

Salesians of St. John Bosco

AUGUST 1977



Salesian College,
Pallaskenry,
Co. Limerick.

*It is with deep regret that I inform you
of the death of our dearly loved confrere
Fr. William Drohan, who died unexpectedly
on 14th July 1977.*

William Drohan was born on 2nd November 1917 in Galway, and sometime later the family moved to Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. He received his early education at the Christian Brothers' School Clonmel.

In September 1934, he went as an Aspirant to the Salesian College, at Cowley, Oxford. He began his Novitiate there the following year, and was professed on 5th September 1936. He studied Philosophy for one year at Cowley, and then because of his outstanding ability, he was transferred to Rome to study at the Gregorian University, where he did a Licentiate in Philosophy. He returned to England in May 1940. He then spent two years at Shrigley and one year at Farnborough.

In 1943 he returned to Cowley to begin his theological studies. He concluded his theological studies at Blaisdon Hall, Gloucester in 1947. Then on the 20th July 1947 he was ordained at Salesian College Pallaskenry.

The following year he spent at Chertsey as a teacher. He returned to Pallaskenry as Headmaster and teacher of theology in 1948. In 1949-50 he attended University College, Dublin, where he did the Higher Diploma in Education. The subsequent years he spent as Headmaster at Pallaskenry and teacher at Ballinakill.

From 1967-71 he worked in the Diocese of San Diego, U. S.A. On his return to Crumlin House, Dublin in 1971, he became Chaplain at St. Laurence's Remand School, Finglas, Dublin.

Fr. Drohan was a dedicated priest and a eloquent preacher. He was a man of outstanding ability, more especially in the scientific field, and he possessed a remarkable general knowledge. All this he used to the advantage of others, especially his pupils. He was sympathetic to the modern world, and understood the need of people especially the young, in whom he had a very genuine interest. He was a very kind and gentle priest, with a great gift of friendship. He will be missed by the many friends he made both inside and outside the Salesian Society.

After his death at St. John's Hospital, Limerick on 14th July, his body was brought to the Salesian College, Pallaskenry. For the Requiem and Committal the following day, some 35 priests concelebrated with Father Denis Corcoran, Vice Provincial. The large congregation present was evident proof of the affection and esteem in which he was held. After the Mass, Fr. Drohan was buried in the College Cemetery.

May God Our Father, through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians quickly grant him the reward of those who die in the Lord.

J. Harrington, S.D.B.
Rector.