

FATHER MANNIX HANNIFFY. SDB.

On Wednesday, April 20th, 1983, at 12. 25 p. m. , Father Mannix went home to the Lord. Since his tragic car accident in September 1975, he spent the last seven and a half years of his life on a wheel chair. Fr. Mannix was born in Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, on the 23rd September 1920. He first went to Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, with the desire to become a Salesian priest in 1935. He entered the Novitiate at Beckford, Gloucestershire, in August 1939, and made his first profession on the 31st August 1940.

After various periods of study and training in England and Ireland, he was ordained in Blaistown, Gloucestershire on the 16th July 1950. He then spent the next two years at Pallaskenry, before going to University College, Dublin, where he graduated in Agricultural Science in 1956. From then until his accident he was headmaster, first of the Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, and subsequently at Warrenstown.

Fr. Mannix was a man of great faith and strongly held views. After his accident he retained firm hopes of making a full recovery. With undaunted courage he persevered resolutely in learning to walk and to gradually use his limbs again. After three years of continuous exercise and effort, it became clear to him and to others, that his recovery would only be partial. This came as a great disappointment to him, and it was something that he tried valiantly to cope with for the remainder of his life. Before his accident, he was a man of fire and enthusiasm. He had extraordinary courage in the face of dangers and difficulties. He generously gave himself and his talents especially for the benefit of young people. His whole life was really given to the welfare of young people, their academic, material and spiritual welfare.

His recent years were times of great suffering, and he always referred to them as God's will for him, God's plan for him. He was a great man to reminisce, and to relate stories of the past, and certainly none of the original was lost in the telling. He had a great love and admiration for his own home family, and for his Salesian confreres, and most of his stories revolved around them. He was very proud of his home family, and loved to talk about them. He had friends in every walk of life. This was amply demonstrated in the huge number present for the removal of the remains from the hospital to Warrenstown Chapel, and at the funeral Mass and burial on Friday, April. 22nd. His brother, Fr. Brendan Hanniffy. SMA, returned from Nigeria to officiate at the funeral Mass, at which over fifty priests concelebrated. It was a fitting tribute to him by all those who loved him and enjoyed his friendship and great humanity. We pray that the Lord who called Fr. Mannix to the Salesian priesthood, and sustained him in life, may now receive him in His glory.

Fraternally in Don Bosco.

Fr. O'Mahoney. S. D. B.