

### FATHER WILLIAM RENSHAW. S. D. B.

Father William collapsed and died suddenly whilst he was actually in the classroom teaching at the Salesian College, Chertsey, Surrey on the 9th October 1972. He suffered a severe haemorrhage and was rushed to hospital. Further attacks occurred during the day and he died in the early evening.

Fr. William's parents, Margaret and William moved from their home in Cleator Moor, Cumbria to the Salesian parish at Cowley, Oxford, in 1935. Fr. William's sister writes.. "Having been used to the Benedictines more austere approach, the friendliness and joy of the Salesians made a big impression on us. The parish priest was Fr. McConville and although he was always late for everything he was greatly loved. He never, in all the years we knew him, said an unkind word about anyone. Without being conscious of it at the time, his goodness and simplicity had an effect on us. I knew that Bill loved him and was ready to do anything for him. Another great priest was Fr. John Kelly. He opened an evening oratory in a building in a field opposite the Salesian House. Crowds of boys attended it and several of the Brothers willingly helped out. Fr. John Vanston and Fr. Thomas Jennings were very much involved and Fr. Thomas taught boxing to the boys. William at that time was one of Fr. Kelly's constant helpers. So the friendliness, joy and availability of these priests sowed the seed for Bill's vocation. Sister Charlotte was also another great factor in his life." Sister Margaret herself became an aspirant with the Sisters about that time.

Soon afterwards Bill applied to join the Salesians and he was asked to go to Pallaskenry for his aspirantate. He came back to England and started his novitiate in 1940. After successfully completing his novitiate he made his first profession in 1941. Bro. William then went to Shrigley to study Philosophy. After the completion of his philosophical studies at Shrigley he spent the next four years teaching in the Salesians schools in Blaisdon and Malta. His course of theology followed at Shrigley and Blaisdon and he was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Clifton on the 15th July 1952.

A gifted instructor in arts and crafts, he was involved in the work in Salesians schools at Farnborough from 1953-63, Aberdour, Scotland from 1963-66, Blaisdon from 1966-7, Oxford from 1967-9, and finally Chertsey from 1969-72.

His remains were received into St. Anne's church, Chertsey, on Thursday evening, October 12th. Concelebrate Requiem Mass there on the afternoon of Friday, October 13th preceded burial in the Salesian plot in the Chertsey cemetery. Please remember Fr. William in your prayers, and also his good mother and his sister, Sister Margaret Renshaw. F. M. A.

May he rest in peace. Amen.