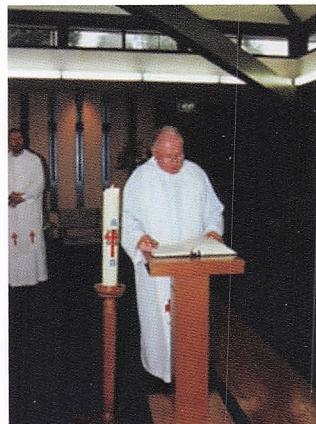


of the Legion of Mary and gave the monthly talk at the meetings of the St Vincent de Paul Society of the Bairnsdale Parish.

One of his colleagues, on behalf of himself and his wife, wrote: "From our experience, Fr Dan was the epitome of what you would want from a priest, devoted to his calling, indeed intelligent and with a sense of humour (though at times wicked!) and with that Irish lilt to which you could listen all day. Yes may he rest in a well deserved peace."

Dan was passionate in all his undertakings, and nothing was half-hearted whether it be religion, education or politics. Those who may have had discussions with him remember that for him everything had to be black or white. Yet behind his toughness there existed a compassionate person and a priestly pastoral man. He may have shown strictness with his students, but only because he loved them and wanted them to succeed. As I was gathering his belongings from Maddocks Gardens after his death, I picked up the bust of our Blessed Lady from a shelf. The bust was attached to a pedestal and I noticed that holes were drilled at the bottom of the pedestal. These holes were filled with rolled up paper and, on opening the papers, I discovered lists of students of the classes that Dan had taught. I suspected that that Dan had placed these students under the protection of Mary the Mother of God and that he prayed for them. During his retirement, in his fatherly care he showed pastoral compassion towards the old and the dying. Relatives of the dying often noticed his compassion, encouragement and the assurance of God's loving mercy. Despite his conservatism, his openness to change was remarkable.

A man of iron, he kept on teaching into his 80s. Severe arthritis and a heart attack forced him to go into semi-retirement. He kept on ministering with chaplaincies (mentioned above), Masses and other priestly duties. At the Salesian Residence he took charge of the garden, growing flowers and looking after about 56 rose bushes. Our chapel was always adorned with flowers. He also looked after the setting up of the chapel and kept us up to date with the liturgy.



Dan loved his relatives in Queensland dearly. While he was well he visited them yearly. At his Requiem Mass, one of his nieces stated that they always waited for Uncle Dano (as he was fondly called) to visit them during the summer holidays.

"January was his favourite time of year. We liked to think so.

It was at this time of the year that he came to visit us in Brisbane and stayed for a few weeks. During this time, all the major cricket matches and tennis championships were televised on TV. Uncle Dano would settle down in a comfortable chair and would watch sports for Australia, all the time fed and watered by his family.

We all enjoyed having him around. He was such a smart man and we could always depend on him to end an argument or solve a riddle with his definitive answer or opinion. He kept up to date with current affairs and was very knowledgeable.

He was never an emotionally expressive man but we could tell he cared for us all very much. He had a gentle deep resolve about him that obviously came through in his work as a teacher and educator. We were also surprised on many occasions with his quick and dry wit.

His time spent in India influenced his tastes and he loved a good curry, the hotter the better. When on holidays with us, the males of the family took Uncle Dano to dinner for what they thought would be a good hot curry. Needless to say, it was never hot enough for Uncle Dano but 'over the top' hot for the boys.

Because he always holidayed in Brisbane during January, the majority of the family weddings were held this month. He was our family priest and he treated these occasions as great honours and we certainly appreciated the warmth and intimacy of his wedding masses. Later we kept him busy with all the christenings that were jammed into January. Uncle Dano was a Great Uncle to 16 and a Great Great Uncle to 3.

Every year at Christmas Uncle Dano would send a Christmas card to each of the family. He would sign off with 'Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.' I would now like to sign off and say to you, Uncle Dano, with love in our hearts 'Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless'.

In 2006, when his arthritis and other complications sometimes forced him into hospital for weeks, he retired to Maddocks Gardens Residential Care at the advice of his doctor. There he was able to say Mass daily in his room and every Monday the nurses prepared a room for him to say Mass for the residents and some of the parishioners who lived close by. Every Wednesday afternoon we brought him home for the Community Mass and dinner. He never complained but was always grateful to the nurses who cared for him. In turn, the nurses loved Dan so much that they spared him the trauma of moving into the high intensive section by bringing the equipment required to him.

A few weeks before the Christmas of 2011 Dan suffered a severe stroke which left him bed-ridden, unable to look after himself, with speech impairment and a certain degree of dementia. He was well cared for by the nurses and his eventual passage from this earth to eternal life in August 2014 was peaceful.

The fruitful experience of a long life with its joys, sadness, strong opinions, and caring for the young with hard work and sacrifices, indeed sums up the man and priest Dan O'Sullivan, whom the Salesians of the Australia-Pacific Province and the People of God loved and respected so much.

May he now rest in peace.

Fr Joseph Pulis SDB
Priest-in-Charge
Bairnsdale Community

August 2015



Veronica, Augustine and Dan
O'Sullivan - Ireland



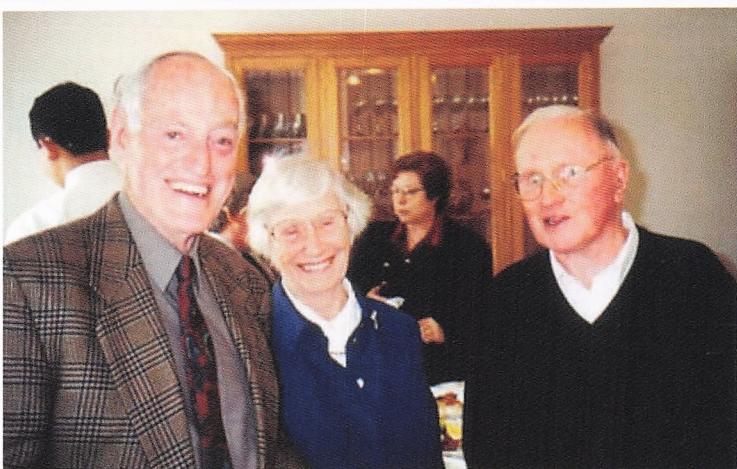
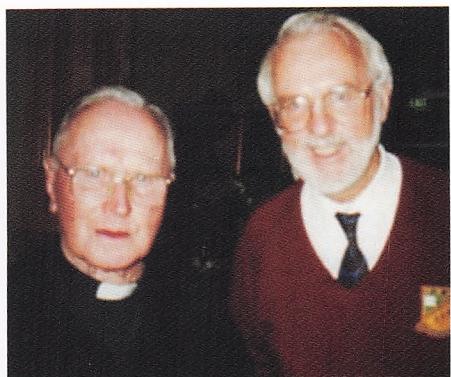
Augustine, Agnes, Fr Dan
and Maryanne O'Sullivan



With Augustine and Patricia O'Sullivan



O'Sullivan Family at Patrick and Carmel's wedding



A TRIBUTE

For Dan

*I have passed through that door which men call Death,
to mingle on the Eternal Plain with a Eucharistic throng.
Say not that it is ended, that I have drawn my last breath.
Oh No! I breathe anew to sing a many stanzed song.*

*Now I, in gratitude, return to the good earth
her accumulated gifts, a priestly charism-sealed oblation,
speak not of dust, or reckon my time's worth.
Rejoice rather in my pledged rejuvenation.*

*Now out of time, my time-encrusted spirit goes
and I see, as He sees, that all now **IS**,
pray for me, that all my guilt enwoven woes
may find forgiveness in the Presence that is His.*

*So leave me now, lost in visions no tongue can tell;
Forever He and I - "Maranatha, "Maranatha Emmanuel."*

Fr Francis Freeman



