
FR. WILLIAM DROHAN, R.I.P.

(Editor's Note: Since his death we have seen and heard numerous tributes to Fr. Bill which we would dearly love to print. But in addition to Fr. Harrington's account of his life which has already been circulated to all the Houses, we feel that the account in **The Nationalist** newspaper says it all very well. We are therefore reprinting it here for the benefit of all those who knew and loved this charming and truly gentle man. Our thanks in particular to his brother Michael for letting us have the clipping).

The death of Father Willie Drohan, S.D.B., of the Salesian College, Pallaskenry and 56 Irishtown, Clonmel which occurred at St. John's Hospital, less than a week ago, was the cause of inexpressible grief to his sisters, brothers, nephews, nieces, the Salesian Community, relatives and friends. He died on July 14th and would have celebrated the 30th year of his ordination on July 20th. The news of his death was received with deepest regret in his home town to which he returned frequently. He often celebrated Mass in St. Mary's parish, and all the old neighbours and friends loved to meet him.

Fr. Drohan was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Drohan, of 56, Irishtown, belonging to a family long established in the town, and held in the highest regard. He entered the Salesian Order in 1934 and spent a number of years studying at Oxford. From 1936 to 1940 he was in Rome, studying philosophy and theology at the Gregorian University, and travelled extensively in France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland during those years. He returned to Ireland when all foreigners were ordered out of Italy during world war two.

Fr. Drohan continued his studies in England, and with Father J. Lowe, was ordained in Pallaskenry in 1947 - the first Salesian to be ordained there. During his studies he distinguished himself academically and was widely acknowledged for his scholastic brilliance. He taught theology and philosophy in Pallaskenry and Ballinakill Salesian Colleges, and prepared many young

men for the priesthood who today are on mission work in various parts of the world. He was known as a kind, gentle and dedicated teacher, never heard to criticise.

For a number of years the late Father Drohan served as headmaster at Pallaskenry and Ballinakill, then spent four years on parochial work in America where he made many friends. Indeed, two of these, who are holidaying in this country, attended the funeral.

Another dedicated facet of Father Drohan's priestly work was his care of under-privileged boys at St. Laurence's School, Dublin, where he was both chaplain and teacher. His most recent appointment was in Pallaskenry where he taught science, his speciality.

The remains were taken home to the County Limerick College on Friday evening and following Concelebrated Mass in the college chapel at noon on Saturday he was laid to rest in the college cemetery. All the Salesian Community had gathered there, and were joined by priests from Clonmel and elsewhere, friends of the Drohan family. The celebrant of the Mass on Saturday was Father Corcoran, S.D.B., who gave a very touching account of the career of their late colleague and in sympathising with the relatives, extended the condolences of Rev. Father Provincial who was in Africa. Father Corcoran pointed out that the white naval cap on the coffin belonged to Father Drohan's nephew, Michael, who is serving on the *Polaris* submarine, the U.S.S. Thomas

Jefferson. As he could not be present he sent it by his father Joe, who had travelled from California with his daughter that morning.

Many relatives and friends had travelled from Clonmel and various parts of the country to be present at the sad occasion on both days, and all were most appreciative of the wonderful hospitality extended them by Father Rector and the Salesians - it was in the true tradition of the old Irish monasteries.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to the bereaved brothers - Michael, Davy, Bobby and Joe; sisters Carmel and Nancy, and the numerous nieces and nephews and relatives.
