

## **IRISH SPIRITANS REMEMBERED**

A mainly alphabetical list of Irish-born Spiritans and Spiritans of other nationalities who have worked or studied in Ireland.

This list has been adapted from the book, “Irish Spiritans Remembered, Part 1” by Seàn P. Farragher, C.S.Sp. © Paraclete Press, and from notices issued by the Provincialate on the deaths of confreres.

It is not a complete list and will be added to as Fr Seàn continues his research for Part II.

### **ACTON, Fr Peter 1872-1905**



Born on 2 June 1872 in Ballure, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Peter studied at Blackrock College, 1888-94. Having done the matriculation, which was a separate year under the RUI, he then studied for 1st Arts as was customary for the junior scholastics before teaching as prefects. Peter prefected at Blackrock, 1894-98, teaching Greek and Mathematics. One of his students was his fellow-county man, John D'Alton, future Cardinal, who expressed his admiration and affection for him years later. Peter went to France to do his novitiate and senior studies. He was ordained 1902 and we see him featured in the September 1901 group-photo of all the Irish scholastics in France that year. His first appointment was to Blackrock, 1903-4. He was then called on to set off for Trinidad. He was suffering from lung trouble and as it was thought then that a warm climate would be of help. This was not to be in his case. The superior, Fr John Neville, who had been Peter's director in the Juniorate at Blackrock, wrote in the course of his official letter to Paris announcing his death: "He spent only a brief period with us here but he has left us all edified. I have never witnessed a more saintly death. He had always been very resolute and determined but even-tempered and balanced and with no pretensions. He was always ready for whatever came his way whether it was in arranging a cricket match for the scholastics at Leixlip or trying to get young bloods in class to appreciate the niceties of pure Hellenism; in each case his faith helped him in his approach. As death approached he faced it also with calm confidence in the Lord." Fr Peter Acton died on 31 October 1905 aged 33 years and was buried in Trinidad. *BG* 23 p.531f; *SpWW* 166.

### **AHERN, Fr James 1922-1988**



Born on 17 October 1922 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Jim was set on following in his father's footsteps as tailor when he felt the call of the missions at the age of 19. He spent two years at Rockwell College 'learning Latin' before he entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1944. He did one year's prefectoring at Rockwell before commencing Theology. Athletically gifted he was allowed by the provincial, Dr Dan Murphy, to accept the invitation to play for Cork in the All-Ireland football final. The captain of that victorious team was Jack Lynch, future Taoiseach. In the inter-faculty rugby matches at Kimmage he was the bane of the Philosophers' side because of his facility for dropping goals! Ordained in 1951 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. Stationed at Emekuku he did notable work in evangelising an extensive bush area. Later he became pastor of Amerienne where he built a mission and a church. He referred to this period, when he and Fr Dan O'Connell worked together, as the happiest time in his life. Forced by ill-health to retire from Nigeria he was welcomed by Archbishop McGucken of San Francisco where he was to have a very fruitful ministry for his remaining years at San Mateo. There his many talents as a pastor were highly appreciated, especially his gift for being a good listener and his ability to give down to earth advice on the right road to heaven. In 1972 he was appointed Superior of the Irish Spiritans working in California. He also proved a great boon as host to

Irish confreres displaced by the Biafran war. Always outgoing, he revelled in company, lay and clerical, and was the heart and soul of the party. His total lack of guile is perhaps best illustrated by the oft told incident about how a wily Kerry defender foiled his attempt at a penalty by exerting undue pressure on the ball in the muddy surface while attention was diverted. Increasing ill-health limited his scope as pastor but could not deprive him of his boyish spirit which he retained to the end. Fr James Ahern died 19 August 1988 aged 62 years. He was buried in Clonakilty. *IPNI* 1988 Obits.

### **AHEARNE, Br Eusebius (Thomas) 1873-1948**



Born 21 October 1873 in Tourneena in the Sliabh gCua district, Co. Waterford, Thomas was a native speaker of Irish. He came to Blackrock College in 1899 to join the Brothers, and the following year he was sent to the central novitiate in Chevilly together with a number of others who had entered at Rockwell. Professed in 1902 he was appointed to Blackrock but after a few months he wrote to the Superior General asking to be sent on the missions. He said he was capable of teaching music, cooking and farming. Granted his request, he set out for Nigeria from St Patrick's Mission house, Clareville, with Fr Joseph Shanahan at whose ordination he had assisted in 1900. Br Eusebius served for six years at Old Calabar under Fr Lena. Br Othrain Casey, who was professed with him in 1902, was also stationed at Calabar. People were worried about the state of his nerves and in a letter to the Mother House he wrote: "I am not strong but God is strong." On medical advice he was asked to return to Ireland in 1910. He was stationed at the Provincial house in Clareville, Blackrock, and when Kimmage was acquired as a novitiate in 1911 he moved to there. In 1913 he is listed as being sacristan at Rockwell, a post he was to hold for some years. In 1920 he is given as '*hors communauté*'. Suffering from a recurrence of his nerves trouble, he had to spend a prolonged period in the care of the Brothers of St John of God, Stillorgan. Being a rather simple soul, he had to put up with quite an amount of teasing from his confrères and the students, but he seemed to take it in good part. He was very outspoken about his loyalties, notably to Fr Libermann and the Supreme Pontiff. He actually wrote to the Pope, and he treasured a letter signed by Cardinal Maglione and bearing a special blessing from Pope Pius XI in grateful acknowledgement of felicitations from Br Eusebius as 'an old missionary'. Br Eusebius, who had been for many years a loveable institution in Rockwell, died 8 January 1948 aged 74 and was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1948: *État*.

### **Aherne, Fr. John Noel 1919-2002**

John was born at College View, Lee Road in Cork City on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1919. He did his secondary school studies at Christian Brothers' College and Rockwell College. He made his first profession in Kilshane on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939. He graduated from U.C.D. with a BA in philosophy in 1942. He profected in Blackrock College from 1942 until 1944. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1947 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1948. Father John's first appointment was to the Diocese of Kilimanjaro and was assigned to the Secondary School at **Umbule, Tanzania**. In 1953 he was recalled to Ireland and become **Bursar at Kimmage Manor**. In 1957 he completed the Higher Diploma in Education and took up an appointment at **St. Mary's, Rathmines**. In 1962 he returned to Kimmage

Manor, this time as editor of the **Missionary Annals**. His next assignment was as Director of the Confraternity of the Holy Spirit. Over his thirty years as director he wrote many articles, leaflets and booklets on devotion to the Holy Spirit. He continued as Director until March 1998. On April 7<sup>th</sup> John had a fall in his room fracturing his arm. He was admitted to Tallaght Hospital but his general health deteriorated. He died at 10.20 p.m. 18<sup>th</sup> April 2002 May he rest in peace.

**ALLGEYER, Bishop Emile 1856-1924**



Born 14 April 1856 in Rixheim, near Mulhouse, Alsace, Emile was an office clerk in Mulhouse in 1874 when Fr Ebenrecht, then on sick leave in his native place, took him to Blackrock College. In 1878 he went to Langonnet, Brittany, to do his senior studies. Ordained in 1884 at Chevilly he was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, the following year where he taught till 1891. He was then appointed pastor of St Patrick's, Newtown, where he served for five years. In 1896 he was appointed to St Andrew's, Grenada. The following year he was selected to take charge of the vast Zanguebar mission in East Africa being appointed Vicar-Apostolic. Ordained bishop at Knechtsteden in 1897 he was the first student from our Irish colleges to be raised to the episcopate. He did excellent work in his vast territory establishing new stations at Nairobi, Kyambu, Limuru, Giriya, Mangu. The limiting factors were men and money. In 1900, when on a visit to Europe, he called to Ireland where he deputised for the ailing Archbishop Croke of Cashel for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. His presence was welcomed by the directors of the Senior Scholasticate at Rockwell as he was called on to perform ordinations for the various major orders. On 22 April 1900 he performed the first ever ordination ceremony at Blackrock College when he ordained Joseph Shanahan, later bishop, to the priesthood. When Bishop Allgeyer retired due to illness in 1913, he was succeeded by his contemporary at Blackrock, Bishop John Neville. After the 1914-18 War Bishop Allgeyer returned to East Africa to work as a simple missionary but it was only with difficulty that permission was obtained from the British Governor for him to stay in Kilimanjaro Vicariate. Ill health again compelled him to return to Europe and he died at Chevilly 9 April 1924 aged 67 years. BJR No.256; BG XXXI 693; BCA 1962 198; SpWW 309; SpEAM 730.

**AUCHENLECK, Br Rumold (John) 1855-1875**

Born 14 June 1855 in Knockinney, Co. Fermanagh, John entered the juniorate at Blackrock College early in 1873. The following month he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock, taking the name Rumold. Br Rumold died 4 June 1875. He was buried in Dean's Grange BJR 240; BBR 134

**BALDWIN, Fr Joseph 1870-1948**



Born 2 October 1870 in Verschoyle Place (or Beresford Place), Dublin, Joe was a student at Blackrock College, 1888-92. During these years he made his mark as a cricketer, playing for the Castle XI. In 1892 he went to France to do Philosophy at Langonnet. It is related that one night on seeing a retired Irish priest home from the missions staggering in 'under the influence', he helped him to his room which was in an area strictly out of bounds for the students. He was seen

there and was in danger of expulsion as he refused to divulge the true reason for being there. Fr John O'Gorman (later bishop), persuaded him to tell him in confidence. When he learned the facts he said, 'You fool. The dogs of the area know that man's weakness.' When asked by the director why he had so risked expulsion Joe replied: 'No Irishman worthy of the name will inform on a priest.' It was typical of one aspect of Joe Baldwin. In 1895 he was assigned to Rockwell as prefect. It was written of that period: "Joe Baldwin's arrival in Rockwell inaugurated the immortal days of the Rockwell-Garryowen saga. He captained the Rockwell Rugby Fifteen when its personnel included giants like the late Bishop Shanahan and Mike and Jack Ryan. But he himself was a giant among giants. He was considered the finest three-quarter in Munster. The boys in Rockwell regarded him with awe and admiration. Over six feet in height, Joe Baldwin of those days is remembered for his strong agile figure, his fine intelligent head and especially his penetrating deep-set eyes that could flash from extreme earnestness to instantaneous laughter. His feats on the rugby field can almost be paralleled by his prowess as a cricketer." His last two years at Rockwell as a prefect coincided with the experiment of conducting a senior scholasticate in the Lake House. Some of the seminarians had to combine prefecting at the college with attending to their theological studies to the detriment of the latter. This unsatisfactory situation ended after two years and Joe was free to return to France after a break of five years. Ordained in 1901 he was appointed the following year to Rockwell as Dean of discipline in succession to Fr Joseph Shanahan, who was being allowed to go to Nigeria. Like Fr Shanahan, Fr Baldwin held the office only for two years. He was transferred to Blackrock where he was to serve for the rest of his life, never again in a post of administration, but he made his valuable personal contribution to the school as teacher as games master, as director of sodalities and in pastoral ministry outside the college, especially as confessor to communities of Sisters. He was an excellent teacher of English, was totally in command of classes even though he did not believe in punishment.. It was said of him: 'If a boy missed his lesson he had no fear of punishment or bad marks. The very absence of sanctions became the most powerful of sanctions as well as the most urgent incentive to work. He loved boys; their foibles gave him endless mirth. He had a humorous tenderness for the incorrigibles. He used his Christian Doctrine class as a preparation for life and many of his ex-pupils have expressed gratitude for his finely-sifted words of advice.' He had many natural gifts, in particular a resonant, easy-flowing voice, he was a good singer with a mastery of modulation and cadence that made his interpretation of a song something to relish. It was sad then that as the years went on he alienated people more and more by his provocative remarks and behaviour. A progressive deafness threw him into isolation. Bishop Joseph Shanahan, who occupied a room close to him in Clareville, had to put up with his belting out tunes from operas that would have been welcome at other times and places. These tangled days were later seen as his period of purgation and all were pleased to notice that as the end approached the darkness seemed to lift, especially when some of the younger confreres gathered to say the rosary at night around his bedside. Fr Joseph Baldwin passed peacefully to God on 23 September 1948 aged 76 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; BCA 1949 22f.

**BANAHAH, Fr MI Noel 1935-1991**



Born 9 December 1935 in Dublin, he attended St Mary's College, Rathmines, from Auburn Road, Donnybrook, and entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1953. After his profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD gaining the BA. He prefected at Willow Park, 1957-59. Ordained in 1962 Fr Noel did his final year of Theology in Fribourg, Switzerland. A member of the first group to set out for the new foundation in Brazil he was director of the Junior Seminary from 1964 to 1971 and was acting superior for a period. Gentle by nature he learned to love and respect the poor and the young. He enjoyed parish work. It used to take him hours to walk through his parish of Adamantina because so many, especially the young, wanted to talk to Padre Miguel, as he was called. Recalled to Ireland he was appointed Master of Novices in Kilshane, a post he filled from 1974 to 1978. Fr Noel was then seconded to St Patrick's senior seminary in Thurles as spiritual director, a post which he found very rewarding. Once again he volunteered for the challenging mission of formation/mission animation – this time in Spain - from 1980 to 1985 and when the Novice master in our foundation in Puerto Rico died suddenly, Noel once again responded to the appeal for a successor. Noel had always been a learner. He did a course of Spirituality in Rome, in Formation in Peru, in Theology in Chicago and finally in development in Kimmage. And he was always ready to pass on to others the fruits of his learning which he carried so lightly. He returned to Ireland in 1990 sick with hepatitis. As he recuperated he came to stay at Blackrock College where he was highly appreciated by the students because of his unfeigned interest in their affairs. Fr Noel Banahan died on 14 March 1991 aged 55 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 223f; *IPNI* No. 2 1991

**BANNON, Fr Mel 1913-1985**



Mel was born in Ardagh, Co. Longford, on 28 April 1913. After his secondary studies at St Mel's College, Longford, he completed the philosophy course at Carlow College. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in September 1936 and a year later made his first profession. He began Theology in Kimmage that year and was ordained to the priesthood in 1940. In 1941 he was sent to Kenya, where he was to work for over 40 years. To the Kikuyu people he was well known and much appreciated as he helped to expand and develop many of the bigger missions in the Kiambu area: Lioki, Kiriku, Mangu, St Peter Claver and Kilma Mbogo. During all those years he never really enjoyed good health. Many times, when death seemed imminent, he bounded back to life and continued to work with zeal that confounded the strong. Up to the time he was admitted to hospital in Nairobi, just three weeks before his death, he was saying three Masses each Sunday. Fr Mel was deceptively tough despite his very frail appearance. Suffering and ill-health he accepted with heroic patience. He was a courageous missionary and a loyal and sincere friend. Fr Mel Bannon died in Dr Steeven's Hospital, Dublin on 13 June 1985, at the age of 72. He had fallen gravely ill in Kenya but had recovered sufficiently to be able to return to Ireland for treatment less than a week before his death. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1985 No. 61.

### **BARNIVILLE, Dr Henry L +1960**



A student of Rockwell College Henry studied medicine. He held the Chair of Anatomy at University College, Dublin. A surgeon of international distinction attached to the staff of the Mater Hospital, Dublin, he provided free medical service to all Spiritan missionaries. In token of gratitude he was made an associate member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. He was elected president of the Blackrock College Union in 1922-23, and was re-elected the following year. In 1925 he was a cofounder of the Rockwell College Union. For many years Dr Barniville was a member of the national Senate.

### **BARRETT, Br Nicephorus (Patrick) 1850-1925**

Born on 5 March 1850 in Tincurry, Ballylooby, Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Patrick entered the postulancy at Rockwell in 1878 and was professed in 1881. He is said to have learned the art of tailoring from a Mr Duggan, a Carlow man operating in Cahir, but it is probable that he was sent to France to learn how to make soutanes etc. to CSSp specifications. He is described as being always occupied at his work, never wasting a moment. In later years when his eyesight failed he supervised the work of those he had trained, in particular Joe Moloney his relative. Joe in turn taught his sons, Jack, Stephen and Michael. Stephen worked at Rockwell for about 30 years. Jack was tailor for the college for over 50 years, and Michael, who worked at first at the home place at New Inn, was the tailor at Blackrock College from 1953 to 1985. In his later years Br Nicephorus spent his non-working hours mostly doing his spiritual exercises, especially the Stations of the Cross. He kept up attendance at all community exercises to the end and it was thought fitting that the Lord called him suddenly just after attending morning prayer and mass. He died on 10 April 1925 aged 75 years and was buried in Rockwell. *BG XXXII 524; RCA 1988 26ff.*

### **BARRETT, Fr James 1908-1974**



Born on 1 January 1908 in Lyre, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Jim had been a monitor or junior teacher for a period before coming to complete his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1925-27. Professed in Kimmage, 1929, he was appointed straightway to Rockwell as prefect. He attended UCD, 1931-33, and after qualifying for the BA he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. while serving at the Castle as 'auxiliary' and acting as aide to the Director of Philosophers, Fr Michael Kennedy, as he set about reorganising life there after the departure of the Theologians for Kimmage. Ordained in 1937, he was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he succeeded Fr John Cahill as Dean of Discipline. Maintaining discipline was his forte as the students soon realised, accustomed as they had been to a more relaxed régime. The following year he succeeded Fr Con Daly as Dean of Studies - a post he held for three years. From the College Annuals of those years we learn that he was director of the senior sodality, trainer of the tennis teams and that he gave tuition in etiquette to the students in the dining room. When Fr Michael Frawley was called on to join the staff at Kimmage Manor after the death of Fr Edward Leen in 1944, Fr Jim had to assume once more the duties of Dean of Discipline. In 1947 he was assigned to East Africa, serving at St Mary's, Nairobi, where he is credited with playing a leading role in reconstructing the school. He was headmaster there, 1955-60, and later headmaster of Mangu Secondary

School. His next appointment took him to Moshi, Tanzania, where he was also headmaster of Umbwes Secondary School, near Moshi until 1964. After a serious operation which proved less than successful, he was obliged to return to Ireland. While recuperating with his family he was very impressed by the exploits of his nephew, Master John Kingston, as he took part in show-jumping contests, and when he was once more attached to Rockwell, Fr Jim started a Riding School there. Incidentally, he was thereby returning the compliment for the part played by Rockwellian, Fr Thomas Burke, in promoting equestrian events in Nairobi at the start of the century. Fr James Barrett died rather unexpectedly 19 November 1974 aged 67 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1975, 62; *IPNL* No. 14, 1975.

### **BARRETT, Fr Oliver David**

**1920-2001**



Born on 20 May 1920 in Compass Hill, Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ollie did his secondary studies in Rockwell College where his brother Willie had preceded him. Willie, who had been a boarder in Rockwell, was persuaded by Barney Keane, then a Prefect, to join the Congregation. When Willie died prematurely as a senior scholastic in 1934 he was buried in Rockwell. As Oliver, then a student, was standing at the grave side, Barney Keane turned to him and said: "The Lord wants you to take Willie's place". Oliver entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1938. After his profession he began his Philosophy in Kimmage and UCD but in 1941 he was appointed to Rockwell as Prefect where he served for two years, 1941-43. Having resumed his philosophy studies and attained his BA in 1945 he began Theology. Ordained in 1948 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He was among the first group to go to the missions by air. Appointed to the Diocese of Onitsha he served at Nsukka College, T.T.C. at Agulu, T.T.C. at Awgu and Enugu Cathedral. Due to the civil war in Nigeria Ollie returned to Ireland in 1969. He was then appointed to the USA and was given parish ministry in Fernandina and Jacksonville, Florida. In 1983 he was appointed Pastor of St Ann's Parish in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahasee. He served as Pastor for 18 years until February 2001 when as a result of an assault he suffered severe psychological and physical trauma and was rendered unable to live independently. Needing the presence of a supportive community he returned to Ireland in March 2001 and was admitted to Marian House where he died on 28 December 2001. Fr Ollie was buried in the Community Cemetary in Rockwell College.

### **BARRETT, Mr William J 1914-1934**



Born 14 July 1914 in Compass Hill, Kinsale, Co. Cork, Willie came to Rockwell as a boarder. He secured a 1st Cl. Scholarship in the Intermediate and scored full marks in Latin and Greek. When he expressed a desire to join the Congregation, he was transferred to Blackrock in 1930. There he was asked to concentrate on Mathematics. He missed securing 1st Place in Ireland in the Leaving Certificate by just a few marks. Though recognised as one of the most brilliant pupils to come to the college he never showed the least sign that he was conscious of being in anyway exceptional. He went to the novitiate in 1932 and after his profession it was decided to send him to Rome to study for a degree in Philosophy. His health showed signs of presenting problems in such a milieu but he worked very hard in spite of his illness. At the end of the scholasticate



year he returned home to recuperate in Kinsale. When all seemed well, he became suddenly very ill and died on 2 October 1934 aged 20 years. He was buried in Rockwell. Willie's younger brother Oliver decided then to join the Congregation. *BCA*, 1935, 83f; *RCA*, 1936, 72.

### **BARRY, Fr Seán 1907-1990**



Born on 27 May 1907 in Aughrim St, Dublin, Seán was always recognisable as a true 'Dub' from his accent and sense of humour. Having worked for some time in Clery's, O'Connell St, he decided, at the age of 23, to opt for service on the foreign missions as did his brother Clarence. This meant back to the books to brush up his Latin and other subjects and this he did at Blackrock College, 1933-35. Professed in 1936 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, being among the last group to do so. He moved to the newly opened seminary in Kimmage in 1938 to do Theology and was ordained in 1941. He answered the call for chaplains to the Allied forces in 1942 and in spite of his Republican sympathies since his childhood years when he witnessed the War of Independence at close quarters, he fitted into his unexpected role as military chaplain. The experiences of these years were to colour his conversation and life style for the rest of his years, and the students in Willow Park were to have war scenes, real or imagined, vividly enacted in class at the slightest provocation. Two other interests espoused with enthusiasm by Fr Seán under the influence of Fr Denis Fahey, his professor of Philosophy and Church History, were the movement to secure public recognition of the rights of Christ the King in social legislation and the call for control of the power of the international monetary system. In his incursions into print he used the facts supplied by Fr Fahey but couched his arguments in his own colourful language. Seán's sense of humour and instant comments on life made him a much loved character. Even when his memory was failing him for normal life he could still come out with flashes of his humour as when an irate lady motorist, making a short cut through the college grounds, demanded why was the back gate locked; Seán replied, "To keep me in Ma'am!" In 1948 Seán was appointed to Blackrock and he acted as caretaker and bursar in St Michael's school until it became a residential part of the community. In 1960, on ceasing to be bursar, he helped out at Willow Park. When his failing memory called for special attention, he was transferred to the hospital unit in Kimmage where he died on 30 April 1990 aged 82 years. He was buried in Kimmage. His brother Fr Clarence, having served as bursar in Kimmage during the Emergency Years, opted to join the Benedictines in Glenstal, Co. Limerick, where he was known as Dom Gregory. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No. 4 1990; *BCA* 1990 p.140

### **Barry, Fr. Francis Cornelius 1915-2001**

Frank was born in Cliffoney, Co.Sligo on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1915. He did his secondary school studies at St. Edward's College, Liverpool and then at the Juniorate in Rockwell (1927-31). Frank made his First Profession on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1935 in Kilshane. In 1938 he was awarded a B.A. Hons in Philosophy and then prefectured in St. Mary's College, Rathmines, until 1940. Returning to Kimmage for theology he was ordained to the Priesthood on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1943 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1944. Father Frank was appointed to the staff of St. Mary's College in 1944 and remained there for the next 40 years until 1984. Frank studied for the Higher Diploma in Education in 1945 and became Dean of Discipline in 1968.

Known to many generations of boys as Père Barry he was priest, teacher, disciplinarian, cricket coach, rugby coach, groundsman, social worker, drama teacher, theatrical producer and etiquette teacher. In 1984 Father Frank left St. Mary's to take up an appointment in a Spiritan parish at St. Helen's, Merseyside, England. On June 1<sup>st</sup> 1995 Frank returned to Ireland and joined the St. Mary's Community. He enjoyed an active retirement taking on various one-month ministries in France and each summer taking on a chaplaincy at Tyburn Convent, Hyde Park, London. Frank was at Tyburn in the summer of 2000 when he became ill and was admitted to Marian House. He died 9<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **Barry, Father Thomas Raymond 1932-2005**

Ray was born at Drumheriff, Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim, on December 29<sup>th</sup> 1932. After his secondary school studies at Presentation College, Carrick-on-Shannon he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1951. In 1954 he was awarded a B.A. from U.C.D and in 1955 the H. Dip in Ed. He prefected at St. Michael's College for the years 1954-'56. Ray studied theology at Fribourg where he received a B.D. in 1958 and S.T.L. in 1960. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1959 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1960. In 1960 Father Ray's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** where he was a teacher and chaplain at St. Edward's Secondary School, *Freetown*. In 1962 he was appointed as Vice-Principal at St. Paul's Secondary School, *Pujehun*. From 1964 until 1974 he was Headmaster at *Yengema* Secondary School. In 1974 Fr. Ray took a sabbatical at the Institute Catholique, Paris. He returned to Sierra Leone in 1976 and became Director of the *Pastoral Center at Kenema* and later served at **St. Kizito's Seminary in Kenema**. On leaving the seminary and Sierra Leone in 1993 the class of 1992/'93 wrote:

"Fr. Barry, You have been a loving father to the church in Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Gambia for the past thirty-two years of your life. Now that you are leaving us we wish you God's richest blessings and protection wherever you go. Thanks".

In 1994 Fr. Ray was appointed to the *Generalate in Rome* as Director of Information Services.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 Fr. Ray took up his new appointment as **Irish Provincial Archivist**.

For the past year Ray had not been fully well and had been admitted to hospital a number of times for treatments and on-going tests.

He died 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 in Mission House, Kimmage Manor.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **BEETLE, Br James (Thomas) 1839-1897**



Born on 13 June 1839 in at Ballyphyl, Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary, Thomas entered Blackrock – then The French College on 9 March 1864 aged 25 years and did his novitiate there, being professed in 1867. It would appear that he did not have to go to France; Père Leman had pointed out to the authorities there that since the effort to acquire a working knowledge of French would be beyond people of Br James' age he would be written off as being inept by those trying to train him. Br James received his training as a tailor and spent the rest of his life in charge of the tailoring department at the

college and, in the days before ready-mades were available, the tailor was a vital functionary in any institution. It is not surprising that little had been put on record about Br James during his life and nothing was published in the *Bulletin Gèneral* at the time of his death apart from a passing mention in the account for Blackrock community in 1897 where we read: "Rarely has a death caused such profound sorrow as that of the good and saintly Br James. One of the oldest in the community as chief tailor he had rendered the greatest of services. Intelligence and faithfulness were combined in him with a gentleness in face of so many trials. That gentle patience was all the more meritorious as he had to struggle for a long time with a cruel heart ailment. This malady eventually brought on bronchial complications which led to his death. After having suffered much he was seen to die in peace. He died as he had lived a holy religious." From Fr Ebenrecht's journal we have these few significant details. When Br James felt unwell early in 1897 he was sent to Ryebrook for a change of air - that being the country house which served as a holiday resort for the community and the scholastics in summer. He came back suffering from pneumonia. His life-long friend, Johnny King, a former postulant brother, came to visit him. Br James earnestly requested that he attend his funeral. His other wish was that Fr Ebenrecht should assist him in his last moments. Fr Ebenrecht was away giving a mission when Br James died but he wrote in his journal for 25 May 1897: "Br James died peacefully in the Lord at 3 am. He had a long and painful agony. He died as he lived, the death of a saint. He was a good religious". Br James was 58 years. He was buried in Deansgrange. BBR; BCJ; *BG XIX* p.81.

#### **BEGG, Fr Joseph 1927-1984**



Fr Joe was born in Phibsboro, Dublin, on 20 September 1927. After his secondary studies at St Vincent's School, Glasnevin, he entered the Novitiate at Kilshane and made his profession in 1946. He prefectured in the Burse and Annals offices from 1947 to 1949, and obtained a BA degree in philosophy and English at UCD in 1951. Having done Theology at Kimmage he was ordained to the priesthood 11 June 1954. Sent to Sierra Leone he spent a year in parish work at N'jala Komboya, and another year teaching at St Edward's College, Freetown.

Between 1958 and 1971 he was Administrator of the Cathedral parish, Freetown, and diocesan procurator. In 1971 he suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and returned to Ireland, where for a year he was Mission House bursar in Kimmage. In 1972 he was back in Freetown as Vicar General and Archbishop's secretary, but in 1975 ill-health once more necessitated his return to Ireland. He then worked in the parish of Brakenstown, Swords, Co. Dublin, for almost four years. In 1979 he returned again to Freetown, but found the climate too severe for his state of health. Reluctantly, he bade a final farewell to Sierra Leone in July 1980. Fr Joe was an outstanding reliable man, a hard worker and a good organiser. He had a great missionary heart, and after another bout of serious illness which confined him to hospital he took up duty in St James' parish. However, he was soon back in hospital once more and died 10 January 1984 aged 56 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1984 No 56 (Feb.).

### **BERBACH, Fr Eugene 1869-1913**



Born 22 Jan 1869 in Morschwiller, Alsace, Eugene came to Blackrock in 1883 having studied previously in Cellule, Auvergne. During his six years at Blackrock he regularly won Exhibitions, Gold Medals for first in Ireland and Scholarships - including the prestigious Stewart Scholarship at university level. Not being skilled enough at mathematics as taught in the English system, he took Irish (Celtic) as an alternative. He took the B.A. under the Royal University system and prefectured at Blackrock for two years. He then went to France to continue his studies, but after one year there he was sent to the French Seminary in Rome to study for the doctorate at the Gregorian University, 1892-6. Ordained in 1896 Fr Eugene then participated in the historic novitiate year when there were three officially recognised novitiates operating simultaneously. This was in order to bring the Congregation in line with the directive from Rome that all religious orders of priests were to have made a firm commitment to their respective religious societies before being presented for ordination. After his profession in 1897 at Grignon Fr Eugene was appointed to Blackrock where he was occupied principally in preparing third-level students for their examinations for the Civil Service or the Royal University. He also taught Irish. He is described as an omnivorous reader, a great conversationalist and as being idolised by his students. He overworked himself and, as his health showed signs of deterioration, he was transferred to Rockwell in 1908. When it was discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis, Fr Eugene was appointed to St Alexander's College, Canada, in December 1911 hoping that he might fare better in that climate. After but a brief respite his illness re-appeared and Fr Eugene Berbach died 7 Feb. 1913 aged 44 years. He was buried in Canada. *NB*, series 5, 393ff.

### **BIGGEMANN, Br Alphonsus (Heinrich) 1877-1929**

Born 3 July 1877 in Neuss, Cologne, Heinrich entered Knechtsteden nearby in October 1899 and was professed in 1902. He received training as a painter and decorator and this was to influence his postings to various communities where his services were required. In 1907 we find him at Chevilly, and the following year his name appears on lists for Ireland. From 1908 to 1913 he served in Rockwell in company with other brothers from mainland Europe who were skilled in special trades: Br Materne Comte, the builder, and Br Gomes Protasio the carpenter. The large study in Rockwell had been opened for use in 1903 but it remained undecorated until 1909 when Br Alphonsus was commissioned to paint it. His floral decorations in the study hall and in other parts of the college were to remain until a major refurbishment was put in action in preparation for the centenary in 1964. Br Alphonsus and his work were featured somewhat inaccurately by a student of that period, Liam O'Flaherty in his piece entitled '*Benedicamus Domino*' where Br Alphonsus is referred to as the French Brother Julian. The years 1913 to 1920 were spent by Br Alphonsus in Blackrock. He then went home to Germany, where he turned his hand to various other occupations besides painting: he is mentioned as being butcher, cook, baker, and in his last days he was employed as porter or receptionist. He spent periods at Broich, Weert and Knechtsteden. Br Alphonsus Biggemann died 18 May 1929 aged 51. He was buried in Germany. *BG* XXXIV, 475; XXV p.22; *Rath* 281; *RCA* 1976 p.15; *Liam O'Flaherty's Ireland*, 1996, Dublin, p.24f.

**BISCH, Fr Prosper 1869-1907**



Born 23 December 1869 in Niedermorch, Alsace, Prosper studied at Blackrock, 1883-90. He is mentioned as having been good at studies and games. During his final year he was called on to go as Prefect to Rockwell for four months as teacher of German. He went to the senior scholasticate in 1890 and was ordained priest in 1894. Fr Prosper expressed the desire to be sent to a mission where his fluency in English would be put to use. He was assigned to Sierra Leone in 1895 where he asked to be given plenty to do. He was given charge of teaching religion in schools in the Freetown area as well as being involved in pastoral work. He taught music and because of his cheerful outgoing disposition he was a great favourite with youth. He also was active in promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart and he prepared the people well for receiving Holy Communion as part of that devotion. As he wanted to work in the neglected interior of the country he was allowed to go to Moyamba which had been inspected by Fr Browne in 1897 with a view to opening a mission there. Fr Prosper was recalled to Freetown to take charge of the mission when Fr Browne left for Europe in 1902 on what was to prove his last visit. On the death of Fr Browne in April 1903, Fr Bisch acted as Vicar General till the arrival of Bishop John O’Gorman. He then felt free to return to Moyamba where he worked till late 1906. He got caught in extremely bad weather as he made his way back ill to Freetown. Suffering seriously from dysentery and liver trouble he had to return to Europe late November 1906. While the doctors hesitated about operating on him for his liver ailment - a last resort in those days - Fr Prosper Bisch took gravely ill and died 20 February 1907 aged 37 years. He was buried in Sierra Leone. NB.,series 3 51ff

**BOLGER, Fr William 1939-1973**



Born 27 December 1939 near the Broadway, Dublin, Liam entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1958. As he did his studies at Kimmage it was noticed that he had acquired a useful skill at carpentry. He prefectured at St Mary's and Fatima college, Trinidad. Ordained in 1967 he was appointed the following year to Brazil. Serious illness obliged him to return to Ireland in 1972. When he underwent surgery, cancer was diagnosed. Treatment at St Luke's Hospital followed but by then his condition was beyond remedy. He died 15 June 1973 aged 33. He was buried in Kimmage. The Taxi Drivers' Association, which had supported his mission, perpetuated his memory by having an anniversary mass said for him at Kimmage, at which they attended. IPArch; SpWW 941.

**BORAN, Fr Patrick 1920-1997**



Born 10 February 1920 in Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny, Paddy won a scholarship to UCD in 1938 and having decided to join the Congregation he entered the newly opened Philosophy house in Kimmage as a ‘pious layman’ while attending UCD for his degree in Philosophy. Professed in Kilshane in 1942 he did one year as prefect in Blackrock before returning to Kimmage to do his Theology. Ordained in 1946 Fr Paddy was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served in Kenya till 1971, mostly in teaching posts, at first in the junior seminary in Kilimanbogo. From 1949 to 1951 he was in charge of the Mbitini mission

and then reverted to teaching at the Teachers Training College at Kitela. In 1955 he was asked to take charge of Kanzalu mission where he remained until 1958 when he returned to Kiteta where he served for four years before being appointed assistant education secretary at Machakos. He spent another five years teaching this time at Kabaa's High School. After one year in charge of Mbooni mission he transferred to Canada where he did pastoral ministry for four years in the Toronto region before returning to Kenya. He took charge of Kileta mission once more for one year and thereafter held administrative posts for the Congregation in Kenya and as district procurator. He was among those who transferred from the Irish Province to the Province of Trans-Canada and served as chaplain in various places, including in 1992 the Providence Center. Fr Paddy Boran died 17 February 1997 aged 77 years. Arch CSSp Toronto.

**BOTREL, Fr Jules                      1843-1928**



Born 12 November in Ploeren in Brittany, Jules entered the school conducted by the Congregation at nearby Gourin in 1857. This school was transferred to Langonnet early in 1858 where the central Brothers' novitiate had already been installed under the supervision of Fr Frederick Le Vasseur. Père Leman was appointed Master of Novices there during autumn 1858. Jules Botrel was a nephew of Père Collin, Fr Libermann's first novice, who was by then a member of the General Council. When Jules developed an ailment akin to lock-jaw, he was taken to Paris for medical care but with no success. A novena was made for his cure at Notre Dame des Victoires and it was reported that he was cured as he prayed at the shrine. On finishing his secondary studies he was sent to take lessons in painting at the Louvre from Flandrin and he attended the Conservatoire for tuition in music where he is said to have had lessons from Gounod. In 1862 he was sent to the French College, Blackrock, as prefect and as teacher of Art and Music. He took charge of the school band for years and was such a success in administering his particular departments that Père Leman wrote that already he was cut out to be a future superior of the College. Jules returned to France in 1869 to do his senior studies and continued his lessons in painting and music. He returned to Blackrock during the Franco-Prussian war but after one year he resumed his studies in France being ordained in 1872. After his pastoral and novitiate year he was appointed to Blackrock where he was to spend the next 53 years, filling almost every post, and by a rare coincidence holding them for seven years on each occasion: Dean of Discipline 1873 to 1880, Director of the juniorate 1880 to 1887, Superior 1889 to 1896. Finally, he was Provincial superior 1896 to 1900. Fr Botrel was above all a man of peace. He kept discipline but was never a man to coerce people, whether staff or students. He easily subdelegated. Not knowing much about games, he allowed others to manage that sphere, presiding over the birth and development of rugby and athletics at the College. He had quite a successful record as Director of the juniorate in the matter of numbers and quality of aspirants passed on to the senior scholasticate. That post allowed him more leisure for his hobbies of painting and music. He was recognised as a portrait painter of some merit: three of his paintings were hung in the 1882 Exhibition. Among those whose portraits he painted were members of note in the Congregation as well as Archbishop Thomas Croke of Cashel. Apart from his contribution to the musical life of the school he was looked to as an authority by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Walsh, who appointed him to the diocesan commission set up to foster a good standard of music in the diocese. He also encouraged him to work on his own

compositions. At his request he harmonised the Requiem Mass, edited with slight variations Hanisch's '*Benedictus*' which was to be widely used at funerals. He published a work entitled Notes on Harmony which displayed a deep knowledge of the subject and which got high praise from some critics. He also wrote music for several poems and songs including 'Dungloe' and 'A Request' by Sir William Butler. Others composed parodies of Botrel's songs, and joked about his well known penchant for social life. Fr Botrel's term as superior saw the return of extracurricular activities that had been curtailed in favour of concentration on the public examinations. One is not surprised then that there were no great records in the academic sphere during those years. Fr Botrel's lack of drive and his dislike of having to fight for adequate staff were seen as causes of decline at Blackrock. In 1896 he was succeeded by Fr Larry Healy and he was left to concentrate on the functions of Provincial Superior. As Vice-provincial he was responsible for the founding of St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1890. 1896 saw the beginnings of efforts to organise the Provincial administration as a separate entity, beginning with the launch of the Mission Band and the search for a separate house. A house was rented in Booterstown Avenue and Fr Ebenrecht was appointed superior. Later, Clareville beside Blackrock was acquired for the Mission Band and as the residence for the Provincial. Fr Botrel as usual was only too willing to subdelegate his involvement in the planning of these moves. When he was replaced as provincial by Fr Larry Healy in 1900 he was appointed superior of Clareville, a post he held till that community was amalgamated with Blackrock in 1912. It was said of Fr Botrel that one of the virtues most admired and practised by him was hospitality. He was happiest when he could act as host and entertain his clerical friends and past students. He also expected that hospitality from others. The finances of Clareville were affected by this level of hospitality and Mgr Le Roy, who was *au courant* with the situation, announced in the *Bulletin Général* that Clareville had been handed over to Blackrock '*avec ses emoluments*'. That joke was not appreciated by the college bursar, Fr James Keawell. Finally, of all the foreign priests who worked in the Irish province over the years, Fr Botrel was in manner and character the least foreign. In fact many of his acquaintances never doubted that he was Irish. Once when asked to adjudicate at a Feis Cheoil he recommended another Frenchman when he was unable to come himself. He got the surprising answer that this was an Irish festival and that they wanted no bl...y foreigner; he must come himself! Fr Botrel never forgot that he was a Breton. He loved the songs of his native Brittany and he was heard shortly before his death singing the hymns taught him by his mother. Fr Jules Botrel, the last of the French Fathers, died on the anniversary of Père Leman's death, 3 June 1928 aged 84 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG* XXXIV (1929) 52ff; L. Healy Ms 136ff; *Père Leman* p167 *et passim*; *BCA* 1930 80f, 1990 8ff; *Blackrock College* 1860-1995 83ff

### **BOWES, Br John Peter (William) 1839-1881**

Born 26 Dec. 1839 in Bansha, Co. Tipperary, William was almost thirty years of age when he entered the Brothers' Novitiate at Rockwell in 1869. After his profession in 1872 he was appointed to Rockwell where he had charge of the domestic staff. Because of his love of silence and recollection he thought of joining Mount Melleray. However, in 1877 he went willingly to East Africa to join the newly established mission at Mhonda. His lack of French made life difficult for him in a community of Frenchmen. He set about learning the local Kisigua language and was of considerable help to the mission as well as being highly exemplary. He contracted typhoid fever and though he was on the way to making a good recovery he is reported as having

been less than prudent in not avoiding unnecessary risks to his impaired health. He got a relapse and died after a short illness 21 April 1881 aged 42. To Br John Peter belongs the distinction of being the first member of the Irish province to serve in East Africa. RBR; *BG XI 1028f*

**BOWMAN, Mr. Joseph 1902-1929**



Born 26 November 1902 in McNamara Terrace, Limerick, Joe's parents lived in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare. He came to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1917 and won several 1st Class Distinctions through the grades. He was an Honours man and 1st Class Exhibitioner or scholarship winner. He is remembered as showing even as a student that he was endowed with a rare balance and maturity of temperament. In 1920 he opted to join the Congregation making his profession the following year at Kimmage. He did 1st Arts and then for health reasons he was sent as prefect to St Mary's, Trinidad. For the next four years he is reported as having imparted knowledge with masterly clearness and displayed a wide versatility of talents. He was an accomplished organist, a leader of the college dramatic troupe and as also active in games. Returning to Ireland in 1926 he attended UCD from the Castle qualifying for the BA in 1928 with 1st Class Honours and was awarded a scholarship. To avail of this scholarship he taught for a further year as prefect at Blackrock, securing the H.Dip.Ed. with first Class Honours and presented a brilliant thesis on the Philosophy of Education. He then began his Theology. He seemed cut out for a brilliant course as it was said of him that together with a brilliant and penetrating intellect of superior calibre he united a placid disposition and a modesty of demeanour. But it was to be a classic case of 'Whom the gods love...'. He caught a chill which in a short time developed into what proved to be a terminal illness. Joseph Bowman died within a short space 30 September 1929 aged 26 years and was buried in Deans Grange. People recalled Professor Tim Corcoran SJ, of UCD presenting his father with the scroll for Joe's MA degree at the graveside. *BCA 1930 81f; SpWW 359.*

**BRACKEN, Fr Thomas 1840-1867**

Born 1840 at Bolton St, Dublin, he attended Fr Bennett's Carmelite School at Aungier's St and later (1856-58) was attending Castleknock College when he learned of the efforts being made by the Congregation to contact Irish vocations. Archbishop Paul Cullen, on being approached by Fr Ignatius Schwindenhammer as he visited the Irish College in Paris, had promised to get his friend, Fr Thomas Bennett, ODC, to search for vocations in Dublin. Among the students sent over to Langonnet by Fr Bennett was Thomas Bracken's brother. He returned home after a short period. Thomas went over early in 1859 and was destined to stay and so can be said to be the first fruits of the Irish foundation. Père Leman was at Langonnet at that time and later he welcomed Thomas to Blackrock when it was decided to send him back from Langonnet because of the critical illness of his parents. Thomas spent one year at the French College, Blackrock, 1860-61. He then returned to France to do his senior studies being ordained at Quarter tense 1866 and professed shortly after. When he was assigned to Sierra Leone, Père Leman was highly pleased that the first Irish priest should be sent to Africa. He had the highest regard for him because of his deeply spiritual outlook and his dedication to the missions. Henceforth he could hold him up



as an example to the junior scholastics. His letters from the mission were read in public during meals and the senior students corresponded with him as one of their own, second to no Frenchman. An Irish Brother, Br Christian Foley, was released from duties at Blackrock to help him in the mission school at Freetown. Fr Bracken's first appointment was a chaplain to the soldiers in Freetown - many of them Irishmen, who had been years away from the sacraments. Soon he was a very popular visitor among them. In the meantime also he was gradually getting into contact with the native population, especially in the mission school where Br Christian was starting off. Fr Bracken's health, which had never been over-robust, had greatly improved since his arrival in Africa, and all seemed set for a fruitful apostolate. Suddenly he took seriously ill, and within a few days his death at the age of twenty-seven shocked all in the mission where he had already become a well-known and beloved figure. Père Edouard Blanchet wrote, "The funeral of Fr Bracken was a triumph for the Catholic mission. We never realised till then how much good feeling the whole population of Freetown had for us..." But the shock this death caused back home in Ireland and among the Irish confreres in France was what really worried his local superior, Fr Blanchet. He stressed in his report that the results of the autopsy showed clearly that his death was due to an abscess he had carried for years, and had nothing to do with the African climate. But this death, following so soon after Fr Joseph Koeberlé's in the same mission, was bound to raise all the bogey-men about Sierra Leone, and indeed about all Africa, as being 'The White Man's Grave.' One who must have been particularly shocked by the news of Fr Bracken's death was his contemporary, Fr James Browne, who was just then staying at Blackrock en route back to Trinidad after his ordination in France. One day Fr Browne would be appointed to Sierra Leone as its first Irish mission superior to replace Fr Blanchet, who by then would have seen several young Irishmen fall victims to a climate which seemed to leave him untouched. It was at this period that Père. Leman made the comment that the hour of Africa had not yet struck in God's design, but that a day would come when one missionary would be credited with more success than twenty in the earlier years. He had added on that occasion, "A thought which consoles at such moments as the death of valuable young men, is that God does not depend on anyone of us to do his work." Fr Bracken died 23 July 1867 aged 27 years. Gen.Arch, Bracken file; *Leman* 88, 125, 279f; *BCA* 1962 154; Hamelberg, *Centenary Souvenir of Sierra Leone* 36.

### **BRADY, Fr John P. 1917-1979**



Born in Corraweelis, Co. Cavan, 10 April 1917, John went to the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock at the age of 13 spending three years there, 1930-33. It was not till almost 10 years later that he entered the novitiate - the intervening years he spent working at home in Cavan. He was ordained in 1949 at the age of 32. Appointed to the District of Nigeria he took up his appointment in Owerri in October 1950 and worked with Fr J.J. Hampson at Urualla. He was later director of St Joseph's, Alayi. The greater part of Fr John's priestly life was spent in Nigeria where he played a big part in the mission's policy of evangelisation through education. He was a good manager, good with money, making it and using it to best advantage, but, most important of all, a good man with teachers. He saved many struggling schools and put them on their feet; he developed others. He was recognised as a good man for the difficult situation - certainly a Spiritan charism. When he had to leave Nigeria because of the Biafra war he worked for a year

(1968-69) in England before going to the US where, since 1970, he worked in the diocese of Brooklyn. In 1978 he fell seriously ill in New York and there were grave fears for his survival. However, he recovered and returned home for a holiday. Fr John Brady was scarcely a week at home with his family when he had a very severe heart attack from which he died some days later on 19 July 1979 in Lisdarn Hospital, Cavan. He was aged 62 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* 1979 September, No 39.

### **BRADY, Fr Peter Bernard 1915-1988**



Born 7 September 1915 in Cawpone St, Belfast, Pete was a student at Blackrock, 1930-35. Professed at Kilshane 1936 he went on to study at Kimmage and at UCD obtaining the BA in 1939. He professed for two years at Blackrock. In 1940-41 he was prefect with John Horgan in the Castle at the time that the director, Dr J.C. McQuaid, was appointed Archbishop of Dublin. Ordained in 1944 Fr Peter was appointed to Nigeria the following year. From the *État* we learn that he served successively at Ihiala, Okigwi, Udi and Awka, being director in the last two mentioned. This area was later to become a diocese. Peter was a shy man but a favourite wherever he went - gentle, with a mass of black curls, a high colour that easily blushed, and a rather high pitched voice to boot. He was no extrovert but liked to be with his confrères. He was very disappointed when home on holidays in 1969 he learned that because of the Biafra war he could not return to his flock in Nigeria where he had spent a quarter of a century. He began a new life in Kenya where he had to try to learn Kiswahili and adapt to new conditions where methods of evangelisation were rather different from what he had enjoyed in Nigeria. He started as assistant to Fr Liam O'Connor in the mission of Eastleigh in Nairobi, a mission he was given sole charge of in 1973. It was a demanding post with over 100,000 people to care for with a shanty-town included. When Eastleigh was handed over to another missionary society, Fr Pete was appointed to Shelly Beach in Mombasa. He was a welcoming host and endeared himself to those who went there to recuperate after work in the various missions. He suffered a stroke which necessitated his return to Ireland. Some months later he died at Marian House on his birthday, 7 September 1988. Fr Peter was aged 73 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* Obituaries 1988.

### **BRADY, Fr Thomas P 1911-1986**



Born March 1911 in Castlerahan, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, Tom was educated at Blackrock, 1927-33. Professed in 1934, he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and did one year profecting in the Promotions office. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he ministered in the stations of Maku and Eke. In 1947 he was posted to Kilshane as bursar and after a few years he joined the Promotion work. In 1951 he returned to Nigeria, this time to Udi where he worked till 1967. During these years Udi proved one of the great success stories of the evangelisation of Nigeria. Already in 1961 there were over 20,000 Catholics and catechumens, 37 primary schools staffed by 300 teachers and attended by 9,000 students. In 1968, as a result of the Biafra war, Fr Tom was transferred to the American province and appointed to act as curate in Louisiana and later as pastor at

Isle Brevelle where he ministered in the special parishes for coloured people. Generous and considerate to his fellow priests he was ever open-handed and charitable to them and never spared himself. Death came suddenly for him: Fr Thomas P Brady died 21 August 1985 aged 75 years. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1987, 183.

#### **BRANIGAN, Fr Michael 1866-1917**



Born 26 March 1866 in Castlemarket, Ballinakill, Laois, Michael came to the French College, Blackrock, in 1879, the year the first-ever public examinations were conducted for secondary schools throughout Ireland. Michael participated in the first Matriculation examination conducted in 1881 by the Royal University. In 1885 he went to Chevilly to begin his studies for the priesthood but these had to be interrupted in 1888 when he was sent to St. Mary's College, Trinidad, where he was to remain as prefect till 1893. On returning to Europe he was called on to do an extra year as prefect at St. Mary's, Rathmines. It would appear that he pursued his studies for the priesthood in private. He was ordained priest in 1894 in France and after the novitiate and pastoral year he was reappointed to Trinidad in 1895. There he was to spend another twenty years of devoted service, mostly teaching mathematics and commercial science, while also serving as chaplain to the Dominican convent. A gentle man with a quick wit and a keen intelligence, he was greatly loved. He died 28 May 1917 at Port of Spain, aged 51 years and was buried there. *BCA* 1962, 217f; *SpWW* 241; *CIC*, 1917, 78.

#### **BRANNIGAN, Fr John 1914-1996**



Born 8 January 1914 in Skerries, Co. Dublin, the family moved later to Dublin and Jack together with his three brothers attended St Mary's from 1926 when the school reopened after a ten years closure. Jack entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1936 being professed the following year. Having done one year's Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he completed his priestly studies in Kimmage. Ordained in 1942 he was assigned the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, stretching from Zanzibar itself to Ethiopia under the leadership of Bishop J.W.Heffernan CSSp. His trip to East Africa was an eventful one as World War II raged. After a short initiation course in Giriama Mission at the Coast, he was appointed to St. Mary's School, Nairobi, where his sporting skills and his urban know-how became invaluable as the new school took root in the capital of the colony of Kenya. In 1952 we find him in parish ministry. still in Nairobi. in Eastleigh, the mission where Edel Quinn, the Legion of Mary envoy, died in 1944. Jack had a great love for the Legion of Mary. In 1956-57 the Archdiocese of Nairobi was split into two and Jack opted for Mombasa Diocese. He became Rector of Lushangoni in 1961 living at 6,000 feet in the Taita Hills. It was a thriving mission with 6000 or more Catholics. He was a manager of a number of primary Schools and actively visited a number of Mass Centres which are now well established parishes. He was loved for his simplicity, for his willingness to go on foot to schools, churches and Mass centres when the roads became impassable during the rainy seasons. In the seventies and eighties he returned to the urban apostolate and worked in the Cathedral, in Changamwe with Father Ned Ryan and in Makupa Mission with two African priests, Fr A. Ngoma and Fr J. Kenga. It was a time of transition a time to hand over autonomy to local clergy. Jack was a model of

adaptation to the new trend. During this period he became renowned for his apostolate to the sick, in their homes and Mombasa General Hospital. Jack's philosophy of adaptation could be summarised in the words of John the Baptist. 'I must decrease, the autonomy of our African priests must increase'. In 1986, Fr. Jack petitioned to be allowed to return to Kimmage which he called his second home. For forty three years he had served well the people entrusted to his care. He had served with a rare simplicity, with a great sense of humour, with great commitment. He was a man of God, a man of prayer but he now had health problems. He returned to Kimmage in 1987, celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1992, and on the 31st December 1994 he entered Marian House. The staff at Marian House held him in the highest esteem, he was a model patient who was never upset, never complained - a perfect gentleman. Fr John Brannigan died 13 August 1996 aged 81 years. He was buried in Dardistown, Dublin. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 4 1996

**BREEN, Br Eunan (James) 1911- 1991**



Born 1911 in Kinawley, Enniskillen, Co. Fermnagh, James entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kilshane in 1944 and was professed the following year. He had a special aptitude for building and was also a qualified welder and motor mechanic. He was appointed to Nigeria in 1952 and worked in Owerri until 1970. In 1971 he was sent to Sierra Leone where he served at Freetown, Bo and Moyamba. He proved to be a competent builder and was noted for his attention to detail in his work. He was particular also about fulfilling his daily religious exercises, and it was said of him that "he listened to God everyday, not merely in his Word but also through the people with whom he worked." Br Eunan Breen died in Kimmage after a long illness 26 August 1991 aged 80 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 5 Oct. 1991

**BREEN, Fr James 1917-1970**



Born 23 September 1917 in Gorey, Co. Wexford, Jim entered the juniorate at Rockwell in 1933 but had to abandon his course after two years due to what was diagnosed as tuberculosis of the spine. He did one year of office work but never gave up hope of being ordained in the Congregation, and he attributed his rather miraculous recovery to Our Lady of Knock. He was received into the novitiate at Kilshane in 1941 and, being already 25 years of age at his profession, he was allowed to get by with the required five years study before being ordained in 1947. He was noted during his years in the scholasticate for his single-minded devotion to his preparation for the priesthood, and for his promoting of the received popular devotions. Any parish where he did ministry was given the benefit of his dedication to these exercises of devotion. Appointed to Nigeria he was to work for 17 years in the vicariate of Onitsha. He taught at the diocesan junior seminary of Enugu and the Spiritan junior seminary of Ihiala. He also did parish work and served as procurator of the mission which became an archdiocese in 1950. He was a familiar figure as he travelled around on his motor cycle, rather diminutive in stature and sporting what seemed an outsized sun-helmet - he rarely stopped for a chat, just a wave and his familiar greeting: 'Bless you, Father'. It was as if he was still trying to make up for those lost early years. In

1966 he was assigned to Canada where he was chaplain of St Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, did promotional work at Scarborough and served as an assistant in St John's parish in Toronto. His health, which had never been robust, began to fail again and he died 11 June 1970 in Toronto aged 52 years. *SpWW* 868.

### **BRENNAN, Fr Nicholas 1854-1928**



Born 29 June 1854 in Sart, Co. Kilkenny, NJB studied at Blackrock, 1870-74, and profected there for the next three years. He is said to have been the best Latin scholar the school produced. He won several scholarships and the Rector's Prizes at the Catholic University examinations. In later life he had a great reputation for his knowledge of classical authors and for his talent for Latin composition, particularly in hexameters. Some of his translations were published, e.g., his Latin version of Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, and he produced a number of school texts of Roman History and Latin Syntax. He went to France in 1877 to do his studies for the priesthood, having done his philosophy course at Blackrock with Père Leman as his principal tutor. Ordained in 1879 he was appointed the following year to Blackrock where he was Dean of discipline, 1880-88. It was during these years that the game of rugby took firm hold in the college at second and third levels. He also encouraged athletics and hurling. In 1888 he was called on to take over as Dean of studies in succession to Fr Edward Reffé, who vacated that post after 24 years as he set out for Ballarat, Australia, to open a new college there. Fr Brennan lacked Fr Reffé's drive and leadership, so Blackrock slipped from the first ranks in the public examination results. In 1894 he was called on to go to Trinidad as Superior of St Mary's College in succession to Fr Achille Lemire. He initiated some major structural alterations in the college plant and took an active part in the fight for a more generous deal for Catholics in education. Ill-health forced him to withdraw from Trinidad after but one year. He was called on to go to Rockwell as Superior. His two predecessors, Frs James Cotter and John Stephens, had remained only one year in that post; Fr Brennan was to see ten year's service and to preside over many notable developments. Work was resumed on building a chapel which was officially opened in 1897 by Archbishop Thomas Croke. One of the first ceremonies performed in the new chapel by Fr Brennan was accepting the vows of Joseph Shanahan, who made his first profession at Easter 1898. Rockwell's reputation in studies and in sport rose steadily, though most of the credit for this was due to Dr Edward Crehan who as Dean of Studies and Discipline was the driving force in the college. 1898 saw the closure of the Juniorate and the launching at St Joseph's of a senior scholasticate. The opening of a branch line of the railway from Goold's Cross to Cashel was influenced by Fr Brennan's intervention. One of his last acts as President was to write a generous testimonial for Eamon de Valera as he left Rockwell for other fields. Fr NJB returned to the classroom at Blackrock in spite of further offers of posts of responsibility in the Congregation. In 1910, however, he was prevailed on to take over as President at Blackrock due to the failing health of Fr Thomas Fogarty. One of the events he presided over was the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the college. It was remarked that the event was a damp squib compared with the Silver Jubilee in 1885. One initiative originating from it was the erection at last of the long-awaited Concert Hall for which the Past Students organised a fund-raising campaign. A malaise set in at the college, aggravated by the outbreak of the Great War. As Fr Brennan lacked the energy to continue, he handed over the reins to Fr Michael Downey in 1916 and

returned not merely to the ranks but to the classroom. In 1923, when de Valera was in Kilmainham Jail as guest of the Free State government, his sons had started school at Blackrock. When they called to see their father in prison he questioned them about their teachers. At the mention of Fr Brennan's name he said: "He is a good man; keep close to him." Unfortunately, Fr Brennan felt that he had come to the end of his teaching career. Illness and lack of energy forced him to retire in 1923. He suffered much for the last few years but he was strengthened by his deep faith and a life accustomed to prayer. Fr Nicholas J. Brennan died 4th October 1928 aged 74 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 1962, 183; *CIC Centennial R.* 53ff; *SpWW* 348

### **BRENNAN, Fr Patrick      1872-1933**



Born 10 March 1872 in Sart, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, Paddy followed in his brother Thomas' footsteps in entering the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1884, where he arrived the same day as his first Cousin, (Fr) Phil O'Shea. He prefect at Blackrock, 1891-2. and then went to France to do his higher studies, but after two years he returned to Blackrock as prefect where he remained till 1898. During this period, as well as later when a priest, he proved a very keen cricketer, playing for the Castle senior team. He returned to France in 1898 to begin his novitiate and completed his theology at Rockwell. Ordained in 1900 he was appointed to Blackrock the following year. Fr Brennan specialised at mathematics and he was known to be a very meticulous teacher. For many years he was in charge of liturgy both at Blackrock, 1904-5, and, 1917-21, and at Rockwell, 1905-17, and, 1921-33. This function he undertook with great dedication. His main contribution to the school life at both Blackrock and Rockwell was as Dean of Discipline at Rockwell, 1913-17, and at Blackrock, 1917-21. Though rather taciturn and reserved he was noted for his seemingly unending energy in the execution of his duties and a stickler for punctuality at all functions. Because of the colour of his hair, Fr Patrick was known to the students as 'Gingy' Brennan to distinguish him from his relative, Fr Nicholas. He died at Rockwell 8 January 1933 aged 60 and was buried there. His brother Fr Thomas died in Trinidad in 1900. *BG* XXXVI 581ff; *État*

### **BRENNAN, Fr Patrick      1857-1891**

Born 29 June 1857 in Sart, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, Patrick followed in the footsteps of his brother Fr Nicholas (NJB) in coming to Blackrock, 1872-78. He served as prefect at the college, 1878-81, doing his philosophy course at the same time. He went to the senior scholasticate in 1881 but, blessed though he was with superior talent, he suffered from ill-health. He returned to Blackrock the following year to do a further four years as prefect, 1882-86. During these years as prefect he studied at the Castle for the examinations conducted by the RUI and qualified for the BA in 1886. He took an active part in the University Debating Society, being its auditor, 1885-6. His inaugural address, which was reported in the press, showed that he had rather strong nationalist views. Ordained in 1887 he was appointed the following year to join Fr Reffé in his attempt to launch a college at Ballarat, Australia. One of the many reverses suffered by that foundation was the death of Fr Patrick Brennan. Suffering from heart disease he went to stay with relatives for a few months but, as there was no improvement, he returned to the college where he died 27 November 1891. He was

aged 34 years. A headstone erected by his friends in Ballarat bears a generous tribute to him. His brother, Fr N.J.B, a noted Latin scholar, composed an ode in Latin in his memory. *BG* 16, 376; *BCA*, 1962, 192f, and *ibid.* 1986, 12.

#### **BRENNAN, Fr Patrick J. 1898-1944**

Born 17 January 1898 in Ballinamore, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, Patrick emigrated to America as a youth but, feeling the call to the priesthood, he entered Ferndale, Conn., where he was professed in 1921. He had to interrupt his clerical studies because of the onset of tuberculosis but he was well enough to be ordained in 1925. His first assignment was with the Irish Mission Band centred in Philadelphia and, when that group ceased to operate, he continued to serve at Blessed Sacrament parish in the same city. Always in frail health he was frequently in hospital, but as soon as he regained his strength he went back to work in the parishes entrusted to the Congregation in Millvale, Tiverton of Cornwells. Endowed with a keen intellect and a good grasp of the overall picture he was often able to assist other priests in the problems facing them in their ministry. His interests were wide and he was well informed. He died 2 June 1944 while stationed at St Joseph's, Bay City. He was aged 44. *SpWW* 514.

#### **BRENNAN, Fr Martin 1916-1999**



Born on 26 January 1916 in Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Martin came to Blackrock in 1939 at the age of twenty-three to prepare for entrance to the novitiate. Professed in 1941 he did his senior studies in Kimmage. Totally innocent of guile he was the subject of a seminary joke. He received a letter purporting to come from the Director Fr Pat O'Carroll recommending a week's holiday at a time when such was unheard of. Martin immediately packed his bags and headed for home before the man detailed to intercept him at the front gate had arrived. When Fr O'Carroll arrived back he wrote to Martin to come back immediately. As there was irregular post delivery during the war and few trains in the week, Martin's return was delayed, landing him in hot water. He was, notwithstanding, ordained priest in 1946. Appointed the following year to Nigeria he worked in the Archdiocese of Onitsha at Achina at the new station of Nimo, near Adazi, with its 3000 Catholics and catechumens. Later he served at Agbani as pastor caring for 13,000 people. In the nine years he spent in that parish he opened twenty-five new bush stations bringing the total to fifty-eight. His final posting was to Enugu Diocese at Owa, 1964-67. Obligated to quit his beloved Nigeria because of the Biafra War he served for one year in Trenton, USA, before transferring to Ontario, Canada, in 1969. Martin joined the Province of Trans-Canada where he worked for thirty years. Fr Martin died on 12 April 1999 in St Michael's Hospital, Toronto, and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery there. He was aged 83 years. *KNSM* No. 226

#### **BRENNAN, Fr Thomas 1868-1900**

Born 10 August 1868 in Sart, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, Thomas was a brother of Fr Patrick who died in 1933, a cousin on his father's side of Frs Nicholas Brennan and his brother Fr Patrick who died in 1891 in Australia, and he was a cousin on his mother's side of Frs Phil and Ned O'Shea. Thomas did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1883-89, and profected there till 1892. He then went to France to do his

higher studies but seems to have been back again in Blackrock 1893-94, perhaps due to the onset of the tubercular trouble that was to bring him to an early death. Ordained in 1896, he went to Grignon to do his novitiate with those who were to be the last group to do their novitiate after ordination. Fr Thomas was unable to finish the year there due to illness. For the 15th November 1897 Fr Ebenrecht has this entry in the Blackrock community journal: 'This morning Rev Fr Botrel, Provincial, received privately the vows of Fr Tom Brennan who made his profession, having been prevented by ill-health from making it at Grignon with the novices of this year. The ceremony took place in the chapel but it was quite private. 16th Nov. Fr Tom left by the Kingstown morning mail to London to start from Southampton to Port of Spain. Fr Superior (Larry Healy) went with him to Kingstown and also his brother (Paddy) the prefect.' It was hoped that the climate in Trinidad would be more clement towards his tubercular weakness. Returning again to Fr Ebenrecht - he has this entry for 14 July 1900: 'We heard of the sad death of Fr Tom Brennan in Trinidad. Gone at last. He had not been expected to live ever since he returned from France.' Fr Tom had died in Trinidad 11 June 1900 aged 32 and was buried there. *BG XX 525; SpWW 141; BJR No.460.*

#### **BRENNAN, Mr Patrick F 1911-1935**



Born 29 January 1911 in Kendal, Westmoreland, where his father was a policeman. A native of Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, the father had been closely associated with the novelist, Canon Sheehan. Patrick did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1927-31, and went to the novitiate in Kimmage the following year. After his profession he came to Blackrock to do Philosophy, residing in Willow Park. He was of a delicate constitution and suffered from tuberculosis. It was a time when ill-health plagued the senior scholasticate, blamed on the poverty of the diet available until the founding of the Burse which provided the necessary funds. Patrick Brennan spent the last few months of his life in a sanatorium where he died 26 July 1935 aged 23 years. He was buried in Deans Grange. *BCArch; BCA 1936 86; MA Oct 1935 p.259.*

#### **BRENNIGAN, Fr Michael J. 1895-1971**



Born 23 May 1895 in Roslea, Co. Fermanagh, Michael entered the Congregation at Castlehead, Lanc., in 1908 but transferred to Cornwells, Philadelphia, in 1911 and made his profession there in 1913. He began his senior studies in Ferndale together with his compatriots who were sent to the USA under the Drexel-Murphy agreement. He was called on to interrupt his studies when he was sent as prefect, 1917-19, to Duquesne Preparatory School. He was then sent to Rome to attend the Gregorian University. Ordained in 1920 he secured the doctorate the following year. He taught for 11 years at Ferndale and later joined the staff at Duquesne where in due course he became vice-president and dean of the college. In 1939 he joined the Mission Band, and in later years he acted as pastor in various areas. He is described as being a brilliant teacher and man gifted with a sense of humour. Fr Michael Brennigan died 24 December 1971 aged 76 years. *SpWW 901*



**BRETT, Fr James****1908-2000**

Born on 18 November 1908 Cappa, Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Jim was closely related on his mother's side to the three White brothers who joined the Congregation. He did his secondary studies at Rockwell College, 1923-26. Having obtained a Co. Council Scholarship he did the BA from the Castle, Blackrock, before entering the novitiate at Kimmage. Professed in 1930 he prefectured at Blackrock the following year and qualified for the H.Dip. For the next two years, 1931-33, he prefectured at Rockwell. He moved to Kimmage with the Theology students in 1933 when the novices had moved to the new novitiate at Kilshane. Ordained priest in 1936 he was appointed the following year to Trinidad where he joined the teaching staff at St Mary's College, Port of Spain. He was District Superior and Superior of St Mary's, 1950-59. He had a special responsibility for the Prefects, and they recall him as being a strict disciplinarian. All recalled him as a compulsive talker. In 1959 he moved to Fatima College where he lived until he retired to Ireland in 1985. He was appointed to Rockwell and was to live there until illness necessitated his transfer to Marian House in March 1999. Fr Jim died on 2 June 2000 at the age of 92. He was buried in the Rockwell Cemetery.

**BROLLY, Fr William Leo 1903-1984**

Born 16 May 1903 in Ballykelly, Co. Derry, Leo was a student at Blackrock, 1917-21. Professed at Kimmage, 1922, he prefectured at Rockwell and Blackrock. He then did Philosophy and Theology at St Mary's, Rathmines, and at the Castle, Blackrock. Ordained in 1931, he was appointed the following year to Onitsha-Owerri, where he worked for 21 years. He was principal of Christ the King College, Onitsha, until 1939, when he was placed in charge of Ahiara parish, Owerri.

From 1943 to 1945 he was Army chaplain with West African troops in the Middle East and North Africa. He worked as Director of the Junior Seminary, Onitsha, until 1953. The extraordinary vigour of the Nigerian church and the prolific number of vocations to the local dioceses and to religious congregations including the Spiritans bears tribute to the early seminary directors of whom Fr Brolly was one of the most distinguished. In 1953 he returned to Ireland and at the age of 50 was sent to establish a new foundation in English-speaking Canada. Thanks to Bishop Cody of London, Ontario, (a past student of the Spiritans' St Alexander's College, he made St Rita's parish, Woodstock, his headquarters. He organised a mission-animation team which criss-crossed the country from Nova Scotia to British Columbia to introduce the Holy Ghost Fathers and their missions to English-speaking Canadians. In 1958 he laid the foundations of the Spiritans' first venture into education in Ontario – Neil McNeil High School, Toronto. After 15 years in Canada, Fr Leo returned to Ireland, and in 1969 became superior of the Kilshane community. In 1975 he transferred to Kimmage where he remained until his death. Fundamentally sincere and serious, Fr Leo was kind and considerate as superior, a good companion, and a raconteur with a fund of stories and quiet sense of humour. He suffered a stroke in July 1982 and since then had been in declining health. Fr Leo Brolly died in Kimmage 8 April 1984 aged 80 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 57 May 1984. *Spiritans Missionary News*, Canada, October 1984.

### **Brosnan, Fr. Michael -2006**

Michael was 77 years of age, he made first profession in 1951 and was ordained in 1960. He worked in Nigeria, Brazil and taught philosophy in Kuching, (Sarawak, Malaysia), Yemen, and for 17 yrs was chaplain at York University in Toronto. "For the past few years he was Superior of Laval House Community. Certainly a very kind and helpful confrere Indeed we will miss him. May the Lord rest his soul". Burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, just north of Toronto.

### **BROSNAHAN, Archbishop Thomas 1905-1996**



Born 31 March 1905 in Whitegate, Co. Clare, Tom did his secondary studies at Rockwell where he gained his place on the School Senior Hurling Team. He was professed in Kimmage in 1924. As no students were being sent for university degrees during the provincialate of Fr Joseph Byrne, Tom moved to the Castle, Blackrock for Philosophy. He and several others, including Vincent Dinan and Jimmy Finucane were not sent prefecting because of the urgency to have personnel sent on the missions. Tom, together with Jimmy Finucane and Jerry Lynch organised a rugby competition between senior seminaries in the Dublin area, including Maynooth College. Ordained in 1929 Fr Tom was appointed the following year to Nigeria and together with Fr Tom Fox he set out for Africa in company with Bishop Shanahan on what was to be Shanahan's last voyage to Nigeria as head of the mission he had done so much to develop. Appointed to Eke Fr Tom he was to work there for the next twenty-two years, first as assistant and then as director of the mission with its ninety-four outstations and 26,000 Catholics and catechumens. Regularly this vast area was being subdivided into separate parishes with their own pastor. When the Vicariate of Onitsha was declared an Archdiocese in 1950, Archbishop Charles Heerey appointed Fr Tom as his Vicar General. Two years later he was transferred by Rome to Sierra Leone having been appointed Bishop of Freetown in succession to Bishop Ambrose Kelly. He was ordained Bishop in Kimmage Manor by the Papal Nuncio, Most Rev. Dr O'Hara. His transfer to Sierra Leone at this stage of his career was a big challenge for Bishop Brosnahan, especially as the rate of development experienced by the church in Sierra Leone had been very gradual compared with the phenomenal expansion in Nigeria. It was plain to all that the new Bishop's outlook was very much coloured by his former pastoral experience, especially as his most oft repeated refrain was, "Down below..." But it was soon recognised also that he was putting his heart and soul into providing support and leadership. He saw the foundation of Christ the King College, Bo, and then several other Catholic secondary schools. A Catholic Girls' Training College was launched in Kenema under the direction of the Holy Rosary Sisters. 1961 marked the declaration of independence and the episcopal ordination by Bishop Brosnahan of Bishop Joseph Ganda. In his sermon at the funeral of Archbishop Brosnahan, his successor, Archbishop Joseph Ganda had this to say: "He made untiring efforts in the establishment and foundation of a local clergy and religious in a country where there was virtually no hope of getting them for a long time. Besides this was his determination to see a more active and vibrant local church in Sierra Leone among the laity. I can easily recall the great urge and encouragement which he gave to our laity, which after so many years is now beginning to bear fruit." In 1970 Bishop Brosnahan's status was raised to that of Archbishop and, though by then he was 65, a

relatively advanced age for missionaries in Sierra Leone, he was to soldier on there for another ten years. In recognition of his distinguished service in religion he received the prestigious award of Order of the Rockel from President Siaka P Stevens in January 1979. He then went into active retirement in Kimmage for over 15 years. Blessed with a phenomenal memory for people and events he regaled many a group with stories about the missions and about his tour of Ireland when he did a stint on the Promotions team when home on leave from Nigeria. Archbishop Thomas Brosnahan answered the Lord's final call 26 January 1996 aged 90 years. IPArch; *IPNI*, No. I. 1996; *Archbishop Thomas Brosnahan*, by Michael J Jusu, Fourah Bay College.

### **BROWNE, Fr Dermot K. 1918-1997**

Born 27 September 1918 in Crumlin, Dublin, he did his secondary studies at St Patrick's Armagh, 1933-35, St Mary's College, 1935-6, and Blackrock, 1936-38. Professed in Kilshane in 1939, he did Philosophy in Kimmage and prefectured at Blackrock for one year, 1941-2. Ordained in 1945 he was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served at Kansalu station from 1949 where established a vibrant community and built the very spacious church there in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians.



He was appointed assistant secretary of education for the Archdiocese of Nairobi in 1961. Later he was in charge of Mbitini mission. Dermot was gentle and private. He could aptly be called 'the quiet man' He laboured with zeal and determination. Returning to Ireland in 1968 he did one years ministry in England and was then appointed chaplain to St Loman's Hospital, Palmerston, where he remained until 1983. In 1985 he went to the Diocese of Meath where he worked in Castlepollard and Kilbeggan before returning to Kimmage in 1992. Transferred to Marian House in 1997 he died there 4 September 1997 aged 78 years. He was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. BCArch; IPArch; *IP Obituaries* November 1997

### **BROWNE, Fr James 1836-1903**

Born 4 December 1836 at 107 Amiens Street, Dublin, James was already employed in the family piano business when Père Leman arrived in Ireland in 1859. Wishing to be a missionary in a religious order he consulted his director, Fr Thomas Grimley, of St Paul's, Arran Quay, who had been in correspondence with Fr Louis Holley CSSp - the first member of the Congregation to come to Ireland. Fr Grimley brought James along to Blanchardstown where he was formally accepted 3 December 1859, the Feast of St Francis Xavier. He was not the first aspirant to be accepted. Michael Cummins, formerly of Galway and more recently in business



employment in Dublin, had entered shortly before him. Cummins had spent some time with the Franciscan Brothers in Mountbellew, Co. Galway, and it was he who put Br Jerome Ryan in contact with Père Leman, a contact that proved very fruitful. Cummins, who had also tried his vocation with the Jesuits, was very enthusiastic about the Congregation for a time, but after an unhappy year as the first ever prefect in St Mary's, Trinidad, he parted company with it and eventually found his peace with the Marists. That might seem to leave James Browne in undisputed possession of the title of being the first member of the Irish province, but Dublin-born Thomas Bracken had gone directly to Langonnet in March 1859. He returned to Ireland in autumn 1860

and resumed his secondary studies at the French College, Blackrock. By that time James Browne was being looked on not merely as the principal student but as a pillar of the college. He was already 24 years of age and, with his business sense and knowledge of Dublin, he was a very valuable link man. He even had his name entered on the title deed of the College together with Br Jerome Ryan OSF because Père Leman, being non-British, could not own property. It was James who placed the little statue of Our Lady on the fanlight over the hall door where it remains to this day. He received the religious habit in July 1860 at Blanchardstown, taught some classes in the college 1860-1 while studying Latin and French. He was taken by Leman as interpreter and adviser when he went to visit Mountmelleray school in search of vocations during the summer of 1861. He then went to France to begin his seminary studies being then conducted at the Impasse des Vignes (rue Rataud) off rue Lhomond. In 1864, however, he was called on to set off for Trinidad as prefect to replace Michael Cummins who had fallen foul of the administration there whom he blamed for imposing a French system on a British colony! James spent some time at Blackrock familiarising himself with life in the classroom while waiting for his passage. He continued to study his theology while shouldering a full schedule inside and outside the classroom where his knowledge of English was invaluable in the mainly French community. He was ordained subdeacon 1865 and deacon 1866. In January 1867 he returned to France where he was ordained priest and professed. A splendid photographic portrait taken in 1867 depicts him as a fine upstanding man, relaxed, self-confident and looking all that had been written in his praise by his various directors and superiors in their official reports. While still in Europe the shock news arrived from Sierra Leone that Fr Thomas Bracken had died after but one year there. One day Fr Browne himself would lay down his life in Sierra Leone as head of the mission and after a long life of fruitful ministry. Most of that life, however, was to be spent in Trinidad at work he had little taste for namely, life in the classroom; but for him obedience spoke victories. In 1869 Trinidad had a visit from an official inspector which was to prove historic not merely for St Mary's College but for education in Ireland. The British government had sent out Patrick Keenan, Resident Commissioner for Education in Ireland, to report on education in Trinidad and to devise a plan which would allow St Mary's to benefit from public funds without sacrificing the independence cherished by the Catholics. The competitive system of examinations which followed made classroom life more demanding for Fr Browne, and later for prefect John T. Murphy, but the advantages accruing to the college soon inspired Père Leman to campaign for the introduction of a similar system in Ireland. Again it was Keenan who was empowered by the Government to draft the scheme implemented in Ireland and Frs Leman and Reffé were in close co-operation with him.

By 1876 it was realised by the authorities of the Congregation that, as they could not get the Holy See to agree to their giving up direction of the school in Trinidad, it was time to put a British subject in charge of the work. Fr Browne was the obvious choice; so he became the first Irish member of the Congregation to be entrusted with the superiorship of a district. Père Leman had been urging such an appointment for years as an encouragement to the Irish members who were becoming restive as they saw themselves relegated to playing second fiddles to Frenchmen - even in the English colonies. A photograph of the community in Trinidad in 1888 shows that all thirteen of the staff had spent some years in Ireland. So in 1880, when the news of Père Leman's death reached them, Fr Browne could write to Paris: 'Everyone in the community feels that he has lost a father'.

For sixteen years Fr Browne directed the community and college as superior. His administration brought about a continued improvement in the college itself and in relations with the civil authorities and with the Catholic community. His departure to attend the General Chapter in 1892 was an occasion for warm expressions of appreciation on the part of the students, the past students and the public. Unknown to all, this was a farewell ceremony. At the Chapter, in Paris, he was appointed Pro-Vicar Apostolic of the mission of Sierra Leone, replacing the veteran Père Blanchet, founder of the Mission. The mission of Sierra Leone had been part of the vast area known as the Two Guineas which was committed to the Holy Ghost Fathers after the resignation of Bishop Edward Barron. The newly founded SMA fathers had taken on responsibility for Sierra Leone in 1859 but, after the tragic death there of the founder Mgr Marion de Bresillac and his companions, the Holy See asked the Congregation to take on the pastoral care of this region again. Père Charles Duparquet wrote a glowing report on the country and the prospects for the future as a mission. Père Blanchet, who was sent in 1864 to start a foundation at Freetown, wrote a more realistic report on conditions and forecast little progress in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless he, together with Fr Koeberlé recently arrived from Blackrock, got to work and his iron constitution seemed impervious to the rigors of the climate, but it was hinted by some that the regime on which he thrived was partly the cause of others succumbing. Fr Browne was now 57 and his health was far from robust. Though it was a British colony only three of his ten helpers were non-French - Irish, that is, Frs Tuohy and Shields and Br Adelm, Fr Shanahan's uncle. Fr Browne asked for his right-hand man in Trinidad, Br Regis Butler, and he willingly joined him. Fr Browne and his team began at once to establish stations outside Freetown. He made numerous journeys about the colony, founding several new missions. He was described as 'a very silent man and a very hard worker'. For ten years he worked there and during that time it was noted that his work was attended by a growing good feeling towards the Catholic mission. Much of the prejudice against the mission, which had earlier cramped its work, began to disappear. His death on 22 April 1903 aged 66 years, which occurred as a result of an attack of fever lasting about a week, was the signal for the greatest popular demonstration ever seen in the colony. The civil authorities, the merchants and traders of Freetown, the army - for which he had acted as chaplain, the Catholic and non-Catholic communities, all joined to honour the memory of Fr Browne who had long since been known to his Irish confreres as 'Daddy Browne'. BJR No.3; *BG* XXII 228ff; *Centenary Record of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Trinidad 1863-1963* pp34ff; Ebenrecht's Notes 5ff; *BCA* 1962 152f; *C.S.SL.(Hamelberg)* 41ff.

### **BROWNE, Fr James MI 1925-1995**



Born 26 July 1925 in Rathmines, Dublin, Jim worked with the *Irish Press* newspaper before joining the Congregation. Professed in 1947 he secured the BA in 1950 and profected for one year, 1950-51, at Blackrock. Ordained in 1954 Fr Jim was assigned to The Gambia. He taught for a short period at St Augustine's secondary school in Banjul. He worked with the Fullan people at Fullabantang far removed from the company of confreres. It was a place strongly influenced by Islam, and he found a people indifferent to the Good News, but a friendly people who needed help, and Jim made that his priority. His Mission House was open to the poor and the needy. For many of them Jim was their only hope. He fed the hungry, visited the sick and those in prison. His caring approach was appreciated by the people, but conversions to Christianity were few. By 1968 he had only 65 Catholics and 56 catechumens. Returning to Ireland in 1969 to assist his mother in her final months, he was appointed to Templeogue College where he was to give 14 years of generous and fruitful service in the classroom and with the college Band. Back to pastoral work again, this time in the Dublin diocese, his ministry was greatly appreciated at the Pro-Cathedral, at Harold's Cross and at Peamount. His last posting was as chaplain to the Rotunda Hospital where his ability to listen and console was greatly valued. Then the Lord called on him to share in the apostolate of suffering himself; he suffered a stroke, was confined to a wheelchair and was completely dependent on others. The Lord called Fr James Browne to himself 4<sup>th</sup> February 1995. He was 69 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.1 1995.

### **BRYAN, (Brian) Fr Stephen 1879-1958**



Born 3 January 1879 at Aughadown, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Stephen was a student in the secondary school at Blackrock, 1892-98, and studied at the University College while profecting from 1898 to 1902. He was recalled as an excellent teacher by students of the period including the future Cardinal, John D'Alton. After qualifying for the BA in 1902 he went to the novitiate in France where he was told that his vocation lay elsewhere. Undeterred he set out for the USA and applied for admission to the Congregation there. He did Philosophy at Duquesne and was professed at Cornwells in 1905. He did one year's Theology at Chevilly and from 1906 to 1908 studied at the university in Fribourg, Switzerland. He then returned to Chevilly for his final year and was appointed to Trinidad in 1909 where he taught at St Mary's till 1922. He was then co-opted on to the Irish Mission Band in the USA and later was appointed to Duquesne. He qualified for a PhD in Classics in the University of Pittsburgh, taught Latin and Greek at Duquesne, serving also successively as Dean of the college and of the graduate school. In 1936 he was appointed to Ferndale, and three years later to Cornwells (Bensalem), again to teach classics. After 21 years teaching at Cornwells, Fr Stephen Bryan retired to Ridgefield in 1957 and died in his sleep the following year 18 July 1958 aged 79 years. A learned scholar, he was reserved to strangers but wholly at ease with among his confreres. He loved simplicity, modesty and industry. Though not recalled as having often revisited houses of the Congregation in Ireland he showed great interest in efforts made to

build up a picture of Blackrock during his time as student and prefect there. BCArch; BCA 1959 59; SpWW 683.

### **Buckley, Father Martin Joseph 1928-2005**

Martin was born at Tarmons, Tarbert, Co.Kerry, on August 12<sup>th</sup> 1928. After his secondary school studies at St. Flannan's he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 1950. During 1952 -'53 he prefected at Rockwell College. Martin studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1957 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1958. In 1958 Father Martin's first appointment was to **Nigeria**. For nine years he worked in the **Owerri** parishes as a retreat master. During the Biafran War he served as a chaplain to refugees from Biafra in the **Ivory Coast**. In 1971 he was assigned to the Long Island community in the **United States** and served at parish work. In 1974 he went to **Ghana** where he took up evangelisation and pastoral work in the Sunyani Diocese at **St. Partick's Parish in Attibabu**. From Attibabu Martin made an outreach to more than 100,000 people by setting up a network of some sixty outstations. Martin continued as pastor until 1993 when he was transferred to **Tanos-Techiman**. Over the next eleven years Martin dedicated himself to the development of the parish of St. Joseph's and that of the Vocational School.

Martin came to stay in Marian House at the end of March 2004, where he died 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **BUNBURY, Br Achilles (Thomas) 1848-1924**



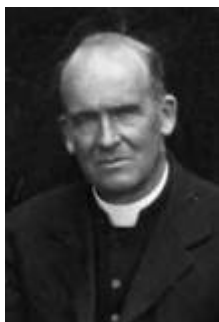
Born 19 April 1848 in Monasterevan, Co. Kildare, Thomas trained as a carpenter and had built up a successful business by the time he decided to enter the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1878. He was professed there in 1881 taking the name Achilles (*Achille*). Four years later he was transferred to Blackrock and it was in that community he was to spend the rest of his life. Being a carpenter in a large establishment guaranteed that he would have many calls on his time; consequently he was ever on the go. It was said of him: 'He was most affable, would never refuse you a service, but would invariably put you off till "Next Week"'. It was noticed that no matter how busy he was he never was late for community exercises. In his later years he was called on to supervise the work being done by the college shoemakers. He suffered much from rheumatism but he never burdened others with his cross and there were few who knew how much he had to suffer. He worked right up till two weeks before his death, but when informed by the superior that the end was near, he dropped all worldly preoccupations and concentrated entirely on the appointment ahead with his Maker. Br Achilles Bunbury died 31 December 1924 aged 75 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. RBR; BG, 33, 69ff; LH, 269

**BURKE, Fr Edmund 1904-1983**



Born in Kinnard, Elphin, Co. Roscommon, 21 September 1904, Ned did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1921-24. He then entered the novitiate in Kimmage and was professed in 1925. He prefect and did Philosophy and Theology at Blackrock College from 1925 to 1934. Ordained to the priesthood in 1933 he was sent to Nigeria. There he worked as teacher and Director of Junior Seminarians in CKC Onitsha. Thereafter, for a while, he cared for the parishes of Eke and Madu. From 1943 to 1962 he was parish priest, first of Udi, then of Eke. In 1962 he returned to Ireland, where he joined the teaching staff of St Mary's College, in which community he remained until his death. Fr Burke was truly a gentleman, kind and considerate towards all. Although in his latter years he suffered from a long and lingering illness, that required regular treatment in hospital, he was never heard to complain. He died 25 June 1983 - the day arranged for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of his ordination year. He was 78 years old. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* 54, September 1983.

**BURKE, Fr James J 1887-1958**



Born 6 May 1877 in Attanagh, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, Jim studied at Blackrock from 1892 to 1898. During this period he took part in the examinations organised by the RUI. Once, while waiting for an examination to start, he was studying a particular text-book when a student, Sheehy-Skeffington, told him he was wasting his time as the professor who had set the examination had not covered that portion of the course. This was an example of the disadvantage suffered by outsiders sitting for examinations set and corrected by those who taught in the approved colleges. Jim Burke excelled at science and at mathematics and was also good at music. As a prefect he stood in for his professor, 'Johnny' Haugh in preparing problems and answers which Haugh used in his regular column in the press. He prefect at Blackrock, 1898-1903, mostly in the Castle, where his combination of firmness and understanding made him a success with the students. His prowess at cricket also won their admiration. As captain of the Castle X1 for several years, he led his men against the best teams in Dublin and he was to continue playing the game well after ordination. He had a life-long relationship with many of the students in the Castle in those years, especially with Dev, who used relish reminiscing with him about the personalities and escapades of that period. He went to France in 1903 to do his novitiate and clerical studies but was asked to come back in summer to attend the special courses in the College of Science in preparation for the introduction of practical science in secondary schools. His classmates at these courses were his former teachers Fr John Kearney and Fr Andrew McDonald. Ordained in 1908 Fr Jim was appointed the following year to Blackrock where he teamed up with Fr John Kearney in charge of the science department. His skill as a teacher of science was so highly appreciated that inspectors were known to visit his classes for their own benefit. His breadth of general culture, combining a rare gift of clarity in exposition and schoolmasterish wit, brought him exceptional success. His knowledge of musical theory, the counterpart of his mathematics, was extensive and he had a fine sense for the delicacies of composition and interpretation. In this he teamed up again with Fr



Kearney, who persuaded him to compose some original hymns having succeeded so well with parodies he had composed for school concerts. On the occasion of the death of Fr T.A. Pembroke, with whom he collaborated in the production of the first issue of the *Missionary Annals*, he composed the words of the '*De Profundis*' hymn set to a Welsh tune. He arranged the first production of Fr Jules Botrel's 'Requiem Mass', and in preparation for the episcopal ordination of Monsignor Shanahan at Maynooth, he composed his magnificent Missionary Hymn set to music from Gounod's Oratorio, 'The Redemption'. His assistance to Fr Kearney when producing the *Holy Ghost Hymnal* was substantial. And when Fr Kearney moved from Blackrock to Kimmage as director, Fr Burke learned to play the organ in his place. He had learned the art of photography from Fr Hugh O'Toole early on in the science room, and he was to produce some excellent studies of the college which were used for advertising purposes. It was he who produced the lantern slides to illustrate the talks given on the missions by Frs Dan Lynch, Con O'Shea, Henry Gogarty and others, and it was he also who produced the illustrations for the first issue of the *Missionary Annals*. He was called on in 1923 to take over as bursar at a time when much was left to be desired in the material side of the running of the college, in catering, maintenance and renewal of the college plant. He supervised the planning and building of a spacious modern kitchen and the convent in 1928. He was mainly responsible for the purchase of Willow Park house and lands in 1924 when the finances of the province were at rock bottom and this purchase was being blocked by some members of the provincial council. He was the main architect of the arrangements for the Garden Parties given by the Irish Hierarchy for the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation, 1929, for the Eucharistic Congress in 1932 and for the Garden Party given for the delegates to the British Medical Association in 1933. There was the mark of especial competence in his handling of any function of this kind. This extended to the care of the least detail as well as the general overall plan. Fr Burke was conscious of his talents and achievements and he liked people to be aware of his particular contribution on such occasions. His success had in fact led to his becoming somewhat overbearing and dismissive of others at times. It has been suggested that this characteristic was responsible for his being sent to Kimmage in 1934, ostensibly to be at hand to advise on the new major building, and for his more surprising transfer to Rockwell the following year. He showed no sign of resentment, however, though the change must have been rather traumatic. He quickly adapted to the more spacious surroundings provided by Rockwell and made a special study of the flowers, fauna and rock specimens of the area. He taught a select French class away from the hurly-burly of the school. He was to be at hand during the war years while Fr V.J.Dinan was engaged in his major building project. Fr Burke kept abreast of scientific advance and retained his very alert mind. He enjoyed the visits from his old and esteemed friends, among them Dev and Dr J.C. McQuaid - his former student and subsequently his superior at Blackrock. The edge of sarcasm occasionally felt in his forthright judgements kept some people at bay, and possibly inspired more respect than affection, but for all those who were disposed to make allowances for his addiction to gasconade, and his susceptibility to flattery, a session with Fr Jim was an education and a tonic. Fr James Burke died 16 December 1958 aged 81 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCA*, 1959, 62f; *RCA*, 1959, 27ff

**BURKE, Fr Patrick S. 1910-1979**



Born 23 December 1910 in Nutgrove, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway, Paddy entered the Juniorate at Rockwell in 1925 and went to the novitiate in 1930. From 1933 to 1936 he prefectured in Trinidad. Ordained in 1939, he was appointed to the Promotions team being editor of the *Missionary Annals*, 1939-40, and travelled the country showing a missions promotion film, 1949-56. He was named director of the African Mission League, 1956-66. In 1956 he was also appointed Provincial bursar - a post he filled with competence for 17 years. When in 1971 he was appointed chaplain to Peamount Hospital the 800 patients and staff members kept him busy but he was always available. His own health began to fail in 1978 requiring hospital treatment. He died within a few weeks 15 August 1979 aged 68 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *Outlook*, Dec 1989; *IPNI* 39, Sept 1979; *SpWW* 1074.

**BURKE, Fr Thomas 1873-1907**



Born 13 September 1873 in Curragh Chase, Kilcornan (Stonehall), Limerick, Tom's people were well off and staunch Catholics. His elder brother had joined the Christian Brothers. As Tom grew up he had imbibed the local history about the destruction of several abbeys in the area by Cromwell's soldiers. He attended the local National School and went to the CBS school at Adare. Then he helped on the family farm. It was decided to send him as a boarder to Rockwell in 1894. The following year he joined the Juniorate. He was noted for his incessant good humour and his loyalty, but he had difficulty in laying down his mind to studies. His main interest in sport was horse-riding and this almost cost him his life. He had a miraculous escape from death when his gun discharged injuring him in the arm. He went to Grignon in 1898 to do his novitiate. Once again the notes of the period refer to him as being popular with all. He contracted tuberculosis as happened to several others at the time. He was sent to San Pierroton Sanatorium where he did Philosophy and Theology. Ordained in 1902 Fr Tom was appointed to Zanguebar. After a holiday at home in Limerick he set off for his mission, where he helped Bishop Emile Allgeyer in the cathedral parish and taught in a school for Goans. He was an instant success with all, but the heat and the state of his health made it impossible for him to continue there. Bishop Allgeyer reluctantly parted with him, sending him to Nairobi to help at St Austin's. He succeeded so well with all, Protestants as well as Catholics, blacks as well as whites, that he was put in charge of the mission. There were some 400 Catholics there at the time but as yet the only church available was a galvanised shed made over for their use by the railway company. Money was being collected for a proper church. Tom got to work on having it built. On the 19 March 1904 Bishop Allgeyer blessed the foundation stone. Within a year St Austin's church was ready for use. Tom's love for horse-racing still remained with him. Soon he had introduced that sport into East Africa. Some of his French confreres were not enamoured of his rather close links with colonial folk. But he was loved by all, African as well as European but that could not keep him alive. He was losing the battle against tuberculosis. Shortly before his death he told someone that the end was near because he had heard the crying of the Banshee as had been the tradition in his native place. He was totally resigned to his death but the public were

not. Great tributes were paid by all at his funeral. Fr Thomas Burke died 18 September 1907 aged 34 years. *B III 142f.*

**BURKE, Mr. Michael M. 1950-1975**



Born 31 August 1950 in Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Michael attended the CBS at Cashel and Rockwell College. He entered the novitiate in 1968 and after Philosophy in Kimmage he went as prefect to Rockwell in 1973. He was due to go to Sierra Leone in 1975 for a further year's prefecting when he sustained brain injuries in a road accident from which he died three weeks later on 22 July 1975 at St Finbar's Hospital, Cork. He was aged 24 years. A fellow prefect wrote of him in the Rockwell Annual: 'For those of us who were privileged to know him, his presence among us was both an inspiration and a delight. We remember the generosity with which he shared with us his great gifts - his gift of song and music, his gift of humour, his concern for and interest in us all, his gift of himself...' Michael was buried in Rockwell. *IPN I 1975 17 August; RCA 1976 100.*

**BURKE, Mr. William 1937-1962**



Born 25 May 1936 in Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary, William did his secondary studies at CBS, Cashel. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1954 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and at UCD, qualifying for the B.A. The next two years were spent at Blackrock as prefect. In 1960 he started Theology in Kimmage and was approaching the diaconate when he fell ill. On March 12th he played in the inter-faculty rugby match, scoring three tries. That night he complained of serious head-ache and was removed to hospital next day in severe pain which was to last for weeks - the cause being a haemorrhage in the brain. Surgery failed to save his life. William Burke died 30 March 1962 aged 25 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI No. 54 p.5 1962*

**BUTLER, Bishop Eugene 1900-1981**



Eugene Butler was born in Belfast on 23rd October 1900 and baptised the following day in the parish church of St. Peter's where he was to be ordained Bishop fifty-seven years later on 11th May 1957. He was educated by the Christian Brothers in Belfast and left the school at the age of 16 to take up work as a clerk. He entered the Novitiate at Kimmage in September 1920 and was professed on 3rd September 1921. He studied Philosophy at St. Mary's, Rathmines, from 1921 to 1923 and then went to Blackrock for two years prefecting. From 1925 to 1929 he followed the theology course at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1928. His first appointment was to the Vicariate of Bagamoyo where he taught and was later Principal of the Training College at Morogoro. During his ten years in Tanzania he also had responsibility for the large parish of Mhonda. In 1940 he was appointed secretary to the Apostolic Delegation at Mombasa, a post he held until 1946. Appointed parish priest of St Francis Xavier Parish, Parklands, Nairobi in 1947, and from 1953, when the hierarchy was established in Kenya, he also served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Nairobi. In February 1957 he was nominated Bishop of Mombasa. He was ordained a bishop on May 11 1957 in the same church

where he had been baptised in Belfast. During the twenty years he was in charge of the diocese some twenty new parishes and a seminary were founded. After celebrating the golden jubilee of his priesthood in 1978 the Holy See accepted his resignation from the See of Mombasa. Returning to Ireland, Bishop Butler lived in retirement at the Sacred Heart Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Sybil Hill, Raheny. He died peacefully a few years later 3rd May 1981 aged 80 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* July 1981, No 47; *SpEAM* 330

**BUTLER, Br Auguste (John) 1843-1916**



Born 6 April 1843 in Callan, Co. Kilkenny, John entered as a postulant at Blackrock in July 1862 and made his profession 8 December 1864 when he was already thirty years old. He was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where he was to spend the rest of his life apart from one holiday in Ireland. Legends grew up around this remarkable man of amazing strength, inexhaustible humour and an irresistible gift of mimicry. One would not suspect this from the photographs of him later in life where he looks so gaunt and wearing a rather woe-begone expression. He contributed much to the life of the school as a prefect, teaching, directing the college band, and using his many technical skills in a variety of ways. He was joined in 1867 by his brother, i.e., Br Michael Regis whose sterling qualities were so appreciated by Fr James Browne that he persuaded him to come with him to Sierra Leone when he was transferred there in 1893. (qv) A nephew of Brs Auguste and Regis, Br Canice Butler, was later to serve in Trinidad (qv). Br Auguste Butler died in Trinidad 12 September 1916 aged 73 years and was buried there. *BBR* No.11; *SpWW* 236, 249, 792.

**BUTLER, Br Canice (John) 1884-1967**



Born 6 December 1884 in Kylesascaugh, Co. Kilkenny, John was a nephew of Br Auguste Butler who spent his life in Trinidad, and of Br Regis who had followed his brother to Trinidad but was asked by Fr Browne in 1893 to come to Sierra Leone. Br Canice did his novitiate at Prior Park, Bath, where he had Fr Martin Croagh as Director. Professed in 1907 his first appointment was to St. Mary's, Rathmines, where he spent five years before being transferred to Blackrock in 1912. Posted to Rockwell in 1916 he was at first involved in running the farm but later took charge of indoor services. In 1930 he was posted to Trinidad where he served for five years. Returning to Ireland he spent the remainder of his life at Rockwell where his main work again was in helping on the farm, but he was always willing to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. He was noted for his practical jokes which puzzled students and others but caused no harm to anyone, not even when he dropped squibs down the chimney into the Provincial's fire on one occasion! He died shortly after having celebrated his diamond jubilee, having borne a long illness with edifying patience. He was a man of simple tastes and strong faith built up around the Mass and the Rosary. When he knew death had arrived he turned to those at his bedside and announced calmly: "I am dying now. Say the prayers." Br Canice Butler died 19 August 1967 aged 82 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1968, 81; *SpWW* 792

**BUTLER, Br Regis (Michael) 1846-1918**



Born 2 August 1846 in Kilenaskough, Co. Kilkenny, Michael entered at Blackrock in 1865. The following year he went to the novitiate at Chevilly where he made his religious profession and received his appointment for St Mary's, Trinidad. He was to serve there till 1893, in charge of maintenance, supervising the domestic helpers, and he was reported as being "humble, devoted and full of good will." While on holidays in Ireland in 1893 he was asked by Fr James Browne, his former superior at St Mary's, to come with him to his new mission in Sierra Leone. Br Regis accepted the challenge and was destined to give another quarter of a century of service there, first in Sherbo and later in Freetown, fulfilling the same functions as in Trinidad while also attending to the vitally important community vegetable garden at Freetown. Br Regis was a brother of Br Auguste and uncle of Br Canice, both of whom served at different periods in Trinidad, q.v. Br Regis died 6 March 1918 at Freetown aged 71 years. *BG* 29, 59f; *SpWW*, 249.

**BUTLER, Fr George J 1882-1956**



Born 18 Oct. 1882 in Monegay, Co. Limerick, Jos entered the boarding school in Rockwell at the age of thirteen. On completing Senior Grade he went to the novitiate at Grignon, near Paris. For health reasons he was sent to Trinidad as prefect for three years; he also prefected at the Castle, Blackrock, 1904-5. He did his senior studies at Chevilly, being ordained in 1911. Appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1912, Fr Jos taught there till the school was closed in 1916; then he was appointed to Blackrock. For brief periods he was successively Director of the Juniorate and Dean of Discipline. He was involved in the introduction of hurling at the college in the twenties while director of the Juniorate , and he was also closely associated with Blackrock RFC over the years as a trainer. He combined week-end ministry in Bray with the game of golf, and he was unanimously elected Captain of the Bray Golf Club for the Golden Jubilee Year of the club. A successful teacher of French at Blackrock, he was called on to help out for a year on the French faculty at Maynooth College. Physically he was a fine upstanding figure and always carried himself with a natural dignity. He was famous (notorious?) for his spoonerisms all his life, but even this he carried with equanimity. Among the more quotable ones were: "After saying the 11 and 12 matches in Bray.."; and "How many smokes do you get out of a Gillette blade?" In his later years he was stricken progressively with Parkinson's disease. Fr Joseph Butler died 1 Feb. 1956 aged 73 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1956 52f; *SpWW*, 650

**BYRNE, Bishop Joseph 1880-1961**



Born 27 April 1888 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Joseph did his secondary studies in CBS and Rockwell, where he was a boarder. He was a contemporary of Thomas McDonagh of 1916 fame. His elder brother John (Fr Johnny, qv ) was a prefect in Rockwell at the time. Joseph won several substantial money prizes in the public examinations and Dr Crehan, the Dean of studies, had him featured in a photo of prizewinners together with Fr Leonard Graf and William English. After his matriculation in 1898 Joseph entered the Congregation going directly to France where he was professed at Orly in 1899. From statements in later years it would

appear that he opted deliberately for entering in the French province, possibly to avoid the prolonged period of prefecting etc. that his elder brother had to survive. He was sent direct to Rome to do his higher studies and secured doctorates in both Philosophy and Theology. Ordained in Rome in 1903, he was appointed to Sierra Leone in 1905. He worked mainly at Freetown where he served as procurator for the mission. In 1910 he was transferred to the USA to serve as master of novices at Ferndale. Later he was appointed director of the seminary there and superior of the community. In 1920 he received an urgent appeal from the Irish provincial, Fr Con. O'Shea, to fill the post of President of Blackrock as it was felt that matters were getting out of hand under Fr Downey, who lacked the energy to give a clear lead. Fr Byrne protested that his long absence from the province to which he had never really belonged, rendered him unsuited to such a challenge. Two years later, when Fr Con. O'Shea ceased to be Provincial, Fr Byrne he was called on to succeed him in that office. He set about tightening up matters all round and being appalled by the financial state of the Province, he ordered economies which included stopping scholastics attending the university for degrees. He presided over a commission which was to recommend the closure of Rockwell as a college and to make it the central house of formation for the province. To that end, with copious assistance from Fr Larry Healy, he produced a very well researched booklet entitled *A Review of the History and Development of the Irish Province of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1859-1924*. The big debate which followed ended in rejecting Fr Byrne's project. When the purchase of Willow Park was mooted some months later in 1924, mainly in the interests of the senior scholasticate which was being transferred to Blackrock, he objected on financial grounds. He set off for Paris to advise the Generalate on this question but delayed for some days in England. In the meantime a telegram arrived in Paris saying: "Willow Park auction tomorrow; purchase. Yes or No.?" Dr Edard Crehan, then attached to the General Council, advised sending an affirmative response by telegram. The deal had been done by the time Fr Byrne arrived in Paris. At the General Chapter in 1926, Fr Byrne was himself elected to the General Council, thus terminating his stint in the Irish province. During the Civil War, Fr Byrne had been in close contact with Dev in an effort to work out a cessation of hostilities. It was he who arranged for the meeting between Dev and the Papal Envoy, Mgr Luzio. On the death of Bishop Henry Gogarty, Vicar Apostolic of Kilimanjaro, Fr Byrne was nominated his successor. He was ordained bishop at Rockwell 19 March 1933, the sermon being preached by Dr J.C.McQuaid, then President of Blackrock. For twenty years Bishop Byrne presided over the Vicariate, which was staffed mainly by personnel from the American province. To assist them in their work and as a beginning in involving native helpers in the mission field, he founded the society of the African Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Vicariate was made a diocese in 1953 and Dr Joseph Byrne was confirmed as its first bishop. Once again, he was known for keeping a very tight rein on expenditure. Bishop Byrne, a close friend of the de Valera family, is reported as having been asked when home on holidays to persuade Sinéad, Bean de Valera, to agree to moving from the home place in Cross Avenue to Aras an Uachtaráin when she felt repugnance for that move. Later, she invited the Bishop to stay for some time as guest in the Aras. When he retired from his mission in 1959, Bishop Joseph Byrne opted to reside at Rockwell, where he endeared himself to the students, who were very affected by his death 20 October 1961 aged 81 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1962 19; *SpWW* 711; *Dev*, p.40ff..

### **BYRNE, Fr Cyril 1925-1997**



Born 27 September 1925 in Rathmines, Co. Dublin, he was educated at St Mary's, Rathmines, and entered the novitiate in 1942. After his profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD securing the BA in 1946. He prefectured at St Mary's, for two years and qualified for the H.Dip.Ed in 1948. Having studied theology in Fribourg he was ordained in 1951 and earned the STL, *summa cum laude* in 1953.

Appointed to Tanzania, he was assigned to St Francis College in Pugu, Dar-es-Salaam where he taught for nine years. Obligated by ill-health to return to Ireland he was appointed again to St Mary's where he was to spend the rest of his life taking an active part in teaching and all other aspects of the school as well as being involved in seminars and giving retreats in Ireland and England. Often at week ends he would be seen to return late to his room having spent long hours in retreat work, in spiritual direction and counselling. However, no matter how late the hour his light was seen to be switched on very early the following morning to allow him the time he needed for silence, prayer and reading. He regularly began his teaching day a full hour before normal classes began in order to take groups of students for special courses that could not be accommodated on the ordinary time table. He seemed to have unlimited time to cater for the special needs of individual students. In later years Fr Cyril followed a course in computers and not surprisingly became expert in this sphere and was generous in imparting his knowledge and skills to students and teachers. He was widely known as a highly skilled teacher, a holy and deeply spiritual priest, a profoundly gifted communicator of the things of God, a friend, counsellor and guide. Even after suffering serious cardiac attack he still kept up most of his activities as he responded to the many calls on his service. He died in service as the Lord called him in full flight. Fr Cyril Byrne died unexpectedly 21 April 1997 aged 72 years. IpArch; IPr Obituaries November 1997

### **BYRNE, Fr Henry J 1910-1984**



Born 27 April 1910 in Mount Charles, Co. Donegal, Harry did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1926-30. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1930 and after his profession he did Philosophy and Theology at Blackrock and Kimmage, having prefectured at Rockwell College, 1932-34. Ordained to the priesthood in 1938, Fr Harry was appointed the following year to the district of Zanzibar in Kenya, where he was to work for 30 years. In January 1940 he took up duty at St Peter Claver's Catholic Mission, Nairobi. Later he was in charge of the parish of Makupa in Mombassa.

In contrast to his work among the poor in these large and busy city parishes, he spent some years in charge of the diocesan farm at Kinangop, near Nakuru. He returned to Ireland in 1969 and was engaged in parish ministry in Leeds, from 1970 to 1972. In 1974 he became chaplain at St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, where his apostolate was much appreciated by both patients and community. In 1982 Fr Harry Byrne retired to Kimmage Manor where he died 28 March 1984 73 years. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr Harry was a good administrator and was, indeed, for a while diocesan Procurator in Nairobi. Independent of mind and shrewd in judgement, he was a genial and pleasant confrere with a wry sense of humour. *IPNI* 57, May 84

### **BYRNE, Fr John 1872-1953**



Born 8 March 1872 in Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Johnny spent his childhood in Clonmel where he made acquaintance with oral Irish as still spoken in that area. He entered Rockwell in 1886 and was followed later by his brother Joseph (Bishop). He was a prefect, 1890-5, when he played his part in the great revival of Rockwell under the dynamic leadership of Dr Edward Crehan the Dean of studies. In the *État* for 1895 we find him listed as teaching Latin, English, French, Italian and Celtic (Irish). He went to France in 1895 to do his senior studies but returned in 1898 as one of the 10 students selected to do Theology at the newly opened scholasticate at St Joseph's, Rockwell. Some of these men were called on to act as part-time prefects at the college, among them John Johnny Byrne, Phil O'Shea and Joseph Shanahan. It would appear that O'Shea and Byrne were again, 1899-1900, prevailed on to give of their services at the college much to the annoyance of their director, who penalised them for their pains: they were held back from ordination. Understandably, they were upset and Mr Byrne considered parting company with the Congregation. Fr Botrel, the Provincial, saw to it that they were ordained in Cobh during the diocesan ordinations. Soon after his ordination Fr Byrne had to call on all his experience as a prefect when he was appointed Dean of Studies or Principal in succession to Dr Edward Crehan who had been appointed Superior at St Mary's, Rathmines. Dr Crehan's other portfolio as Dean of Discipline was shouldered by the newly ordained Fr Shanahan. Possibly due to his Clonmel background and the existence nearby of a Gaeltacht enclave, Fr Byrne had a distinctively nationalistic outlook and this was felt in the impetus given to the study of Irish in the school. It was not surprising that several of the staff and students of this period were later to the fore in the republican movement: Thomas McDonagh, Dev, Fionán Lynch, Monsig. Pdraig de Brún etc. In 1907 Fr Byrne stepped down as Dean of Studies. Later, as President, 1916-25, he made no secret of his strong Republican affiliation, and the stress was on Gaelic games and culture in the school. He argued in his report published in the *Bulletin Général* that this gave a new moral uplift to the whole of life in the school. This may well have been true, but for the more conservative element among parents and past students his approach did not foster confidence in the school. The numbers dropped alarmingly in the wake of the Civil War and there was serious talk of closing the secondary school in 1924 and replacing it with a central unit of formation for scholastics, junior and senior. The dynamism and diplomacy of Dr Dan Murphy saved the day for the school. Fr Byrne, whose health had given cause for worry, was given leave of absence. In Switzerland he found himself in the same community with another displaced person, Père Le Floch. Their introduction to one another is reported as follows: 'I am Fr Byrne, former president of Rockwell; I have been sent here because of my Republican affiliations'. The reply was: 'I am Père Le Floch, former rector of the French Seminary in Rome; I have been sent here because of my Royalist affiliations'. In spite of their disparate political outlook they became close friends. When Fr Byrne returned to Ireland in 1933 he was at first appointed Spiritual Father in the newly opened novitiate in Kilshane. Later he returned to Rockwell and is remembered by that generation of students for his series of talks on character formation which were centred around the definition of character which he encouraged the students to commit to memory namely: "Character is a spiritual force arising from the unity of action between the intelligence and the will, acting in concert, and directing right conduct invariably to the performance of what is right, rather than what is sensually



pleasant or materially lucrative.” A man of culture and intelligence but with a rather forbidding appearance and a caustic tongue, he was known to students as 'Cross-Johnny'. But for many of his more perceptive students he remained a close friend, highly valued for his judgement. Among his life-long friends and admirers was President Eamon de Valera. He contributed articles to various magazines under the pen name 'Fiach O'Broin'. Fr John O'Byrne died 13 April 1953 aged 82 years and was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1950 5f; 1953 71ff.

**BYRNE, Fr John E 1898-1990**



Born 17 October 1898 in Dundrum, Co. Tipperary, John spent four years in the boarding school in Rockwell before entering the juniorate. On completing his secondary studies he was appointed to Blackrock as prefect in 1917. In 1920 he went to the novitiate in Kimmage where he had as master of novices Fr Hugh Evans, who had been president of Rockwell during John's student days. After his profession he was stationed at St Mary's, Rathmines, while attending UCD where he graduated with a degree in Philosophy. He returned to the Castle at Blackrock in 1924 to commence his theology. Ordained in 1927 he was appointed the following year to Trinidad where he was to labour for the next forty-four years. Most of those years were spent at St Mary's as bursar, and at Fatima College as superior. It was Fr Byrne, in fact, who founded and built Fatima College, and later he supervised the erection of the seminary building at Arima. He returned to St Mary's as superior of the college and District superior. He was to become the first Provincial of the newly-founded province of Trinidad. In all his years in Trinidad Fr John never lost sight of his role as priest, counsellor and confessor, and he carried out a very extensive apostolate among the American navy personnel and the Trinidadian people. He brought many people to embrace the Catholic faith - several notable persons among them. He was admired by all who knew him and was held in high esteem by Trinidadians of all walks of life. Suffering much from arthritis this at times gave the impression that he was rather gruff in his manner. He certainly was a stickler for the rule, and was considered by some as cast in a too authoritarian mould, When he returned to Ireland for good in 1972 it was by no means to enter the retirement that he had merited. Availing of the improved techniques in the matter of surgery for the hips, he enjoyed a new lease of life. He even returned to the classroom when he joined the St Michael's community, teaching Commerce until his eyesight failed, and he was always ready to help out in pastoral work. Eventually he had to avail of the special care at Marian House, Kimmage, where he answered the final roll call, 10 January 1990 aged 91 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1990 No I February.

**BYRNE, Fr Michael 1866-1907**



Born 24 December 1866 in Edenpark, Knock, Co. Mayo, Michael was thirteen years of age at the time of the apparition of Our Lady at Knock and it is reported that a near relative of his was one of the visionaries. These were troubled times in Mayo because of recurring famines and the land war. There is no evidence that Michael took any active part in the Land League activities, but at the age of 24 he was directed to Blackrock where he began his secondary studies. For one who had worked on the family farm since he left the national school, the five years he spent at Blackrock, 1890-95, must have been quite a trial. The director of the Juniorate

at the time was Fr, later, Bishop, Neville. Michael went to France in 1895 to do his senior studies and was among those who took part in the great novitiate of 1896-97 when three separate novitiates had to be arranged to cope with the numbers. In 1898, when an attempt was made to launch a senior scholasticate for Ireland in Rockwell, Michael was among the handful of students sent there to do Theology. After his consecration to the apostolate in 1900 Fr Michael was appointed to Sierra Leone. It is said that he was not enthusiastic about his appointment to "the White Man's Grave", but he added that, if the Superior General insisted, he was willing to go. He was remembered there as an excellent preacher. Even Protestants turned up to hear him preach in St Edward's Cathedral and they are reported as having been particularly impressed by his sermons on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. He was chaplain to the military in Freetown, many of whom were Irish. He also took an active part in the conduct of the mission schools and on occasion replaced confrères in Bonthe, Sherbro and Moyamba. After a severe bout of fever he was advised to take a holiday in Ireland. He did so, but he was back at work again in 1906. Without any warning he became seriously ill from a recurrence of fever and none of the remedies of the time was of any avail. He was assisted in his last hours by Bishop John O'Gorman and Fr Dan Lynch. Fr Michael Byrne died 23 December 1907 aged 41 years. He was a cousin of Dr Joseph Cunnane, Archbishop of Tuam. GenArch; B.3., 206.

### **Byrne, Fr Thomas Francis 1926-2005**

Tom was born at 23 Arnott Street, S.C.Rd., Dublin, on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1926. After his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Rockwell he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 1945. He was conferred with a B.A. Hons from U.C.D. in 1948. During 1948-50 he prefectured at Blackrock College and while there completed the H.Dip. in Ed. in 1949. Tom studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1953 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1954. In 1954 Father Tom's first appointment was to **Nigeria**. For thirteen years he worked in the *Owerri* region at parish work and teaching at *Sacred Heart College, Aba, in Umuahia*. In 1967 he returned to Ireland and was appointed to the **U.S.** He served as hospital chaplain to the *Michigan Medical University*. In 1971 he moved to **Australia** and worked in parishes and as chaplain to the *Mater Hospital in Brisbane*. In 1977 he returned to Ireland and was appointed to the *Ardraccan* community. In 1978 he was transferred to *Templeogue College* and took over as Bursar for the 1988-94 period. Tom came to stay in Marian House in April 2002. He is buried in Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

### **BYRON, Fr Seán Francis**

**1930-1997**



Born 29 January 1930 in Ballina, Co. Mayo, Seán attended two years course in commerce and then worked in a office for two years before coming to the juniorate at Blackrock in 1949. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1951 and after his profession he studied in Kimmage and UCD where he secured an Honours BA in 1955. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1955-57, qualifying for the H.Dip.Ed in 1957. Having done Theology in Kimmage he was ordained in 1960 and was appointed the following year to Onitsha where he taught in Abbot College in Ahiala, while also serving as Vice-principal for three years. He taught for another three years at All Hallows Junior Seminary in Onitsha, and for a brief period in St Michael's

secondary school, Nimo, Awka. In 1967 he went to California for a two years course in counselling while also engaged in pastoral ministry. He then returned to the Onitsha archdiocese while the Biafra War was still raging. Stationed at Nnewi as pastor he also took an active part in relief work for the starving population. Three months after the war had ended he was deported from Nigeria in March 1970. He spent five years in Ireland where he lectured at the Mount Oliver centre in Dundalk and at Kimmage Manor. He transferred to the Province of Trans-Canada in 1971 where he served as University chaplain in Hamilton, Ontario, and was later in charge of Laval House in Toronto. He served as Provincial Superior of Trans-Canada from 1990 to 1993. In 1984 he was invited back to Nigeria to preach the annual retreat for the members of the Congregation and during the month he spent there he had the consolation of finding that the Nigerian people had the fondest memories of the Irish missionaries who had worked in their midst. Fr Seán Byron died unexpectedly 15 June 1997 after having undergone surgery. He was 67 years of age. BCArch; *SpNM* 502

**CAHILL, Br Aidan (Patrick) 1885-1970**



Born 21 May 1885 at Ballybroy, Upperchurch, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Patrick managed the family farm till he was nearly thirty. He then decided to emulate his brother, Fr J. Cahill, Vicar General, Auckland, N.Z., and his sister, Sr Mary Malachy of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, USA: he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1916 taking the name Aidan. As he left home for the railway station in Thurles, the neighbouring farmers formed a cortège of side-cars accompanying him to the station. Br Aidan worked on the farm at Kimmage till 1920 when he was transferred to Rockwell. He worked there for 8 years on the farm and for eight years in charge of the students' refectory. In this latter capacity he was very close to the students who learned to respect him and value his authoritative but gentle stance - seeing to it always that they got the best service available. In 1937 his services were asked for in Kilshane to take over management of the farm and to supervise the manual labour of the novices. It was in Kilshane that he was to spend the rest of his long life and many generations of novices learned to respect and love him for his humanity, his refreshing common sense and expertise. An example of Br Aidan's sense of proper behaviour and his quick thinking: A novice, whose people he knew well, came to bid him farewell saying he was "calling it a day". Aidan knowing that the Master of Novices was away and that the Superior, a cousin of the novice, was in town, asked: "Did you inform the boss?" "I didn't bother. I am off." "As you have nothing to do, help me round up these few calves." "Certainly". "Now go in and tie that black one; she is a danger to the others." When the runaway novice was inside, Aidan turned the key and said, "You must learn how to behave, young man. Stay there till the boss comes home and tell him like a man." A cultured man, he was a versatile conversationalist, a man of independent mind, noted for his dedication to his functions, and to the religious life. Above all he was a man of deep faith and fortitude. Not all knew that in spite of his robust appearance he had to carry the cross of ill-health for many years. Br Aidan Cahill died 13 May 1970 aged 85 years. He was buried in Rockwell IPArch; *MA* Sept 1970

### **CAHILL, Fr Desmond M. 1926-2000**



Born on 17 October 1926 in Millford, Co. Donegal, Desmond did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1940-45. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he made his profession in 1946. He qualified for the BA at UCD, prefect for a year in the Burse, 1947-48, and in Rockwell, 1948-49. Ordained in 1954 he was appointed the following year to Kenya district. His assignment was to the staff of Kilimambogo Teacher Training College, 1955-68. To give him a rest from this onerous post he was transferred to St Mary's, Nairobi, where he would be teaching at second level. He found he could not adjust easily to the change as he was immersed in a subject-oriented situation rather than the pastoral approach, which suited his charism. After three years, which were not the happiest in his life, he returned to the Training College in Kilimambo where he did another six years' stint. During the forty years he served in the Archdiocese of Nairobi he was very much involved in the training of teachers. It was his life's work in fact and he was seen by students and staff to be totally dedicated to this vocation, which at times could be very demanding. When the students were unsure of themselves Des was always ready to help, and they knew that they could approach him easily. And he had always a calming influence. It was said that he was never heard to say a disparaging word about anyone, and was seen to be one of nature's gentlemen. He was said to be the most obliging person known; his fault was that he could not say 'No'. God's compassion was the theme of the liturgy at his funeral mass as his life exemplified the virtue of compassion in a remarkable manner. And in spite of having to devote himself so much to the academic aspect of school life he saw the value of extracurricular activity. He was a good athlete himself and he excelled as a team coach, especially of basketball and athletics. He trained many successful teams. He won the Kenya Championship in squash for over forty-fives three times, and was runner-up on a number of occasions. In 1998 he transferred to the Diocese of Mombasa and it was there after a brief illness he died on 24 February 2000 aged 73 years. *IPN* No.1, 2000; *KEASM* No. 646.

### **CAHILL, Fr John W. 1905-1981**



Born 17 November 1905 in Kildimo House, Milltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, John came to Blackrock in 1919 and, being strong and athletic, he played on the SCT. After senior grade and matriculation he entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed in 1925. The fact that he was retained as prefect in Rockwell for four years was a tribute by the Dean of studies, Dr Dan Murphy, to the great success of his Latin classes in the public examinations. He was also remembered by his students as an excellent teacher of English. Indeed, John was to earn a reputation for his familiarity with certain English authors, principally Shakespeare and Chaucer, and he could be relied on to come up with an apt but off-the-beaten track quotation to hit off situations in real life, and always with a humorous twist. In 1929 he continued his studies for the priesthood at the Castle, Blackrock, and at Kimmage from 1933. Ordained in 1934 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Trinidad, but in 1937/8 he was called on to succeed Fr James White as Dean of discipline in Rockwell. One felt that this was not his *métier*, and people were not surprised when he returned to Trinidad the following year where he was to serve till 1956. Once again

he spent a year at Rockwell, but from 1957 he was to teach in the junior schools at Blackrock - St. Michael's first and then Willow Park. John had an inexhaustible fund of stories and yarns and, though a very shy man, he was as untiring as the professional *seanchaí* when he found himself with a receptive audience. On the long journey to Trinidad by boat in 1938 he regaled the prefects on deck and they were soon joined by a group of University graduates from England starting their careers in Trinidad; these were amazed at the facility with which John could roll off passages from English authors, adding his humorous comments. The most charitable of men, the nearest he came to an uncharitable remark was when some one asked in puzzlement; "When exactly is Fr X celebrating his jubilee?", John replied with his inimitable look over the glasses, "Well he was open to receiving since the first of January!". Never complaining, except perhaps when he came late from church to supper one evening and finding himself left with short rations, he was heard to murmur, "It doesn't pay to pray." In his later years John took on the functions of sacristan and gave great care to all to do with divine worship. During these years he suffered from increasing ill-health, but one did not hear that from his own mouth. Because of his gentleness, good humour and unselfishness, Fr John was beloved of all, students and confreres alike. He died 16 May 1981 aged 75 and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1981, 182; *IPNI* 1981 No.47; *SpWW* 1100.

#### **CAMPBELL, Fr Patrick Joseph 1920-2001**



Born on 7 January 1920 in Swinford, Co. Mayo, Pat did his secondary studies entered the Novitiate at Kilshane in 1938. Having secured the BA at UCD in 1942 he prefectured for one year at Blackrock. During his years in the senior seminary he was seen to have a keen and enquiring intellect. Ordained in 1946 he was appointed the following year to Tanganika (now Tanzania). He worked in the Kilimanjaro region from 1947 until 1954. He was a teacher at St James' Junior Seminary at Kibosho and worked at the Moshi Mission. On returning to Ireland in 1954 he studied for the H.DipEd. He was then appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines. In 1958 he was transferred to Rockwell College where he remained until 1966. He wrote plays for the students and acted as producer. Some who took to the stage later kept in contact with Fr Pat during his long illness. He was remembered for some notable sermons given in Rockwell where he challenged accepted attitudes in high places in the church. From 1966 to 1973 he worked in different ministries in Senegal, Ireland, England and the USA. Fr Pat was appointed to the Kimmage Manor Community in 1974. Due to failing health he moved into Marian House in July 1991. The Lord called him on 15 April 2001 aged 81 years. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown,

#### **Caplice, Fr Richard Anthony 1916-2004**

Dick was born in Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1916. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1936. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. and then prefectured in Rockwell College from 1939 to 1941. Dick studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1944. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1945. In 1945 Father Dick's first appointment was to **Nigeria** and he was assigned to the Vicariate of *Owerri*. He worked in the parishes at *Emekuku, Aba, Urualla* before

taking up a teaching post at *Bishop Shanahan College* in *Orlu*. In 1950 Father Dick returned to *Ireland* and was appointed as Assistant Novice Master at *Kilshane*. In 1959 he returned to *Nigeria* to parish work at *Awo Omamina*. In 1964 he was again asked to return to Ireland and was appointed Novice Master at the Brothers' Noviciate in *Ardraccan*.

In 1973 he studied for the H.Dip in Education at Maynooth. In 1974 Father Dick returned to Africa, this time to **Ghana**, where he joined the teaching staff at *St. Hubert's Seminary*. After the seminary work he spent many years at the parish of *Corpus Christi in New Tafo, Kumasi*. Due to illness Father Dick returned to Ireland in 1991 and took up residence in **Marian House**. In 1994 Fr. Brian McLaughlin wrote; "As you officially make the break away from Ghana, on behalf of the Council and myself, may I thank you most sincerely for the wonderful contribution which you have made to the District, and Diocese of Kumasi, since you went there in 1974. I know that you will be long remembered in the parish of New Tafo and the beautiful church is a lasting tribute to you". Dick is buried in Rockwell.

### **CAREY, Br Francis Joseph (John) 1836-1865**

Born 3 June 1836 at Kilmurry, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, John was the oldest of three brothers who joined the Congregation, the others being Andrew, wrongly given in records as Patrick, who died in 1872, and Fr Patrick who died in 1886. Their nephew, John Paul of the American province, died 5 Oct 1887 aged 18. All four were victims of tuberculosis, a classic example of how whole families in Ireland at that time were affected by this killer disease. John and Andrew seem to have spent some time with the Franciscan Brothers at Montbellew, Co. Galway, and were directed to Blackrock by the superior Br Jerome Ryan, who had helped Père Leman in his search for vocations. As John was gone 24 when he entered the juniorate and knew no Latin, he was advised by Père Leman to join the Brothers. He entered the novitiate at Blackrock 19 March 1861 and, when an urgent call came from Fr Magloire Barthet in Chandernagor for an English-speaking Brother to help in the mission school, John, by then Br Francis Joseph, was called on to rise to the challenge. He spent some time at Langonnet where he made his profession 28 September 1862 and then set off for India on 19 Oct 1862. He has the distinction of being the first member of the Irish foundation to go on the foreign mission. He set to work in the little mission school where his presence was highly appreciated. His fragile health and the rigours of the climate lead to his early death 3 May 1865 aged 29. Writing about him later Fr Barthet referred to him as the 'cream of the cream.' His brother Andrew volunteered to go to India in his stead on the understanding that, if his health improved, he would be allowed to advance to the priesthood. q.v. PS Though Br Francis was the first foreign missionary of the Irish foundation no biographical notice was written about him. BJR No.29; BBR No. 4 &10; *Leman* 268.

### **CAREY, Fr Bernard 1865-1932**



Born 28 May 1865 in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Bernard went to Rockwell as a boarder in 1876 and moved to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1878. When he asked his father for permission to join the Juniorate there he was instead moved from the college and sent to a school in Limerick. After four year's of argument about the matter his father gave his consent for him to join the Congregation. Bernard did so at Blackrock in 1882. He was to live very much on the margin of the Congregation throughout his life. He went to France in 1883 where he was ordained in 1887. The following year he was called on to set out for Ballarat, Australia, as a member of Fr Edward Reffé's team as they set about founding a college at the request of Bishop Moore. It proved an unhappy experience for all concerned and after two years Fr Bernard asked to be released from the Congregation. On returning home he taught for a period at the university college, Blackrock, but once his papers were in order he set off for Australia again - this time as a secular priest in the diocese of Sydney. After seven years of pastoral work there he asked to be readmitted to the Congregation. On renewing his vows in August 1899 he was nominally assigned to Rockwell but was given a free hand to be involved in giving retreats and missions throughout the country. In 1905-6 he was instructed to be more closely involved in work at Rockwell but when Bishop Emile Allgeyer was returning to East Africa after his attendance at the General Chapter, he was glad to take Fr Bernard with him. Not for long, though. He sent him home after about five months as it was deemed that his sermons were calculated to disturb the simple faith of the people. For a period Fr Carey was allowed to carry on his free-lance ministry of preaching in the USA, but in 1915 he was appointed to parish work in Trinidad. He took over as pastor at Diego Martin but soon suffered a nervous breakdown. He then volunteered as a military chaplain and saw service during the Great War in the Middle East and travelled back to where he had been previously in East Africa. By then Bishop Allgeyer had been removed from his post by the British. A serious attack of dysentery in Dar es Salam terminated Fr Bernard's involvement with the army. He returned to Trinidad via the USA where he spent a few years during which time he published a book entitled *Leaves from the Diary of a Catholic Chaplain*. The people were glad to welcome him back to Trinidad 1923 where he took over as pastor at S. Juan. One big open air ceremony he organised was a Requiem for all killed during the war. It was one of the best attended ceremonies seen in the island for years. In 1931 he handed over care of his parish to Fr John O'Donoghue and retired to St Mary's, where to his displeasure he found his book on his life as a chaplain placed in the fiction section of the library! Apart from a trip to Rome to gain the jubilee indulgence his travels were over. Fr Bernard Carey answered the Lord's final call 22 November 1932 aged 67 years. He was buried in Trinidad. BG 36,129ff; BCA 1962 214f; SpWW 395

### **CAREY, Fr Kevin 1926-1994**



Born 21 February 1926 in Maryville St, Belfast, Kevin spent some time working at Aircraft Engineering and was making his name as a boxer. He came to Blackrock in 1945 and entered the novitiate the following year. Professed in 1947 he did Philosophy, 1947-49, and Theology, 1949-53, in Kimmage. Ordained in 1952 he was appointed the

following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He spent most of his life among the Kikuyu people in the Nairobi area where he built churches and provided a water supply for his people by having wells sunk. It was said of him: "Kevin was a gifted man. He could draw a plan for a building that would make many an architect jealous. He could then produce in stone what he had conceived. For Riruta, he designed and built a church, a Father's house and a school...Having organised all sorts of activities in Riruta he decided to go to Gicharane. There he built a Father's house, a church, a convent and a dispensary.. He bored for water and found it. He got electricity. He gave himself completely to his work in extending the church. In spite of the large area of his mission and the ever increasing number of converts, he insisted on personally examining each candidate for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation , even when he had up to 1,000 for Confirmation." Kevin was a plain, outspoken man. He disliked any form of hypocrisy and one could easily see that he was loved and trusted by the people. And, though never robust in health, he worked on. In spite of suffering from blood pressure and recurrent heart troubles in his last years, being a fighter, he set his heart and mind on keeping going. Fr Kevin Carey, in boxer's parlance, finally threw in the towel. He died in Kenya after a short illness 4 March 1994 aged 68 years. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 2 1994

#### **CAREY, Fr Patrick            1851-1886**



Born 10 July 1851 in Kilmurry, Kilfinnane, Co. Limerick, Patrick did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1871-75. As a student he was remembered for his piety, his success at studies and for his many essays in prose and poetry which were published in the French College Literary Journal, and later, 1886, in the *Messenger of St Joseph* published at Rockwell (pp 240ff; 'A poem to a Young Priest, PFC'). He prefectured at Blackrock, 1875-77, and then for reasons of health, he was sent to Trinidad. He spent another seven years as prefect, which must have been a record, and he was recalled as being so practical, good-natured, loved and revered by all, and taken as a model. He did his theological studies privately during this period, as had been done previously by James Browne and John T Murphy, future bishop of Mauritius. At last in 1883, he returned to France to start his novitiate 1883. Again he was singled out for mention as being a model novice. Appointed to Pittsburgh College, USA, he taught senior English for two years. Then his 'old chest complaint'- in fact, the family complaint - reasserted itself - this time with no reprieve. He returned to Chevilly where he awaited death with absolute resignation. On October 9th he asked, "What Feast is it today?" When told, "The Motherhood of Mary", he remarked, "What a lovely day to die." He received Holy Communion and when he had finished his thanksgiving he died peacefully. He was 35 years of age. When portion of Chevilly grounds were later sold and the cemetery transferred, Patrick's bones were deposited in the special ossuary in the new cemetery. (Cf. Fr Patrick's brothers: Br Francis, who died in India, 'Patrick' (*recte*, Br Andrew), who died in Langonnet after his return from India, and his nephew, John Carey (Oct. 5th). BCArch; *BG* X111,1258ff; *BCA* 1962 186; *BJR* 193; *SpWW* 77.

#### **CAREY, Mr John    1869-1887**

A nephew of Fr Patrick Carey (qv) John was born 18 December 1868 in Boston. He entered the Juniorate at Pittsburgh, USA, where his uncle Fr Patrick was then stationed. He was described as "talented and very likeable". He suffered from the



disease which carried Fr Patrick and his two brothers, John and Andrew, to an early grave, namely, tuberculosis. After making his first commitment in the Congregation and receiving the religious habit, John he went home to his family in Boston where he died 5th October 1887 aged 18 years. As his people came from Kilmurry, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, his remains may have been brought home for burial in Rockwell as there is a grave in the Rockwell cemetery answering to his name and dates. *BG* 14, 355; *SpWW* 82.

#### **CAREY, Mr Andrew 1841-1872**

(This should be Andrew, not Patrick as usually given in the records).

Born 18 Aug. 1841 in Ballinvana, Kilmurry, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, Andrew and his brother John (later Br Francis Joseph) spent some time with the Franciscan Brothers. (OSF) at Mountbellew, Co. Galway, but, as they wanted to study for the priesthood and to be missionaries, Br Jerome Ryan brought them in 1861 to the French College, Blackrock. As they were both somewhat over-age for starting their studies for the priesthood, and as they were already suffering from tuberculosis, it was suggested to both, at different stages, that they join the brotherhood and go to Chandernagor, India, where the climate was thought to be more conducive to a cure of their ailment. Andrew went to India in 1865 after his brother's death there to replace him in the school. He was given to understand that if his health improved he could later resume his studies for the priesthood. He taught English in the school and is on record as getting plays produced which had been sent to him by Père Leman, who was always ready to help the young Brothers placed in such circumstances without any Irish priest to help them. He also sent him a book of songs. Andrew's letters at this period show him to be very highly-strung and upset that the promises given to allow him study for the priesthood were not being kept. He did manage to survive there and was allowed to return to Ireland. He was placed in the juniorate at Rockwell in 1870 and went to the senior scholasticate in Langonnet the following year. Because of the damp atmosphere of Brittany his latent tubercular trouble came to a head again. Andrew died 24 April 1872 aged 31 years. Some interesting papers about his rule of life etc. are preserved in his dossier in the general archives; they help give us an inkling of the personal sacrifices and tragedies of those far off days when the Irish subjects abroad were a bit lost in the Congregation. Above all, the Careys are a tragic example of a family dogged by tubercular illness: the three brothers and their nephew died from this killer disease of those days: Br Francis Joseph d. 1865, Andrew d. 1872, Fr Patrick d. 1886, and their nephew John d. 1887. *BBR* No.32; *RJJ* No. 29; *BG* IX 31; *GenArch*.

#### **CARMODY, Mr Michael 1854-1874**

Born 5 July 1854 in Rathcarron, Athlacca, Co. Limerick, Michael attended the Juniorate at Blackrock, 1870-74, where he had Fr Joseph Spielmann as Director. He was highly thought of by all. Taken seriously ill with 'gastric fever' early in 1874, he was obliged to go home. On hearing that his death was imminent, Père Leman travelled to Limerick and, on finding the student in such remarkable dispositions, totally resigned to the designs of Divine providence in his regard, he allowed him to take his perpetual vows in the Congregation. Michael Carmody died 18 February 1874 aged 20 years. He was buried in Limerick. *BG*, IX, 875, X, 70; *BJR*, No. 164.

**CARROLL, Fr James F 1887-1949**

Born 6 April 1887 in Nantinan, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, James emigrated to the USA. He later studied at Pittsburgh Holy Ghost Preparatory school and college, graduating in 1907. Professed at Ferndale, 1909, he finished Philosophy and in 1910 was sent to study theology at the university of Fribourg, Switzerland. Ordained in 1913 he secured the D.D. in 1915. For five years he taught Theology in the senior scholasticate at Ferndale where he had many Irish students who had been transferred to the USA under the Drexel-Murphy agreement. In 1920 he was transferred to Duquesne University where he taught Philosophy for twelve years, was Dean of the College of Arts and later Vice-president. He published several booklets on philosophy and devotional subjects. He is referred to as being always a faithful religious, a pious priest and a thoughtful confrere. He was considered by some as over rigid in his views and too demanding of his students. He died 18 July 1949 aged 62 years. *SpWW* 577

**CARROLL, Fr William 1854-1910**



Born 19 February 1854, in Fohenagh, Kilconnel, Co. Galway, William was educated at Blackrock, 1877-81, and then did his prefecting and philosophy course at Blackrock where he was among the first students to sit for the Royal University examinations. He continued his senior studies in France being ordained in 1886. After his novitiate, which was then done subsequent to ordination, he was appointed to Blackrock where he was to serve as Dean of discipline, 1888-96. He also levelled the boarders' hard surface recreation area, which till then sloped steeply from the Clareville end, but it was only in Fr Walter Finn's time as bursar that the drain with the iron grid was cut to deal with the constant seepage of surface water that tended to ruin the recreation area. In 1896 Fr Carroll was sent to Trinidad to replace the ailing Fr Nicholas Brennan as Superior of St. Mary's, and during the next seven years he led the college to much success and extended the buildings. Returning to Blackrock in ill-health in 1903 he replaced Fr Neville as Bursar, and Fr Neville, future bishop, in turn replaced him as Superior in Trinidad. From 1903 to 1907 Fr Carroll was to help in continuing the extensive remodelling of the college frontage at Williamstown under the direction of Fr John T. Murphy and the rebuilding of the Castle under Dr. Edward Crehan as President. In 1907 Fr Carroll supervised the installation of the Juniorate and the Brothers' novitiate at Castlehead, Lancashire, when the Congregation withdrew from Prior Park. Forced by ill health two years later to return to Blackrock Fr William Carroll died 5 August 1910 aged 56 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. Fr Carroll was a great-granduncle of Frs. Patrick and James Devine CSSp. *BG.* 25, 569; *BCA* 1962, p 210; *SpWW*, 71.

**CARROLL, Fr William Joseph 1908-1976**



Born 22 September 1908, in Caltra, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Bill came to Blackrock in 1923. He took honours in the Intermediate Certificate, 1926, and matriculated in 1927. He played as a forward on the SCT, 1926, and later, while prefect in Blackrock, was a member of the Blackrock College Club XV, 1930 and 1931. He was strong, active, and possessed of tireless energy - qualities he displayed later during his work in Nigeria and elsewhere. Few could match his meticulous and cheerful devotion to all duties. Ordained in 1935 his first appointment the following year was

to the Propaganda Team in Kimmage, 1936-37, and then to the missions in Nigeria. Except for a year as Bursar in the Novitiate, Kilshane, 1950-51, he spent all the years up to 1969 in parish work and in church administration in Owerri, Nigeria. Friendly and smiling always, he was a stout prop of the young church in the territories of south-eastern Nigeria, and served at various posts in the districts of Port Harcourt and Owerri. From 1951 he was Procurator and Chancellor of the Diocese of Owerri, and towards the end of the nineteen--sixties he was also Director of the Station of St Charles, Enyiogugu. He was a supporter and friend of the Legion of Mary in its mission work. Forced to leave Nigeria after the war in Biafra, he came as Bursar to the Holy Ghost community of Ardbraccan, Co. Meath, in 1969, where he continued to work with the same generous and unstinting application until affected by serious illness. The clergy of Meath held him in highest esteem. He died, after an illness heroically borne, on 2 June 1976 aged 67 years and was buried in Kimmage. He was uncle of Frs Peter and Patrick J Kilgannon CSSp. *BCA* 1976 p. 179; *IPM* No. 23, September 1976.

**CARRON, Fr Daniel Joseph 1907-1985**



Born 24 September 1907 in Ballintra, Co. Donegal, Dan received his secondary education at Blackrock, 1920-7. Professed in 1928 he profected at Blackrock, 1928-30. Ordained in 1935 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he ministered mainly at Emekuku till 1954. From 1954 to 1963 he was entrusted with the duties of Religious Superior for the members of the Congregation throughout the District of Nigeria. In 1968 he retired from mission work in Nigeria and went to work in a parish in Brooklyn, New York, for five years. In 1973 he took up parish work in Ontario, Canada, for two years. He then returned to New York to do pastoral work till 1982 when he retired to Kimmage. Fr Dan was known from his profecting days on as being kind and gentle to all with whom he had to deal and was animated with a deep faith. He died 22 May 1985 aged 77 and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1985, 61

**CARTER, Fr Joseph 1910-1991**



Born 29 April 1910 in O'Connor's Villas, Cork, Joe lived later in Limerick City. He did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1925-28 where he had as Director the gifted Fr Bertie Farrell. Professed in 1929 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and profected in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1931-35. Returned to Ireland he did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1938. He served on the 'Burse' doing promotional work during the Emergency Years, travelling the country in a charcoal-powered vehicle, showing films and encouraging people to help the missions with their prayers and contributions. This work in those trying times was no picnic to be sure. Appointed to Nigeria he arrived there in January 1945. After one year at Christ the King College in Onitsha he switched to pastoral work. He joined Frs Mick Foley and Pat Henry in Urualla in 1947 and in 1950 transferred to Okigwi where he joined Fr Peter Brady. The figures given in the Etat for their parish are 9,121 Catholics and 7,382 Catechumens. In 1951 he joined Fr Tom Walsh at Nsu. In 1961 he is listed as Director at Ahiara with Fr Declan Dorr as assistant; they ministered to 21,000 Catholics and catechumens, and supervised sixteen primary schools with 6,700 pupils and 130 men teachers and 32 women. He identified himself closely with the Igbo

people, staying with them during the Biafra War, administering the sacraments feeding the hungry, helping the sick and wounded. When the war ended he was imprisoned and deported. Specially blacklisted he was refused entry into the country even in 1989 being turned back as he reached Lagos. He took up ministry in the USA in 1970 serving for two decades in California, first at Ponomo and later in the San Franciscan Bay area at Saint Athanasius Parish in Mountain View and at St Gregory's, San Mateo. Suffering from skin cancer and heart trouble, he died at San Mateo 29 April 1991 aged 80 years as befitted one who had proved himself strong in sport and in the service of God and his people. BCArch; *IPNI*, May 1991;

**CARTON, Fr Owen                      1919-1997**



Born 28 November 1919 in Cabra, Dublin, Oweny did his secondary studies in Mungret College, Limerick. He worked in a Social Welfare office for some years where he made contact with member of St Joseph's Society for Young Priests who directed him towards the Congregation. Professed in 1943 he did Philosophy in Kimmage and then professed for a year in Blackrock (St Michael's), 1945-46, and in Rockwell, 1946-47. Oweny was remembered from his seminary days for his fine baritone voice as he sang his party pieces at concerts, for his acting in plays and for his hearty laugh as he dramatised incidents in conversation. He featured much in anecdotes about life in the seminary and later, always with a note of humour and with some extracts from his rather colourful language when expressing his emotions.. Ordained in 1950 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. Assigned to Owerri he served at Emekuku and later in charge of the parish at Isukuato in the Diocese of Umuahia and later as pastor of St Eugene in Aba. Obligated to leave Nigeria in 1969 because of the Biafra war he returned to Ireland and was involved in various parish ministries in the Archdiocese of Dublin until 1975. He then went to the Diocese of Kildare and Loughlin and ministered in Robertown, Mountmellick and Allen Parish before retiring to Kimmage Manor in April 1995. Fr Owen was always himself. There was never any pretence, never a mask or dependent on accidentals to further his image. He practices, without knowing, a unique detachment from things - except in so far as those things could help him to help others. It was this transparent honesty and simplicity that endeared him to all even those who felt exasperated by his forgetful behaviour at times. January 1996 he took up residence in Marian House where he died 11 September 1997 aged 77 years. IPrArch; IPr Obituaries 1997

**CARTY, Br Kenny (Patrick)                      1839-1904**

Born 15 November 1839 in Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Patrick came to Blackrock in 1865 when he was already 26 years of age. Two years later he was sent to the central Brothers' novitiate in Chevilly where he was professed in 1868 taking the name Kenny (Otherwise Canice i.e. Cainneach in Gaelic). Apart from the few years he spent at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1891-94, he was to be employed in France for the rest of his life, mostly at Langonnet in Brittany, where he was seen as a 'character', not merely by the community but by outsiders, bishops and other exalted personages who took to him as a loveable and quaint variation on the Celtic temperament. His distinctive limp, which in no way interfered with the speed of his movement along corridors of the former Cistercian monastery, came to be recognised as his signature tune. He filled many roles as he took charge of the linen-room, the surgery and the infirmary. He was 'Auxiliary' in charge of the professed Brothers and was deputed

also to look after the young postulants. On festive occasions, especially when there were visitors, he acted as *'maitre d'hotel'*, and had a team of young Brothers scurrying on his many errands. Visitors made a point of calling on him in his surgery, where they were sure to find a cure for any ailment they or their friends suffered from; syrups, pills and pastilles were doled out freely. When the Superior General, Fr Schwindenhammer, had to seek refuge at Langonnet during the Franco-Prussian war, Br Kenny had the honour of making his final profession in his presence. He also acquired French citizenship at that time. He seemingly got homesick later and invited himself to stay in Ireland in 1891. He was placed in St Mary's, but not finding himself in his element there he returned once more to his adopted country, helping this time in caring for the sick in Chevilly. When he returned to Langonnet in 1903 to retire, people found it difficult to recognise him as his hair had gone white and he was by then sporting a large beard. He had not lost his good humour and, as he progressively lost his energy and power of movement, he accepted all in a spirit of resignation and faith, thankful for all the services rendered to him. Well prepared for death Br Kenny Carty passed away peacefully 22nd December 1904 aged 65 years. He was buried in Langonnet. When the editor of the *Bulletin Général* came to write a *'Notice'* about Br Kenny, he found he had three different dates for his birth and a number of different places of birth as well; so he called attention to Fr Schwindenhammer's warning years earlier that oral depositions by Irish brothers had always to be corroborated with official certificates! BBR No.34; *BG*, XXIII, 67f.

#### **CASEY, Br Othrain (Michael) 1882-1916**



Born 15 Oct. 1882 in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, Michael entered the Congregation at Rockwell and was sent to the central Brothers' novitiate in Chevilly, in 1900. He was professed in 1902 together with Bros Gerald, later of Blackrock, Osmond of The Gambia and Nigeria and Eusebius of Nigeria and Rockwell. Br Othrain was appointed to Nigeria where we find him at Onitsha together with Br David Doran. It was remarked in despatches that the little mission school improved remarkably on his arrival. He worked also in Calabar and Igbarian. He is given in the *Etat* for 1914 as being on holidays. He had returned to Ireland in ill-health and was stationed at Blackrock. He is mentioned from time to time in the journal as follows: Dec 22 1915: The scholastics and prefects left today; Bros Aloysius and Othrain are in charge of the boys, ca 12, who have remained on. April 11, 1916: Br Othrain was taken ill a week ago. He continued to get worse; his temperature rising to 105. It was thought safer to administer to him the last sacraments today. 17th; Br Othrain died a holy death this morning about 3.45 am. He was the first member of the community to die in the Castle. Frs O'Toole and Burke assisted him in his last moments. 18th; He was buried today (Tues. Holy Week) at the request of his friends. His brother and brother-in-law attended the funeral. Br Othrain died 17 April 1916 aged 33 years. He Was buried in Dean's Grange. (In the very scant records he gets mixed up with Br Othrain Sharkey from Donegal who entered at Blackrock in 1892 but left in 1905). Gen.Arch. *État*

### **CASSIN, Fr John Ed 1910-1989**



Born 4 July 1910 in St. Patrick's Street, Inchicore, Dublin, John was educated at CBS and Blackrock, 1925-28. Professed in 1929 at Kimmage, he professed at Blackrock, 1931-33, and was ordained in 1936. Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1937, he set out to study the local laws and customs of the Mende people and in time succeeded in mastering their complex language so that he was able to converse directly with his flock without an interpreter. After working for fifteen years in the mission of Gerihun he was appointed to open a new mission in Pendembu, this being the first Catholic centre in Kailahun district. Here he served the Kissi as well as the Mende people and because of the poor communications he had to do most of his extensive travel on foot as he served Serabu, Damball, Bo, and Brookfields. He was a meticulous organiser and life for him centred around the Mass. Fr John was appointed Religious superior in Sierra Leone. At sixty he realised he had the choice: about 5 years of active ministry if he remained on in Sierra Leone or a possible 15 active years if he opted for a more benign climate. It was in this mind he transferred to the Western province of the congregation's work in the USA, but always a missionary he volunteered for service in Mexico. Trekking there precipitated an illness which forced him to return to Ireland. His last years at Marian house were marked by the cross of suffering but his outlook was clearly priestly and missionary to the end. Fr John Cassin died at Marian House 19 August 1989 aged 69 years. BJR; *IPNI* No. 8, Oct. 1989.

### **CASSLEY, Br John Berchmans (Joseph) 1902-1978**



Born 21 October 1902 in Brean near Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, Joseph wanted to be a missionary and had planned to enter the recently founded Columban Society but, on the advice of a Cross and Passion Sister, he opted for the Holy Ghost Congregation because they were a religious society. He entered the Brothers' novitiate at Kimmage on the Feast of St Joseph 1925, and he was to live the rest of his life in that community. Kimmage was then a quiet countryside and the farm houses were few and scattered. The only noise that disturbed the morning silence of the novitiate was the movement of milk carts on the Whitehall Road, then locally known as Milk Lane. Br 'Berchy,' as he was known to generations of scholastics, was to see the tiny community of the Manor House grow into a mighty mission centre that was to send out hundreds of its alumni to the Mission Fields while Br Berchmans himself was to serve mainly on the pasturelands of Kimmage. Man of faith that he was, he accepted his assignment as God's will for him. He performed his function as farm manager conscientiously and competently for over forty years. But in the perspective of his long life his farm work was not his main contribution to life in Kimmage and to the Congregation. This quiet unassuming man had a truly remarkable influence on people, on the hundreds of scholastics who were in close association with him and the neighbours around the Manor with whom he had built up a happy relationship over the years. At a period when manual labour played such an important role in clerical training and recreation Br Berchy contributed an important and realistic dimension to seminary formation. It was a healthy experience to escape from the rarefied atmosphere of the classroom and meet a man who was genuinely concerned with his neighbours and their problems, with the workmen and their families, with Gaelic

games and the other many aspects of ordinary life. His Mecca was Croke Park and in the days when the Newspaper was taboo for clerical students, he was always on hand on the Sunday evening to pass on the day's results. He was no stranger to books himself - he loved books about history, but had his feet firmly rooted in mother earth, had a keen sense of humour a warm humanity and was possessed of a sound judgement of people. His distinctively Northern accent and expressions made him an easy subject for jocular imitation and he enjoyed being the centre of a bit of banter, but one realised he was deadly serious about the things that mattered and was able to give helpful counsel in the minimum of words. Add to these qualities his fidelity to duty and his utter loyalty to the Congregation and we have some of the reasons why his name is ever mentioned with affection and gratitude by confreres at home and abroad when days in the scholasticate are recalled. Br Berchmans is one of that special triumvirate of Brothers associated with the humanising of seminary formation through the safety valve provided by supervised manual labour namely, Brs Aidan, Gerald and Berchmans. May they rest from their labours in the peace of the Lord. Br Berchmans Cassley was summoned to the Elysian Fields 8 November 1978 aged 76 years and was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 35, Dec. 1978.

### **CAYZAC, Fr Joseph 1871-1941**



Born 28 March 1871 in Aveyron, diocese of Rodez, in the south of France, Joseph was a student at Blackrock, 1883-90, and was sent to the newly opened school at St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect, 1890-91. He then went to the senior scholasticate at Langonnet but was called on the following year to go as prefect to Mesnières college while studying his theology under supervision. Ordained in 1895 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Rathmines, and asked 'to sacrifice himself for a year'. At the end of three years there he voiced his annoyance and was allowed to go to East Africa. We find him given in the *État* for 1904 as superior at St Austin's, Nairobi, together with Fr Tom Burke. When a major part of the mission had been unexpectedly handed over to the Consolata Fathers in 1906, Fr Joseph moved to Kiamba and in 1908 he was stationed at Mangu with Père Soul and Br Josaphat; 1912 at Kiambu again; and 1920 at Mangu. He is also listed as being on Bishop Neville's council. During World War One he served as military chaplain to the Allied Forces. Broken in health he spent some years in Europe but returned for a short period to Kiambu. Appointed to Castlehead juniorate, Lancs., England, he succeeded Fr Rimmer as superior. It was while there that he published his book, *The Mission Boy - a romance of new Africa*. After some years he is listed as being back in the south of France filling various chaplaincies, and for a period resident in the community at Bompard Street, Marseilles, which served as the big port of departure for missionaries. He died 28 April 1941 aged 70. GenArch; BJR No.457; *État*; *SpEAM* 140.

### **Chamberlain, Father Alfred 1916-2006**

Alfie was born in Calcutta, India, on August 21<sup>st</sup> 1916. He completed his secondary school studies at Blackrock College and entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1935. During 1936-'38 he prefected in Blackrock. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D in 1940. Alfie studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1943 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1944. In 1945 Father

Alfie's first appointment was to *Blackrock College* where he served as Dean of Discipline for one year. In 1947 he was appointed to **Nigeria** to the *Vicariate of Onitsha* where he taught at the College of the Immaculate Conception in *Enugu*. In 1949 he became Principal of St. Anthony's Teacher Training College in Agula and four years later Rector of the Spiritan junior seminary in *Ihiala*. He came back to **Ireland** in 1958 and served for twenty-one years as *Director of the Rockwell Junior Scholasticate*. During this time he completed the H.Dip.in Ed at University College Cork. In 1979 he was appointed to **Australia** where he worked first in Melbourne and then was Assistant Pastor at Ringwood, Victoria. In 1983 he returned to Ireland and joined the St. Michael's Community. He died 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin.

**CLARKE, Mrs Emily +1914**

Mrs Emily CLARKE, has the distinction of being the first woman to be made an associate of the Congregation in Ireland. In the 'List de Bienfaiteurs' kept by Père Leman we read: Mrs Clarke, widow, of Frankfort, Merrion Avenue, Blackrock was affiliated 12 April 1880 in consideration of her charity. She has promised a bourse valued £500 in perpetuity for the education of a scholastic. In the meantime she pays £25 per annum - the interest on that sum. We go there from time to time to say mass. The large marble plaque erected later to her memory in the sacristy of the Blackrock College chapel reads: "Pray for the soul of Emily M.M. Clarke who died 30th November 1914. For many years Mrs Clarke contributed to the education in this college of a priest for the African Missions, and at her death bequeathed a generous sum, half of the interest of which was to be applied to the same purpose, and half to the celebration of masses for the souls of herself and her husband and relatives."

**CLAUSS, Fr Anthony 1842-1885**

Born 15 June 1842 in Duttenheim, Diocese of Strasbourg, Anthony was ordained in 1870 and was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he was called on to act as bursar. Within a year he was transferred to Langonnet, being accompanied by Fr Louis Le Quintrec, who was bidding good bye to Blackrock and was soon to part company with the Congregation. Fr Clauss was attached to the community at Beauvais at the time of his death but he died in the family home in Duttenheim where he had gone to recuperate. Fr Anthony Clauss died 25 March 1885 aged 43 years. *BG*, X, 616

**CLEARY, Fr Edmund 1874-1950**

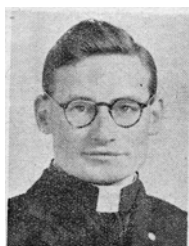


Born 24 October 1874 in Garryandrew, Rosegreen, Co. Tipperary, Ned came to Rockwell juniorate in 1894 and served as a prefect for several years. He was a formidable force on the Rockwell Club team where he played with the Ryan brothers, Joseph Shanahan, Joe Baldwin, Michael Smithwick etc. Ordained in France in 1903 Fr Ned was appointed first to St Mary's, Rathmines, and later to Rockwell. From 1910 to 1917 he was Director of the juniorate. Among his charges were Frank Griffin, future Superior General, Liam O'Flaherty, the writer, Joe Horgan, etc. From 1917 to 1920 he ministered in St Joseph's parish, St Helen's, Lancashire. From 1920 to 1934 he was bursar in the house of studies and the novitiate at Kimmage Manor. He was then appointed superior of the new novitiate house in Kilshane. In 1937 he was



succeeded as superior by Fr James White and he took on the role of Spiritual Father to the novices - a post he was to fill for the rest of his life. He was in close association with the works of formation for most of his life and always retained a keen interest in the activities of young people. He also kept close to nature through his involvement with farming at Kimmage and in Kilshane. In all things he found God but above all in Sacred Scripture. How often did he repeat in his scripture classes for the novices: "There are depths of meaning in Sacred Scripture"! One recalls his fresh complexion, his rather highly pitched tones, his flat footed stride, but above all his open ear to whatever you had to tell him. Fr Ned Cleary died at Kilshane 18 April 1950 aged 76 years. He is buried in Rockwell. RCA 950 27.

**CLEARY, Fr Thomas Joseph 1924-2001**



Born in Annacarty, Kilfeacle, Co. Tipperary, on 9 June 1924, Tom did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1938-1944. Following in the footsteps of his relatives Fr Edward Cleary and Fr Denis Fahey he joined the Congregation being professed in Kilshane in 1944. Having done Philosophy in Kimmage he professed for two years in Rockwell, 1945-47. Returned to Kimmage to do Theology he was ordained in 1952. The following year Fr Tom was appointed to the Diocese of Owerri, Nigeria, where he served for 14 years. While serving in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Onitsha he was a member of the three-man team who ministered to nearly 19,000. Due to the Biafra War he had to quit Nigeria and was appointed to the USA where he joined the Irish Spiritan group centred in Long Island, NY, and later served in the Archdiocese of Miami. Suffering from ill health he returned to Ireland in 1991 and was assigned to Rockwell College. One of the works he engaged in was the translation from French of the early volumes of the community journal - a work he undertook with great care and which was appreciated by those who were not familiar with French. One of those who reacted favourably to the innovations following on the Vatican Council he was seen in later years to become rather excessively conservative and he zealously espoused the views of world order propounded by his relative Fr Denis Fahey. Plagued with ill health he had to retire to Marian House where he suffered a heart attack and died rather unexpectedly on 5 December 2001 aged 76 years. Fr Tom was buried in the Community Cemetery in Rockwell College.

**CLEARY, Fr Timothy 1848-1875**



Born in Rathbeg, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, 20 June 1848, Timothy had learned Latin from a local teacher and entered at the class second from the top when he came to the French College, Blackrock, in 1864. He completed his secondary course and part of the Arts course of the Catholic University, winning a Classical Exhibition (2nd Year Arts), with three other distinctions in English, Latin and Greek, for the session, 1867-68. He then began a four year period as prefect, 1867-71. During this time he wrote and produced a play for the students. He studied in France, was ordained and commenced his novitiate; but he died of 'brain fever' 4 May 1875 aged 28. He was buried in Chevilly. He was highly thought of by all, and Père Leman had been looking forward to having him take charge of studies in the secondary school. The Principal, Fr Reffé, had planned to write a memoir of him, thinking him an even better subject for such a work than Richard Pennefather, 1866-73, whose biography

entitled *A New Model for Youth* had been written by Fr Joseph Spielmann. (Fr Cleary was listed as Mr. Cleary in the French Necrology as he died before making his profession). BCACH; *BCA* 1962, 166.

**CLEMENTS, Fr James (Seamus) Noel**                      **1920-2002**



Born in Osborne Terrace, Dublin 6, on 7 January 1920 Seamus did his secondary school studies in Blackrock College, (1932-38). His father had also attended Blackrock. Having opted to join the Congregation Seamus made his First Profession on 8th September 1939 in Kilshane. He attended UCD at Earlsfort Terrace securing the BA degree in 1942. He prefectured in Blackrock College, 1942-'44, and then studied theology at Kimmage Manor. Very talented in many spheres he was remembered especially during this period for his skill in the art of illustration, especially in producing maps for Scripture examinations and for his comic illustrations of the humor magazine known as *Capers* which proved a welcome safety valve in an otherwise up-tight regime. Ordained to the Priesthood on 13 July 1947 Fr. Seamus made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 13 July 1948.

His first appointment was to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, Kenya. He ministered from 1948-1968 in: Secondary School teaching, Parish work, Chaplaincy to hospitals and jails. In 1967 he was made a full member of the Kikuyu people and an Elder.

From 1968 until 1974 he lectured in Kenyatta University College. In 1975 he transferred to Nairobi University and was Secretary of the University Council for Higher Studies in religion. Fr Seamus was involved very much in the development of religious education programmes for schools. Having mastered the Kikuyu language he published a catechism in it. With others he made academic contact with the World Council of Churches. After 35 years of dedicated service Father Seamus left Kenya in 1983. In 1984 he was appointed to the Long Island Community and served in Our Lady of Victories Church, Jersey City. While there, in June 1994, he wrote "I have completed quite a number of books - all in manuscript - on the weekly readings on the lectionary. I also have a service to offer here, which is an alternative ear, a consoling word, and a smile". In 1997 he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination. Fr Seamus returned to Ireland in 2000 and retired to the Blackrock College community. He remained a student all his life and loved books and music. His favorite reading was the New Testament in Greek which was constantly at his side. Suffering from indifferent health for some time he died suddenly on 16 February 2002 aged 82 years. Fr Seamus is buried in the Spiritan plot in Shanganagh Cemetery.

**CLERKIN, Fr Thomas**                      **1907-1994**



Born 20 August 1907 in Killvalley, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, Tom did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1921-25. Professed in 1926 at Kimmage Manor he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and then prefectured in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1927-30. Returned to the Castle to do Theology he was ordained in 1934. In 1934 the Theologians moved from the Castle to Kimmage as the novitiate had been transferred to Kilshane.

Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1935 Fr Tom was to work in Freetown in pastoral ministry in Sacred Heart Cathedral parish and in St Edward's school. He attended University College Dublin, 1946-49, while residing at Blackrock, as it was intended that he would take over as Headmaster of St Edward's. Instead he was to serve as Religious superior of Sierra Leone and The Gambia, 1951-55. Appointed to Canada in

1955, he worked there for thirteen years, seven of these being devoted to the care of the Parish of the Holy Rosary, Guelph. He then transferred to the USA where he spent some years preaching for the missions in order to raise funds for the church in Sierra Leone. In 1968 he was appointed to the Long Island community and did pastoral ministry in Kutchogue and a number of other parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Center. He served as chaplain to the Franciscan Brothers in Huntington who were founded from Mountbellew, Co. Galway, a community that had close links with the beginnings of the Holy Ghost Congregation in Blanchardstown and Blackrock. After a short struggle with cancer Fr Tom died in New York 23 April 1994 aged 86 years. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 3 1994

### **CLIFFORD, Fr Michael J 1911-1993**



Born 11 October 1911 in Glencar, Co. Kerry, Mick did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1924-29. Professed in Kimmage in 1930, he did Philosophy in the Castle Blackrock and at UCD where he took the B.A., followed by three years as prefect in St Mary's, Trinidad. Returned to Ireland he did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1939. Appointed to Nigeria Fr Mick was Supervisor of Schools for Onitsha Diocese and then College Principal of CKC, probably the most important and successful mission secondary school in Nigeria. His last appointment was to take charge of Adazi Mission, an old mission from which the church had radiated and from which, over the years, a number of other missions had been broken off. It was still a thriving centre with a big Catholic population, a mission hospital, a secondary school and a teacher-training college. Fr Mick succeeded in building a fine church and a new mission house. He was known then as elsewhere as good priest, a fine administrator and a man of peace. Having to quit Nigeria because of the Biafra War, he was appointed to the USA where he did pastoral work till 1977. Returned to Ireland he did pastoral at Air Hill, Schull, Co. Cork, 1977-80. He served as Superior in Ardbraccan, 1980-81, and then was assigned as chaplain to St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park. In 1985 he retired to Kimmage where after a short struggle with cancer Fr Michael Clifford died 22 April 1993 aged 81 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 3 1993.

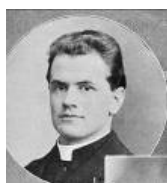
### **CLOONAN, Fr Peter Paul, 1905-1989**



Born 29 June 1905 in St Mary's parish, Athlone, Paul did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1918-23. He played on the senior rugby team and during his prefecting days at the college, 1925-27, he played for the Rugby Club XV. Professed in 1924 he did Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines. In those years attendance at the university was suspended on economic grounds. Ordained in 1932 he set out for Nigeria the following year in the company of Frs Giltinan and Phil Judge. His first appointment was to Uturu where he worked with the Alsatian Fathers, Treich and Bubendorf. After three years of apprenticeship he was appointed parish priest of Emekuku. Paul will be remembered most for the thirty-two years that he spent in Emekuku. When he became pastor, Emekuku was already one of the great missions of Eastern Nigeria and at the time of his death the territory he served covered the dioceses of Ahiara and Owerri. The area was huge and was very thickly populated. By the time Paul became parish priest, there were already more than 80,000 baptised Christians and catechumens, and as the baptisms increased so

also did the work. Paul was noted as a great trainer of curates, though he never had more than two or three to help him at any one time. He rose early and the hours before dawn were devoted to prayer. He also worked till late. A very hard worker himself, he expected high standards of work from his assistant priests. He had great organising ability, and kept up-to-date and informative files on hundreds of schools, thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of school children. Besides this he was an indefatigable builder. Aided by Fr Christie Ring, he built the hospital and the big church of Emekuku, as well as numerous schools. At the time of his death there were well over a million baptised Christians in the area of old Emekuku. When obliged to return to Ireland in 1968 because of the Biafra war, he went to the USA for a year. Then he went to work with Fr Tom Fox as one of the full-time chaplains in the new St Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park. He left St Vincent's in 1978, when he was 73 years of age. After a period as Superior in Ardbraccan he retired in the community. When his health began to decline he moved to Marian House in 1987 where he died 16th December 1989. He was aged 84 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.1 1990

**CLOONAN, Fr Stephen J. 1906-1980**



Born 28 December 1906 in Athlone, Co. Meath, Steve was a student at Blackrock, 1922-26. Professed in 1926 he went on to do Philosophy course at the Castle, Blackrock, followed by two years prefecting at Rockwell. Ordained in 1933 he was appointed the following year to Southern Nigeria. For the next thirty-four years he was to work there as teacher and pastor - his main post being director at Holy Trinity, Onitsha-Waterside. His first assignment was to St Charles Training College at Onitsha. For a period he is listed as director at Ahiara and his final post was as director at Sacred Heart, Onitsha. Forced to return to Ireland after the Biafra war, he served as curate in St Agnes' parish, Crumlin from 1968 until ill-health obliged him to retire in 1975. Fr Cloonan's whole life was one of quiet service, hard work, dedication and not a little suffering. He died 12 January 1980 aged 73 and was buried in Kimmage. His elder brother Fr Paul (qv) also worked in Nigeria. *IPNI* 41 February 1980.

**CODY, Br Albert (Thomas) 1867-1942**



Born 26 February 1867 in Roebuck, Co. Dublin, Thomas entered the Brothers' postulate at Blackrock in July 1883 and began his novitiate the following year. Professed in 1886 he remained at Blackrock till he was appointed to the newly opened community of St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1890. Appointed to Rockwell in 1892, he was called on after two years to accompany Br Tobias Hogan to take charge of the mission school at Bathurst (Banjul) in The Gambia. The tropical climate was too much for Albert who was forced to return home in September 1895. Till 1909 he served at Blackrock and then he received what was to be his last appointment namely, Rockwell. His main function once again was to take charge of the boys' refectory. It is reported that when Br Albert took over the refectory he administered it with clockwork precision! Very soon the students noticed his predilection for polysyllabic words and their joke was that he had swallowed a dictionary! More discerning minds were amazed at the precision with which these words were chosen. It was noticed also that he liked to smoke a pipe, but that he invariably chose a spot far removed from the prying eyes when he wanted to enjoy his little 'gal'. Quoting from the obituary published in the *Rockwell Annual*:

“Old Rockwellians will certainly remember the soft-voiced and imperturbable little Brother who for the best part of forty years devoted himself to the humdrum duties of College refectorian. From 1900 until the late thirties Brother Albert went on his humble unobtrusive way, quietly efficient, ever patient, affable and obliging. In this he gave a perfect example of what the ideal Brother strives to become—a worker and a man of prayer. It is scarcely a year, since age and painful infirmities obliged Brother Albert to lay down the burden of definite functions in the community. Much against his inclinations, yet with perfect resignation to God's will, he submitted to leading the tedious existence of an incurable invalid. It was indeed his greatest cross, borne nevertheless without a murmur, to feel himself in any sense a trouble to others, to feel himself debarred from making himself of practical use to the house. Yet, to those of us who were privileged to observe this final stage of a long and laborious career, it was obvious that the lessons Brother Albert gave us during his illness, of patience, fortitude and obedience were, in the spiritual sense, the most signal service he had ever rendered...” Br Albert Cody, whose life was seen to be in danger in The Gambia away back in 1895, lived till 20 September 1942. He had by then reached an age of Biblical proportions namely, five years less than the 'fourscore for those who are strong.' He was buried in Rockwell. BBR No.188; *État*; RCA 1942 p.5

#### **COFFEY, Br Brendan (Andrew) 1857-1925**

Born 23 Nov. 1857 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Andrew entered the brotherhood at Rockwell 8 September 1876 and as professed there in 1878. Appointed to Rockwell, Br Brendan or Brandon as he was known helped to look after the refectories and the linen room. After some years he was allowed to go to Africa. He spent about eight years in Bathurst (Banjul) in The Gambia helping Br Tobias Hogan in the boys' primary school where there were 135 students. The girls' school with 128 students was looked after by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. Fr Joseph Gleeson, also of Tipperary, was in charge of the mission schools and high hopes were placed in his management. Sadly death was to claim him before long, and Br Brendan had to return to Rockwell because of ill-health. He resumed his simple duties there. Energy and regularity were the hall mark of all he did. He proclaimed the Lord's praises with a loud voice at community prayer; his spirituality and general approach to life were characterised by total simplicity and honesty. On one occasion when his superior returned after a rather long absence from the community, he was surprised to be greeted in a formal speech of welcome at chapter by Br Brendan expressing how much he was missed by his flock. Br Brendan Coffey died at Rockwell 19 Feb. 1925 aged 64 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BG* 32, 446f.

#### **COFFEY, Fr Dominic 1937-1988**



Born 1937 in Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, Dom did his secondary studies at CBS Lismore. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1955. He attended UCD where he qualified for the BSc and then did Philosophy in Kimmage. After prefecting for one year at Rockwell, 1961-62, he began his Theology. Ordained in 1965 Fr Dom was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. He spent the first year in Bo, where he studied the language and took a general orientation course about the country and about missionary work in Sierra Leone. Appointed to Sambaia Secondary School, he taught there for seven years, and from there he transferred to Milton Margai Training College in Freetown. In the meantime big changes had been taking

place in the Church, especially in pastoral approaches in the Third World. Fr Dominic exchanged the classroom for parish pastoral work, getting involved with the movement known as basic Christian Communities. He was appointed to the parish of Njala Kombuya which is situated in extremely difficult terrain, consisting mostly of rocky, hilly countryside with scarcely any roads. There he would go on trek for two or three weeks at a time, walking from village to village. He slept in the homes of the people, ate their food and shared their life. Different opinions have been expressed about Dom's approach. Some thought it crazy. Others saw him as a pioneer, as being ahead of his time in his approach to mission. Certainly it was difficult, demanding work which has borne fruit and that system is still operating. During these years he also worked in the Catechetics Centre in Kenema, where he taught and helped to elaborate renewal catechetical programmes. He then took a short break from the tropics and in 1978 spent a year as bursar of Spiritan House. Back to Sierra Leone he went to work again with basic Christian Communities, this time in the parish of Gerihun with Fr Brian Starcken. In 1983 he returned to Ireland and began to work in the movement for Justice and Peace, principally at the centre set up by the Province in Ardraccan. There he applied the method of direct personal counselling and spiritual direction. This led him all the more to share with others and help them towards a deeper concern for the issues of injustice in the society in which they lived. He felt it gave him a more balanced spirituality centred on God, on God's people and on God's world. He was valued by those close to him for his dependability and his sense of humour in the face of the daily problems of life. And he was quick to see the hand of God in the beauty of nature. It was remarked that Fr Dom was a very private person, so it may well be that he carried the secret of ill-health, but his totally unexpected death on Christmas Day 1988 came as a shock to many. Fr Dominic Coffey was 51 years of age. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI*, No. 6 1989.

**COFFEY, Fr Patrick                    1866-1953**



Born 8 December 1866 in Tullamore, Co. Meath, Patrick did his studies at Rockwell, 1882-87, and prefectured there for two years. He was then called on to go as prefect to Braga, Portugal, where he served from 1889 to 1893, mainly as teacher of English. Having done his theological studies during these years he was ordained in 1893. The following year Fr Patrick was appointed to Braga where for many years he was to teach English, History, Geography etc., while also acting as Dean of the day students. He got to love Portugal and he was very much appreciated.

Because of his gentle manner he was known as the 'Diplomat'. It was with sorrow that he saw the houses in Portugal confiscated under the Revolution in 1910 and he had to leave the country. He served for two years at St Mary's College, Rathmines, and then in 1912 he was appointed with Fr Richard Harnett to take charge of the parish offered to the Congregation at St Joseph's, Peasley Cross, in the Liverpool diocese. There he was to serve as parish priest from October 1912 till February 1940 and he then opted to remain on as assistant till his death in 1953. Beloved of all because of his gentle and kindly ways he was known to the children as 'Fr Toffey', and even his fellow pastors found in him a father and a counsellor. In 1925, when the English province was officially set up, he was an obvious choice for the post of provincial. Fr Patrick Coffey died 3 January 1953 aged 86. *IPArch; État du Personnel, BG, Gandy, pp70ff etc.*

**COOKE, Fr Patrick Michael                      1934-2001**



Born on 25 March 1934 in Crumlin, Dublin, Paddy did his secondary studies in Rockwell College. Professed in Kilshane in 1954 he went on to Kimmage to do Philosophy followed by three years prefecting (1956-59) in Trinidad. Having resumed his studies at Kimmage he was ordained spriest in 1963. Appointed to Kenya he worked in the Diocese of Mombasa for the next twenty-five years. He ministered in the parishes of Giriama, Taveta, Mganga Nyika, Taita and Shimba Hills. Paddy returned to Ireland in 1988 and later that year he began sabbatical studies at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. After his studies he stayed at Duquesne as assistant to the College President. While at the University and afterwards he did pastoral work in the Pittsburgh area. In 1972 Paddy took up an appointment at the Cathedral in the Diocese of St Augustine, Florida. He remained there until ill health forced him to resign early in 2001. In June he returned to Ireland and came to Marian House where he died on 4 August 2001 aged 67 Years. Fr Patrick was buried with his family in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin.

**COGNIARD, Fr Victor,                      1840-1905**



Born 17 Nov. 1840 in Armentières, dept Nord, Victor was educated at Auchy College, at Issy, and at the French Seminary, Rome, where he was a gold medalist as he studied for the D.D. at the Gregorian. Ordained in 1866 Fr Victor joined the Congregation the following year. He taught at Cellule, 1868-78. He was then offered to Père Leman in place of Fr Edward Reffé, who was asked for in USA to launch the new college at Pittsburgh. Because of the critical changeover to the public examination system in Ireland at the time, Père Leman argued that Fr Reffé could not be replaced just then. Fr Cogniard was professor at the Colonial Seminary, Paris, till 1881, when he was appointed to Blackrock. He composed a treatise in Latin on how England could be brought back to the Catholic faith, and without the knowledge of the superior Fr Peter Huvétyts, but seemingly with the permission of the ailing superior general, Fr Frederick Le Vasseur, he sent the treatise to Queen Victoria! The Lord Lieutenant sent a courier to Blackrock returning the document in due course, pointing out that Her Majesty did not accept manuscripts. This incident caused some embarrassment at the college, and Fr Cogniard's stay at Blackrock terminated at the end of the school year. He continued his professorship at the Colonial Seminary, and was highly valued by the Paris diocesan authorities for his erudition. Later he published a 513 page volume on his extended tour of the Middle East, especially the Holy Land, entitled *L'Orient a Vol d' Oiseau*. Fr Victor Cogniard died 23 Feb. 1905 aged 64 years. *BG XXII 200ff.*

**COLEMAN (O Cólmaín), Fr Séamus                      1901-1988**



Born 1 January 1900 in Dublin, Séamus was proud of the fact that he was born in the first hour of the first day of the first month of this century, and in Dublin at that. He remained a true "Dub" all his life with a deep love of the people and the city. He attended CBS, Synge St, and after school became a Civil Servant with the Post Office for a few years. At some stage he assumed the Gaelic form of his name and in that language he would have been aptly described as being a '*fear ann féin*' in that was never guided by what was the norm. At the age of

22 he was professed in the Congregation and was ordained priest in 1928. Ordained with him was Ambrose Kelly, who was later to be his bishop in Sierra Leone. Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1929 Fr Séamus worked there for the next 23 years with great commitment in difficult times. He ministered in Gerihun, Blama, Bonthé and Bo. He was always an organised man and though his ways were ever unusual he was never hurtful to those who had to work side by side with him. Sierra Leone remained the great love and interest of his life even though he was forced by ill-health to return to Ireland. He claimed that he made history in that he was the first missionary to return by air. He was appointed Provincial secretary, a post where his powers of organisation and his great memory proved very valuable to the administration. He helped build up the Provincial archives. His filing system was remarkable; to his dying day, he could remember the names and personal details of the many hundreds of students who passed through the scholasticate then. He went to investigate the missionary situation in Australia. He sent no interim reports but when he returned he was able to give a thought-out and detailed analysis of his mission. He seemingly counselled inaction. He retired to Ardracran in 1961 where he quickly settled down to a new stage of life. Blessed with good health he pursued his interest in local history, music and reading. He also mixed with the local people and children during his afternoon walks. He kept in touch with life in Sierra Leone through reading and contact with returned missionaries. He was happy to have been invited to attend the Beatification ceremony of Père Daniel Brottier and he may have been the most senior member of the Congregation to do so. Conscious to the last, Fr Séamus O Cólmaín died 16 October 1988 aged 87 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI Obituaries* 1988.

#### **COLGAN, Br Dalmas (Matthew) 1857-1927**

Born 1 February 1857 in Clonbullock, Monasterevan, Co. Kildare, Matthew was a brother of Fr Michael and Br Paulinus (qv). When he entered the Brothers' novitiate in Rockwell in 1878 he took the name Dalmas and was professed in 1881. He had been accustomed to work in the fields at home but he was now called on to learn the art of kneading dough and tending the bakery stove. He succeeded well in that function as in the many others which he was called on to undertake over the years. He is credited with having influenced seven of the boarders to join the Juniorate in 1887, six of whom were later to be ordained in the Congregation. Later in life he was put in charge of the domestic staff. He edified all by his life and when death approached he is reported as having faced it as he had faced all aspects of life in a spirit of great faith. Br Dalmas Colgan died 10 December 1927 aged 70 years and was buried in Rockwell. *BG XXXIII* 33, 634.

#### **COLGAN, Br Paulinus (James) 1860-1892**

Born 20 April 1860 in Clonbrin, Co. Kildare, James entered as a postulant at Rockwell in 1882 and was professed there in 1884. He spent the next five years at Rockwell in charge of the students' refectory. When Fr Browne, superior of St Mary's College, Trinidad, asked for a brother to take charge of the very young boys there, Br Paulinus was posted there. He proved very successful as prefect and teacher for these junior students - a function for which his gentle disposition made him particularly suitable. He was very well liked by his students and confrères. In 1892 he was diagnosed as having tuberculosis. In a letter to the Mother House it was said that he had acted imprudently in going for a swim immediately after supper and working in



clothes that were damp from perspiration or rain. Not realising that the climate in Trinidad was even more dangerous than in Ireland for those prone to pulmonary disease, he took seriously ill and died after some weeks, 26 April 1892 aged 32 years; he was buried in Trinidad. He was of the same family as Br Dalmas and Fr Michael Colgan. *BG XVI 560; SpWW 104.*

### **COLGAN, Fr Michael 1869-1941**



Born 14 Jan. 1869 in Clonbrin, Co. Kildare, Mike was a student in Rockwell, 1882-88. The newly formed GAA had affiliated the Rockwell hurling club in 1887 as we gather from a certificate which Fr Mike proudly displayed in his room over the years. Cycling was also coming in as part of a balanced education. It was a slack time, however, for Rockwell otherwise. Senior Grade was abandoned for lack of numbers and the Juniorate was closed and the students transferred to Blackrock, where Mike completed his schooling, 1888-89. He prefectured in Blackrock the following two years and went to France in 1891 to do his senior studies. Ordained in 1896 Fr Mike was assigned to Rockwell the following year where he was to spend all his life as a priest attached to the teaching staff. He was known to the students as the *Père*. It does not appear that he ever held any post of responsibility in the administration of the college. Out-door life held a great attraction for him always. He was very friendly with the Ryan brothers of rugby fame and had his moment of history when he got mention in Dev's 'last' letter to Mike Ryan as he awaited sentence for his part in the 1916 Rising. It was probably Fr Mike who had introduced Dev to the Ryan household. Though he was always on the best of terms with his students - most of them from the lower streams - and though he taught his classes with dedication, he made no secret of his preference for the company of his dog and gun as he indulged in his favourite pastime. He was known to bring his dog to class on occasion and make his remarks directly to him when a student performed below expectation. One recalls him in his later days spending his hours trying to trim the growth around the lake. In his last years he was confined very much to his room. It was written of him: "His unquenchable humour, his enthusiastic loyalty to the college, his interest in the boys, his elation at their victories and his palliation of defeat - these were the things which made an afternoon visit to his room a tonic for the tired confrere". Fr Michael Colgan was a brother of Br Dalmas, who was also a member of the Rockwell community, and of Br Paulinus, who served in Trinidad. Fr Michael died 15 Feb 1941 aged 72 years and was buried in Rockwell. *RCA 1941, 21.*

### **COLLERY, Fr James C. 1920-1987**



Born 10 December 1920 in Wolfe Tone St, Limerick, Jim did his secondary studies at the Christian Brothers' School where he distinguished himself at sport, especially rugby and hurling. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1938. After 1st Arts at UCD he was appointed prefect at Blackrock where he served for three years, 1940-43. Among his many activities in the college he played a leading part in the school opera. He qualified for the BA in 1945, was ordained priest in 1948 and the following year he was appointed to Nigeria. He worked at CKC, Onitsha. From 1954 to 1957 he served for another period at Blackrock, followed by a term as assistant in Kilshane. In 1962 he went to Fribourg to study for the DD, which he obtained in 1965. He was then appointed to Kenya where his first assignment was

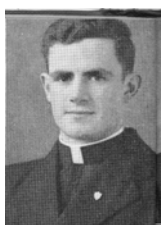
to Kilima Mbogo Teachers' Training College. As ever he proved a good and dedicated teacher. He had a clear and orderly mind and was a capable administrator. These qualities stood him well when he was appointed by Archbishop J.J. McCarthy as his Chancellor, Secretary and Diocesan Procurator. He continued in that position for several years under Archbishop (later Cardinal) Otunga, who succeeded Archbishop McCarthy. After having served the diocese well as Procurator he was appointed to Miguta Parish some twenty miles from Nairobi. He did not spare himself during the years he spent in this large parish. Eventually, he suffered a serious heart attack. When he recovered sufficiently it was decided that he should transfer to pastoral work in the USA. After a holiday in Ireland, during which he seemed to have regained his former energy, he took up work as hospital chaplain in Norfolk, Virginia. Death came suddenly 1 September 1987. He was aged 67 years. Jim is remembered for his many traits: his energy and commitment on the sports field, his splendid singing voice, his forthrightness in the expression of his views, sometimes with a caustic tongue which mellowed with the years. But always, Fr James Collery was a cheerful and helpful confrère, giving of his best wherever he was. *IPNI* No 66,1987.

**COMERFORD, Fr Michael 1903-1997**



Born 29 September 1903 in Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, Mike entered the juniorate in Rockwell in 1917 and was professed in Kimmage 1922. He served as prefect at Blackrock from 1923 to 1927 and again 1929-30. A keen footballer he played for the Blackrock Club winning two Leinster medals in the Minor League competition in 1925 and 1926. He was among those who launched into poetry to celebrate the SCT silver jubilee victory in 1925. He did Theology in the Castle and was among the last group to be ordained from there in 1933 when the Theologians transferred to Kimmage. Appointed to Rockwell in 1934 he succeeded Fr John McCarthy as Director of the Juniorate, a post he held until 1940. He then he took on the duties of Bursar coping with the special demands of the Emergency Years and the major building scheme initiated by Fr V.J. Dinan. In 1944 Fr Mike returned full time to the class room, Mathematics being his specialty. From 1949 to 1961, and from 1962 to 1974 he served as First Assistants. He succeeded Fr James Finucane as President and Superior of the community, 1961-62. Fr Michael Comerford died 29 April 1997 in his 94<sup>th</sup> year. He was buried in Rockwell. *RJR*; *BCArch*; *BCA* 1997 269

**COMERFORD, Fr Patrick Thomas 1933-1999**



Born on 28 March 1933 in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, Patrick did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1948-50. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1952. After two years study in Kimmage he prefected in St Mary's College, Rathmines, 1954-56. Ordained in 1959 he was assigned the following year to promotional work in Ireland where he served for three years. Appointed to Nigeria he served in Onitsha for four years working mainly in Adazi at St Andrew's large parish with a congregation of 25,000. From 1967 to 1969 he worked in London and Glasgow in parish ministry and then returned to Nigeria where he worked for two years until obliged to leave because of the Biafra War. In 1970 he went to work with his American confreres in an African-American parish in Louisiana until 1973 when he joined them in their work among the Indians in Mexico. He served there until his retirement in 1997 due to ill health. In 1976 he transferred to the USA

West Province and served for a period on the Provincial Council. It was said about Pat that "he never spoke about himself or his work. It was always about the mission and the people. He certainly worked among those whose needs were greatest." As he lay dying his great consolation was that at that moment the ordination ceremony of the two first Mexican Spiritans was taking place. Fr Pat died in St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, on 14 January 1999 after a long illness. He is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. IPA; *IPNL*, No. I 1999; *KNSM* No. 562 .

### **COMTE, Br Materne 1871-1926**

Born 4 August 1871 in Erstein, Bas-Rhin, France, he went in 1885 to the Apostolic School conducted by the Congregation in Beauvais. He was joined there the following year by Joseph Shanahan from Ireland. In 1887 Materne entered the Brothers' novitiate in Chevilly. The new novitiate at Grignon was being built at the time and it was found that Materne soon learned the builder's trade. From then on he was to be in demand throughout the Congregation as mason and plasterer. He served at Chevilly, Grignon, Ogeville, Knechtsteden, Mesnières etc. In October 1906 he was appointed to Rockwell just as the new wing housing the large study and Fathers' room was being completed. Materne's first task was to build and plaster the cloister flanking the large study. From then till March 1913 he worked on other building projects before being posted to Saint Alexandre-de-Gatineau in Canada. Recalled to France in 1920, he was called on to modify buildings in Grignon and Chevilly. Constant exposure to the elements while occupied in his trade undermined Br Materne's health. He was sent to Langonnet in 1925 where he edified the community as he bore the cross of inaction and ill health with great peacefulness, appreciating the least act of kindness shown to him. When Br Materne died 17 April 1926 aged 55 years the community felt that they had lost not merely a skilled tradesman but also a saint. *BG* XXXII, p. 724f; *ibid.* XXV p.21; *RCA* 1976 p.15.

### **CONDON, Br Raoul - Ralph - (James ) 1837-1911**

Born 16 July 1837 in Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary, James tried his vocation at Mount Melleray but after a few months James came to Rockwell to join the Brothers in 1870. Professed in Rockwell 1873 he was to spend his life in the service of that community, first as gardener and then on the farm; and when his health could no longer stand up to outdoor life he was entrusted with functions within the house - refectorian, receptionist etc. He is variously described in despatches as a "good religious", "*bien bon, bien simple, bien humble.*" His only fault, it was said, was that he tended to be too tenacious of his own opinion in matters to do with his '*métier*' as farmer; but then, perhaps, being of farmers' stock, he probably knew more about beasts and land than most. For reasons not recorded, Br Raoul was transferred to Blackrock in 1910 where he died 7 March the following year, aged 73 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RBR; B., V, 95.*

### **CONNAUGHTON, Fr Desmond P 1905-1962**



Born 6 August 1905 in Harold's Cross, Terenure, Dublin, Des studied at Synge St CBS before coming to Blackrock, 1920-23. Professed in Kimmage 1924 he moved to the Castle, Blackrock, where all the senior scholasticate was to be located till 1938. No Spiritan students attended the university in those years as part of Fr Joseph Byrne's efforts as

Provincial to curb spending. Ordained in 1929 Fr Des. was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar where he was attached to the Mombasa mission, 1930-32, and Kalimoni mission, 1932-34. He was superior in Mombasa, 1934-38, and then returned to Ireland. He replaced Fr Brendan Timon as director of Willow Park School, 1938-9. He took the opportunity to study printing in technical schools with a view to using his knowledge in the East Africa Mission printing houses. On returning to Kenya, he was for short periods attached to Mbitini mission, and, as Father-in-charge, St Peter Claver's, Nairobi. In autumn 1940 he joined the army as chaplain, Kenya-Middle-East-India Command. After the war he was again in Ireland, attached to the Promotions Team, 1946-48, and then went back to Kenya, where he was in charge of Kabaa School, Thika, 1948-51. On account of the shortage of chaplains for black forces, he volunteered for that work and was attached to the army in Suez. In 1953 he was transferred to Kenya, still as army chaplain. An accidental fall in 1959 caused a leg injury from which an embolism developed. He spent some time in hospital and the condition seemed cured, but in 1960 he was again confined to hospital. He resumed work and, after a round trip of 1,500 miles, visiting Northern Frontier posts, he took ill again, this time far away from medical care. Eventually, he was boarded out of the army and he returned to Dublin where he spent the final year of his life confined to hospital. Fr Desmond Connaughton died 21 November 1962 aged 57 years and was buried in Kimmage. It was written of him: "His memory is associated with an edifying thoroughness of devotion to his African flock, whether in or out of the army, and with an unvarying charity. He was never known to utter an unkindness about anyone; and he was always the ready champion of those who were down, spiritually or materially. He would go to great lengths to set them on their feet again and often succeeded." *BCA* 1963, 27f.

**CONNELLAN, Br Benignus (Peter) 1871-1932**



Born 29 August 1871 in Kilmaley, Co. Clare, Peter entered the Congregation at Blackrock in 1893 and was professed in 1898 taking the name Benignus. Over the years he worked in the kitchen, was for a number of years in charge of the cleanliness of the house, and helped in the students' refectory. Then followed a long stint in charge of the college linen room. But his principal post was as college infirmarian and he receives the highest praise for his performance in that service.

"He seemed not to know how to use a harsh word even to the most importunate; and big and strong and healthy as he was himself, he understood and sympathised with every little ailment. When the Bon Secours Sisters came to take charge of the Infirmary in 1918, Br Benignus was put in charge of the parlour. The thousands of visitors whom he has received have all been struck by the modesty and self-effacement and at the same time by the warm welcome he invariably extended to them. And to the poor he was a father and true friend. No matter how many they were, or how often they came, he could never find it in his heart to turn them away.." One family who appreciated Br Benignus' care for the sick were the de Valeras, when Vivion was very seriously ill at the college and Br Benignus tended him day and night. Though he suffered from heart disease he kept on with his duties until the end. Br Benignus Connellan died peacefully 27 December 1932 after a short illness. He was 61 years of age and was buried in Deans Grange. *BBR* No.200; *BCA*, 1933, 72f.

### **CONNOLLY, Br Matthias (Seán) 1921-1994**



Born 17 August 1921 in Antrim Road, Belfast, Seán did his early studies there before coming to live in Howth, Co. Dublin. He did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1933-40. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1941. He studied Philosophy in Kimmage, 1941-43, and he professed for two years in Willow Park. In 1946 he reentered the novitiate as a Brother and was professed in 1947. Appointed to Kimmage he served for one year as a member of the community and in 1948 he was appointed to the Burse Office. Ten years later he joined the Promotions team, participating in its various activities throughout the country. He suffered from a heart condition for some time but his death 9 May 1994 was sudden and unexpected. He was buried in Kimmage. It was said of Seán that " he was a great listener; he always saw the goodness in people; he was a peacemaker; he showed mercy without conditions..." *IPNI* No.3 1994

### **CONNELLY, Fr Enda 1918-1982**



Born 24 Oct. 1918 near Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Enda came as a student to Blackrock in 1935 after the family had come to live in Dublin. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1941 and began Philosophy in Kimmage in 1942. Ordained priest in 1947 Fr Enda's first appointment was to Kenya where he worked for twenty years, being stationed successively in Machakos, Giriama (Zanzibar), Taveta, Mariakani, Nairobi, and Mombasa. He spent most of his time in lonely stations where there seemed to be little tangible reward for zeal; but his steadfast patience and devotedness upheld him. When failing health forced him to return to Ireland these same qualities won him the warm esteem of the people of Kilkenny when he ministered in St Patrick's parish, 1968-73. From there he went to USA and worked in the New York area. Heart surgery was called for but his health, never robust, did not recover. Fr Enda Connelly died in New York 24 February 1982 aged 63 years. A booklet of his poems was published posthumously by his friends in the USA. *IPNL* 50 1982; *BCA* 1982 153; *SpEAM* 567

### **CONWAY, Mr Charles Desmond 1919-1940**



Born 20 February 1919 at Ballymahon, Co. Longford, Des came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1932 and entered the juniorate in 1936 for his final year. Professed in 1938 at Kilshane he began his senior studies in the newly opened scholasticate at Kimmage where his talents as a musician were appreciated especially as he could play the organ. Having contracted pleurisy followed by tubercular meningitis Mr Desmond Conway died 5 July 1940 aged 20 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCArch*.

### **Conway Father Patrick 1921-2003**

Pat was born at Coilmore, Claremorris, Co. Mayo on April 29<sup>th</sup> 1921. After his secondary school studies in Claremorris and at Blackrock Juniorate, he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane, where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1941. After two years in Philosophy at Kimmage Manor, he professed at Blackrock College for the year 1943-'44. Pat was ordained to the Priesthood in 13<sup>th</sup> July 1947. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1948. In 1948 Father Pat's first

appointment was to **Sierra Leone**. During the next twenty-six years, Fr. Pat ministered at **Bo, Njala Komboya, Pendembu, Blama** and **Gerihun**. Fr. Pat's contemporaries note that he had an excellent grasp of the Mende language and a deep understanding of the local culture. In 1974 Father Pat returned to Ireland for a short time and then was appointed to the **U.S.A.** He initially worked in the Archdiocese of **Seattle** before being transferred to California. In **California**, he ministered at **San Matteo** and **Millbrae**. At the time of his retirement in 1998, he was chaplain at Nazareth House in **San Rafael**. When Fr. Pat returned to Ireland in 1999 he took up residence in Mission House until failing health necessitated his admittance to Marian House in August 2000. His condition deteriorated in the last number of weeks and he was admitted to St. James's Hospital where he died 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **CONYNGHAM, Fr Edward 1842-1889**

Born in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, 13 October 1842, Edward was sent to the 'Academy' conducted by Canon George Grimley in Arran Quay, Dublin. Fr Grimley held evening classes for young men who showed promise of a vocation for the priesthood. Edward stayed with the Bracken family (Cf. Fr Thomas) and there learned of Fr Louis Holley's arrival in Ireland in search of vocations. When Fr Holley returned to France, August 1859, he brought Edward and six other students with him to the Juniorate at Langonnet. Père Leman, who was at Langonnet at the time, was not over impressed by the quality of these new arrivals, only two of whom persevered, Edward and Thomas Houlaghan. (qv) After a few years it was realised that Edward's studies were incomplete. He was transferred to Blackrock, where he attended English classes and taught French. After a few months he was sent to the college at Cellule, in the Auvergne as a prefect. Ordained in 1869 and professed in 1870, Fr Thomas was sent to St Bernard's College, Gibraltar, and then to St Mary's, Trinidad. One of his duties in St Mary's was to take singing class and, as he was extremely tall, the students used alter the words of the Gloria, singing: "Conyngham, *tu solus altissimus*." He was transferred to Guadeloupe as professor of English at Collège de la Basse Terre in 1875. Returning ill to Europe, 1882, he taught for periods in Rockwell, Mesnières, and Langonnet, 1882-88, and then for about a year in Epinal. He spent the last few months of his life at Beauvais college, arriving, it would appear, just as Joseph Shanahan had transferred from there to Cellule. He was reported as being a good teacher, studious, affable and gentle. Fr Edward Conyngham died at Beauvais 17 November 1889 aged 47 years GenArch; *BG XV*, 521; *BCA* 1962,167; *SpWW* 92

### **COONEY, Br Onuphre (James) 1849-1893**



Born in 1849 in Oulart, Wexford, James came to the Juniorate at Rockwell in November in 1874 and transferred to the Brothers' novitiate in August the following year. Professed in 1877 he left for Cimbabasié with Fr Charles Duparquet in February 1878. Having spent some months in Cape Town planning their itinerary and supervising the construction of the prairie schooner, the "Raphael", which they shipped to Walvis Bay, they arrived at Omaruru in North Namibia toward the end of the year. Later they were joined by Fr John Hogan, recently ordained, and Br Onuphre and Fr Hogan set about running a school in connection with the mission. Fr Duparquet wrote to the Mother House in January 1880: "Br Onuphre is a perfect religious and his capacities are universal. He works from morning to night: two hours teaching in the morning,

two in the afternoon and 1 hour in the late evening. As well as that he is sacristan, serves two masses, does the laundry, the repairs, looks after the rooms, ensures the cleanliness of the house, and has time still for little bits of carpentry. He is pious, practical and attached to his vocation." And lest anyone should think that Duparquet was biased in favour of the Irish at this period, let us hear what another French priest had to say about Onuphre after the Lord had called him home: "He is a great loss to the work at Cassinga: he rendered important services. In his economy, order, work, his ability to cope with the little inconveniences of daily life, he was truly a model for the rest of the community." Forced to quit Omaruru because of the opposition whipped up by the Lutheran pastors, who were jealous of their success, they had to move into Angola where they set up at Humbe just north of the river separating the two territories. They built up a successful mission and school, but once again after two years they had to move, but this time at the request of Fr Duparquet, who wanted to keep a presence in the vast prefecture of Cimbabasié of which he was the superior and for which he received funds from Rome. This time they moved deep into the interior to Amboellas - Cassinga today, and accompanied by the students whom they had taught at Omaruru and Humbe, they started from the ground and built up what was later judged to be an ideally planned compound. As they ran out of food Fr Hogan and Onuphre decided to travel back to Humbe for provisions. They were overtaken by the rainy season and the "Raphael" got bogged down. Fever hit them both. Br Onuphre managed to survive but Fr Hogan succumbed as did their other confrere Fr Joseph Lynch. Naturally it took Br Onuphre some time to recover from his ordeal. His next assignment was to the other end of Cimbabasié - Betchuanaland, in the region of Kimberley. Once again the little community were Irish. This time, Fr Duparquet did not think much of the Irish helpers given him; he withdrew leaving them to fend for themselves in difficult circumstances. The mission had eventually to be abandoned and Br Onuphre was reassigned to Cassinga where he was by then the only Irishman, in fact the last Irishman to work in Angola till the late 1930s. Br Onuphre Cooney was not to survive the rigours of the climate for much longer. He died at Cassinga 17 March, 1893 aged 43 years. RBJ; *BG XVI* 909F; *Forum* 1990 Nos 6 & 7

**COOPER, Fr John                      1935-1997**



Born 3 1935 in Turner's Cross, Cork City, he did his secondary studies in Coláiste Críost Rí, Cork. He entered the Congregation in 1952 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD securing the BA in 1956. After two years prefecting in Blackrock he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland to do Theology. Ordained in Dublin in 1963 he secured the STL in 1964. Appointed to Sierra Leone where he ministered principally at Bonthe Island where he taught in a government secondary school. On returning to Ireland he was appointed to Templeogue College where he served on the staff for six years. He was subsequently appointed to the USA where he initially worked in New York before taking up promotions work on the West Coast in 1979. He was appointed Pastor at St Athanasius Paris, Mountain View, California, in 1988, a position he held for 6 years. He subsequently worked as Pastor at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Palo Alto. In 1997 he attended a sabbatical course at University of Toronto. As he was returning to Ireland he died suddenly at London Airport 20 December 1997 aged 62 years. IPrArch

### **CORBETT, Fr Michael 1916-1979**



Born 13 June 1916 in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, Mike attended the Christian Brothers' school there before going to the novitiate at Kilshane in 1934. He took his BA degree in 1939 and prefectured at St Mary's, Trinidad, for three years. During his years in the Senior Scholasticate he gave generously of his time in training and conducting the choir and orchestra. Ordained in 1945 he was appointed to Sierra Leone the following year. He worked first at St Edward's School, and in St. Anthony's Parish, Freetown. From 1954 to 1964 he was stationed at Bo where he founded and developed Christ the King High School. After ten years he relinquished the Principalship and worked in the secondary schools in Bonthe, Kenema and Moyambe. He was PrincIPArchl of Moyambe school. Never robust, ill-health forced him to retire from the tropics in 1970. He took the H. Dip. Ed. and taught in St Michael's College for some years. Later he took on the post of Librarian there. His great love of classical music was his hobby and solace in his semi-retirement. He responded to an invitation to return to Sierra Leone to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the school he had founded in Bo. He first attended the celebrations at Freetown and then set off for Bo. He died of a heart attack en route 28 January 1979 at Njala and was buried in the grounds of Christ the King School at Bo. He was 62 years of age at the time of his death. *IPNI* 36 February 1979; *SpWW* 1061

### **CORCORAN, Fr Seán 1925-2000**



Born on 30 June 1925 in North Strand, Dublin, Sean did his secondary studies at O'Connell CBS, Dublin. After working for two years in an accounting office he decided to follow in the footsteps of his two brothers Thady and Edmund by entering the Congregation. Professed in Kilshane in 1947 he obtained the BA at UCD in 1950 and was a prefect in Rockwell, 1950-52. Ordained in 1955 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to Onitsha district he taught in the Teachers Training College in Awgu, and then served for one year as the Archbishop's secretary in Onitsha. In 1962 he became Principal of St Joseph's Teacher Training College at Emene, and two years later he taught at a similar college in Agulu, near Awka. In 1967 he took on the post of school chaplain at a high school in AwkaEtiti. During the Biafra war he was stationed first at Umuosi, near Onitsha, as pastor, and then at Ruasi, caring for the numerous distressed refugees gathered in that area. Returning to Ireland in 1969 he served as bursar in Kimmage Manor until 1971 when he went to the USA taking up pastoral and promotional ministry in San Mateo, in the San Francisco area. In 1975 he went to work at Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea, where he served for one year. Returning to the USA he took up pastoral ministry serving at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Los Altos, Redwood City, Ca, 1976-85, as Pastor at St Dunstan, Millbrae, Ca, 1986-91, and at St Stephen's Parish, San Francisco, 1992 till his death on 4 June 2000 at the age of 75. People flocked to his funeral from all the five parishes where he had served and the compliments paid to him showed that he was seen as a personal friend genuinely interested in their welfare. Sean talked; he gave - always with a smile and a humorous story. He enjoyed life himself. He enjoyed good food and wine. He loved music and, like his two brothers, was a gifted musician. He was very traditional in his theology and found it hard to adapt to all the changes. He was buried at St Stephen's parish cemetery. *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KNSM* No 415



### **CORCORAN, Fr Edward 1927-1997**



Born 20 March 1927 in Dublin Eddie he received his secondary education at O'Connell's CBS, 1940-45. Following in the footsteps of his brothers Thady and Seán, Eddie joined the Congregation in 1945. After his profession in Kilshane he studied at Kimmage and at UCD. Having professed for one year at the Bursar's Office, Kimmage, 1947-48, he continued his studies at UCD where he secured the BA having done Latin and Irish. While studying philosophy in Kimmage he gained the MA at UCD. Appointed to Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1952 to do Theology he was ordained in Dublin in 1955. Assigned the following year to Mombasa, Kenya, he worked for sixteen years in the apostolate of education, first in the Junior Seminary in Kwale, 1957-73, where he was Headmaster and Rector. Actually he had to start and develop the seminary providing also the building. In addition he opened two new stations from there, Kinango and Ukunda. Transferred to St George's Secondary School in Giriama he taught there for two years, 1973-75, before returning again to Kwale where he served as chaplain-teacher at the Star of the Sea government high school at Mombasa and as a tutor and chaplain at the local diocesan Sisters' novitiate in Kwale. Not surprisingly for one who had come from a musically gifted family, he was involved in the production of choral works and musicals. In 1970-71, together with Frs Cormac O'Brolcháin, Seán Kealy at the Cistercian monastery at Lumbwa, he helped launch KALM (Kenyan Association for Liturgical Music) whose aim was the Africanisation of church music. In 1981 Fr Eddie was appointed Secretary General of the Congregation in Rome a post he held for a brief period. Suffering from blood pressure he returned to Mombasa where he did pastoral ministry at the Holy Ghost Cathedral. Appointed to St Mary's, Nairobi in 1990 he taught there and was involved in the production of several musicals before being transferred back to Mombasa, this time to serve as Guest Master in the Holy Ghost resthouse - St Brendan's. In his leisure moments he wrote and published *Mombasa Mission 1888-1990* - a history of the growth of the Church in Mombasa. Once again he was very involved in the musical life of Mombasa. After a brief illness Fr Edward Corcoran died 27 December 1997 aged seventy years. Several choirs, many of whom he had helped with their music, sang at his Mass in the packed cathedral and accompanied him to the cemetery. The Corcoran brothers are first cousins of Fr Michael Troy CSSp. IPArch; SpEAM No. 672

### **CORCORAN, Fr Timothy Joseph 1923-1975**



Born 16 January 1923 in North Strand Road, Dublin, Thady came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1936 and after three years he entered the Juniorate. He was an excellent musician and became a welcome performer at school concerts. Later as prefect in Blackrock, 1945-47, he helped at the production of the school operettas in Willow Park and the college. His musical talents were also much appreciated during his years in the senior scholasticate. Professed in Kilshane, 1942, he graduated at UCD in 1945 and gained the H.Dip.Ed in 1947 while a prefect at Blackrock. Ordained in 1950 Fr Thady was appointed to Fatima College, Trinidad, where he played a leading part in the musical life on the island, outside as well as within the school. In Fatima College he founded the Dominic Savio choir which was at the head of music festivals for many years. A committee member of the Trinidad Music Association he was closely involved with the Trinidad Steel Band group and

was responsible for a weekly music programme on Radio Trinidad. He was universally loved in Trinidad for his considerate and kind ways as a music teacher and as a priest. He was appointed superior of Fatima College community in 1967. By 1972 his health had begun to give cause for serious concern; he had to give up teaching but remained on at the college where he continued his work as counsellor and spiritual animator. Fr Thady's death 10 March 1975 at the age of 52 years was not altogether unexpected but was nevertheless felt as a great loss by his confreres and the people. He was buried in Trinidad. Fr Thady's brothers Seán and Edward followed his example in joining the Congregation. *BCA* 1975, 226; *Trinidad NL* March 1975, 52; *SpWW*, 984.

### **Corless, Fr Joseph Nicholas                      1910-1990**



Born 16 May 1910 in Kinvara, Co. Galway, Joe did his secondary studies at St Mary's College, Galway, and at Blackrock College, 1926-30. Having received special tuition in music from his earliest days, he featured prominently in school musical productions. His life-long involvement with 'Gilbert and Sullivan' productions may have stemmed from the influence of his novice master, Fr Hugh Evans, who had been the first to put one of these operettas on the school stage while in Rockwell in 1898. Professed in 1931 at Kimmage, Joe did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1931-33, and profected at Blackrock, 1933-35. In 1934 he was musical director for the first production since 1896 of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta at Blackrock, HMS Pinafore. Ordained in 1938 he was appointed the following year to Blackrock where he was to spend the rest of his long and packed life leaving the college very much in his debt because of his work, his ideals and his example. He was appointed musical director, a post he was to fill with distinction in the church, the music hall etc. right up till his death. He taught mainly Greek while also attending UCD for a degree in Music and for the H.Dip.Ed. In 1942 he was appointed Dean of the boarding school (Dean of discipline). He worked on a new edition of the *Holy Ghost Hymnal* and produced a special accompaniment for this hymnal. He also re-edited the *Holy Ghost Manual*. Both these works had been originally issued by his director in Kimmage, Fr John Kearney, while he was a member of the staff at Blackrock. During his years as Dean of discipline, 1942-45, and, 1953-56, he took an active part in coaching the athletics team and organising the college Sports. In 1956 he was called on to take charge of the academic work in the school, a function hitherto known in the Congregation as Dean of Studies, but henceforth in the revamped organisation known as Principal. This post he filled till 1980, presiding over many developments in the school, some brought about by changes in the educational system throughout the country but many stemming from his own initiatives to make Blackrock a better school. While new buildings and restructuring of the old plant were in progress he made a major input into the design. He took active interest in the revamping of the chapel in the run up to the Centenary in 1960, in particular with regard to the installation of a new organ. The new Library followed and he was deeply involved in this project from its inception to the restocking with up to date reading materials. His activities were not limited to the school. He was Musical adviser to the Dublin Diocese and acted as examiner of Plain Chant. For years he acted as secretary to the Blackrock College Union where his influence was quite considerable as apart from secretarial work he attended all their functions at the college and in the provinces and though such social occasions, often dragging out into the early hours of the morning, were not his normal recreation, his

presence was always highly appreciated. Not only could he recall each alumnus but he could refer to some escapades or minor achievements that made it clear that he really knew his former students at a personal level. On retiring from the office of Principal he took on the duties of one of the posts he had created namely, Dean of 4th Year, 1980-82. When he felt his seemingly inexhaustible source of energy drying up somewhat he undertook instead the post of Counsellor for 3rd Year. He was always ready to undertake pastoral work outside the school. In 1962 he wrote to the Provincial offering his services for any of the more difficult missions where he might be considered of use. He did parish work in the USA during the summer and served as chaplain early each morning for a local community of Christian Brothers. 'He was a man of great integrity and personal authority, of calm dignity. A superb organiser, he sought the highest standards of excellence in whatever he did. Even though he had a very reserved exterior, the deeper Joe often broke through. He could joke with one of his worried visitors in his last days saying: "I feel much better than I look," and added, "It is like waiting for an interview and not being called yet." The comments heard after his funeral included: 'It is the end of an era'; 'A man who was very fair'; 'It is only now we realise how much he meant and what that stood for.' Quoting the sacred writer, a homilist used the words: 'Know ye not that there is a prince, a great man, fallen this day in Israel.' Fr Joseph Corless had his appointment with the Lord 25 September 1990 the Feast of St Finbarr. He was 80 years of age. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 1991 215ff; *IPNI* No 7 1990.

### **CORRIGAN, Fr Francis 1931-1988**



Born 24 September 1931 in Tang, Co. Westmeath, Frank won a county scholarship while in the Tang National School, where his mother was teacher. From 1945 to 1950 he attended Blackrock as did his three older brothers Matthew, Michael and Aloysius, and his two younger brothers, Kevin and Colm. In 1950 he entered the novitiate at Kilshane, and after his profession he was sent to Trinidad as prefect where he taught for three years in Fatima College and St Mary's. He graduated at UCD in 1957 and was ordained priest in 1960 together with his brother, Kevin. Fr Frank's first appointment was to the Diocese of Owerri, Nigeria. Most of the years from 1961 to 1968 were spent in the mission of Emekuku. During the Biafran war, when the Federal Forces over-ran Emekuku, Frank with three other priests and a Brother, left Nigeria, leaving everything behind except the clothes on their backs! Upon returning to Ireland, Frank immediately started to work in the Archdiocese of Dublin and was appointed to Our Lady of Victories Parish, Ballymun Road, until he was transferred to St James' Parish, James' Street, in October 1975. In 1978, sabbatical leave led him to the TransCanada Province, initially to the Divine Word Centre for Scripture studies and chaplaincy at Brescia College, London, Ontario. He continued in pastoral work both in a hospital and parish in the Spiritan-staffed parish, St Joseph's Church, West Hill, Ontario. In 1987, Frank was asked to do promotion work for the TransCanada Province. He had just embarked on this work when cancer struck again after a temporary remission. After surgery in late December 1987, he was confined to hospital. On Holy Thursday, March 31, 1988, Frank died peacefully in the palliative Care Unit at Providence Villa, Toronto. He was aged 56. It was noticed that Frank's illness and the way he faced up to death had a transforming influence on himself and those in contact with him. His sentiments he put in writing in the form of a simple and moving spiritual testament: his total acceptance of his new vocation - being ill and

totally dependant on others - as the preparation for accepting total dependence on God. BCArch; *Forum* 69, June '88; *BCA* 1988, 188.

#### **CORRIGAN, Fr Matthew F. 1919-1998**



Born 8 June 1919 in Tang, Ballymahon, Co. Westmeath, Mattie was one of four brothers to join the Congregation - the others being Francis, Colm and Kevin. Mattie did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1935-38. Professed in 1939 he secured the BA in 1942 and prefectured for one year at Rockwell, 1942-43. Ordained priest in 1946 he was appointed the following year to The Gambia. His first assignment was to the newly opened station at St George's, Basse, up the Gambia River. He became its director and taught at its school for boys, while the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny conducted a school for girls. In 1954 he was transferred to St Theresa's at Kamfing, where he had the same duties. After another stint at Basse, 1960-63, he was posted to N'Jongon, an outstation of Banjul, opened in 1959. He ministered there for five years. On returning to Ireland in 1969 he took up ministry in Dublin, serving successively in Malahide, 1970-81, Dolphin's Barn, 1981-88, and Donnycarney, 1988-96. Mattie easily made friends and people loved him for his gentle giving, his kind words, his fun and his very presence. Having to cope with illness over some years requiring hospitalisation, people would warmly welcome him back with a big clap at morning Mass. He was seen to have a deep faith and a total commitment to his vocation as a priest. Due to failing health he was removed to Marian House where he died ten days later on 21 June 1998. He was 77 years of age. Fr Matthew is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin. *KWASM* No. 262; *IPNI* No. 4 1998

#### **CORRY, Mr John 1857-1877**

Born 25 December 1857 in Carhew, Co. Clare, John came to the juniorate at Blackrock in 1874 and made his consecration to the Congregation in 1875. When he took ill late in 1876 Père Leman sent him to Rockwell for a change of air late in December. He seemed to have improved but on taking seriously ill he was allowed to make his profession. His perfect resignation to his imminent death edified all. John died 19 January 1877 and was buried in the Rockwell cemetery. *BJR* No. 270; *BG XI* 243.

#### **Corry, Father Senan P. 1920-2004**

Senan was born at Clondrina, Cranny, Ennis, Co. Clare on September 7<sup>th</sup> 1920. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940. He studied philosophy at Kimmage Manor and then prefectured at Rockwell College from 1942 until '44. Senan was ordained to the Priesthood in 13<sup>th</sup> July 1947. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1948. In 1948 Father Senan's first appointment was to **Nigeria**, he was assigned to the **Vicariate of Onitsha** where he did evangelisation and pastoral ministry in a parish in **Enugu** until 1953. Returning to **Ireland**, he served as **Assistant Director of Postulant Brothers in Kimmage Manor** until 1957. In that year he was appointed to **Blackrock College** where he took up a teaching post in **Willow Park School**. As a member of the staff of the school he was an entirely dedicated teacher. He will be remembered by generations of students for his rugby coaching of the junior teams. When he retired from teaching he stayed on in

the Willow Park Community. Fr. Senan celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the Priesthood in 1997. For a number of years Fr. Senan had failing health. During the course of 2001 he was admitted to Marian House, where he died 10<sup>th</sup> July 2004. He is buried in the community plot at Shanganagh.

**COSTELLOE, Fr William C. 1910-1995**



Born 30 January 1916 in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Bill did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1929-34. Professed in 1935 he did Philosophy for one year at Kimmage and was appointed to Trinidad as prefect in 1936. Returning to Ireland in 1939 he completed Philosophy and mid-way through Theology he transferred to the American province where he was ordained in 1945. The following year Fr Bill was appointed to Kilimanjaro vicariate in Tanzanika, now Tanzania. He taught in St Patrick's Teachers Training School and then did missionary work at Mbosho till 1952. After another tour of teaching at Umbwe's Holy Spirit Secondary School, he took part in evangelisation work at Khishmundi and Kilomeni. He then served at Usa River's trade school in 1961. It was said of him: "During his years in Tanzania he acquired an immense knowledge of the country, its people and a command of the Swahili language. He got to know large numbers of people in all walks of life, of all races and religions. He had a prodigious memory and never forgot anyone he had met. One of his great gifts was his thoughtfulness about the needs of others." Transferred to the Archdiocese of Nairobi, he became headmaster of the secondary school at Ngarariga till 1968. Having left Africa that year he served as retreat master in England, India and Bangladesh for two years. He then went to the USA doing pastoral ministry. By 1984 he had returned to England where he served as chaplain and was actively involved in the 'Little Way' apostolate at home and in India. Fr Bill Costello was still at his post at the age of 78 when the Lord called him February 25 1995. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 2 1995; *SpEAM* 536

**COSTELLOE, Br Malachy (Patrick) 1870-1896**

Born 4 November 1870 in Newlawn, Co. Tipperary, Patrick came to Blackrock 17 February 1890 to join the Brothers. Professed 2 July 1893 he was retained for duties in the community. For 20 February 1895 Fr Ebenrecht has this entry in his Journal: "This evening Br Malachy and a scholastic from Rockwell (William. Keane, qv) left by the Northwall for Paris, en route for The Gambia. It was suddenly decided that Br Malachy should be off to start next Saturday for Marseilles. He had no time to home to take leave of his people". The *Bulletin Général* account of the mission in Bathurst (Banjul), The Gambia, for 1895 tells us that Br Brandin Coffey (qv) has been forced to return home ill, leaving the school understaffed, that he had been replaced by Br Albert Cody (qv) who took ill immediately and had to return home within 15 days, and that after some months he had been replaced in the school by Br Malachy and Mr Keane (*BG* XVIII, 345). The next account from The Gambia, late 1896, tells us that by then Mr Keane and Fr Louis Fortemps, who arrived after him, had both left the mission and that Br Malachy had died after a brief illness during which he was attended by an Irish Catholic doctor. He was deeply regretted having proved to be a devoted religious, noted for his good humour and had given excellent service in the mission school. Br Malachy Costelloe died 17 August 1896 aged 25 years. Mgr Magloire Barthet, writing after his death said: "He was one of the best Brothers in the mission." *BBR* No.193; *BG* XIX, 290f.

### **COSTELLO, Fr William Aloysius 1924-2001**



Born in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, on 17 April 1924, Bill (Liam) attended St Jarlath's College, Tuam, Co. Galway, where he had the good fortune of having Fr McGarry, future founder of *The Furrow* as professor of English. Fr Bertie Farrell had such an impact on the senior students when he spoke on the vocation for the foreign missions that seven students decided to enter the novitiate in Kilshane. Three were professed in 1944 - Michael Clery, future bishop, Peadar Garvey and Bill. As Bill attended lectures at UCD he was envied in that he had a wonderful facility for transcribing the lectures word for word when others had difficulty in catching the speaker's voice. was also noted for his extraordinary memory. He loved to give extempore recitations from English poets including Chaucer, and he invariably concluded his tour de force with a hearty laugh at his achievement - a '*scairt gáire*' as he would describe it. On securing his BA he perfected for one year at Rockwell College. Ordained in 1951 he was appointed the following year to The Gambia. He taught at St Augustine's High School, Banjul (Bathurst then) up to 1959 and then in Basse until 1963. Transferred to Kenya he served at Nairobi, Ngarariga and Kilimambogo until 1969. In 1970 he was appointed to the USA where he ministered successively in San Francisco, then Rochford, Illinois. He subsequently went to the Long Island Community where he remained until 1990. Due to ill health Fr Liam returned to Ireland where he was cared for in Marian House till his death 3 May 2001. Fr William is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery.

### **COTTER, Fr James 1845-1922**



Born 8 September 1845 in Ballyteigue, Bruree, Co. Limerick, James came to Rockwell in 1867 being the second student to be entered on the juniorate register. The first was Fr John O'Keefe (qv). After but one year and a half James was called on to serve as prefect for a period. Because of his age, he was by then 24, he was then allowed to go on to the senior scholasticate in France. When the Franco-Prussian War and the subsequent Commune caused the scholasticate to be disrupted, some of the students were transferred to Rockwell to do their senior studies alongside the Scottish seminarians. It would appear that James spent some time back in Rockwell studying and acting as prefect. The senior scholasticate was discontinued in Rockwell as from autumn 1872 and James was among those who went to Chevilly in 1873 where he did his novitiate or final year of Theology, being ordained and professed in 1874. Assigned to the Irish province, Père Leman saw that he was needed particularly in Rockwell. He was in fact to be the first student of Rockwell to join the staff there and he was to serve that community for the rest of his life. His first post was Dean of discipline, taking up where he had left off as prefect. Rockwell was by then entering into a new phase having terminated the era of 'The Scotch College'. Soon it was to be involved in the very competitive regime introduced by the public examinations launched in 1878. For some years Rockwell fared well but, through lack of staff and because of the disturbed state of the country as a result of the land troubles, the college went through a lean period. The Superior, Fr Prosper Goepfert, lacked the managerial skills required. Numbers dropped, finances were in a precarious state and the juniorate was suppressed. The arrival of Père Amet Limbour in 1889 reversed the tide somewhat - but at a cost. His abrasive manner and authoritarian style alienated many. He ceased to be Superior in 1893 and there was an unanimous call for

Fr Cotter to succeed him. Unanimous, except for Fr Cotter himself. It was the last thing he wanted. Very affable and open, he aimed at achieving peace and harmony all round as well as radiating joy and good humour by his every act and word - and indeed by his very appearance. His rotund face and calm expression seemed to reassure all. His first letter to the Mother House heralded a new era. Gone was the starchy style and the pious introductions. Writing to the First Assistant, Fr Peter Huvéty's under whom he had served as student, prefect and priest, he began his letter like this: "Dear Peter, You're a brick! It is great that when God made a man as smart as Limbour he made another who could outsmart him..." That letter referred to unpaid debts, especially in relation to the payments due to the French architect who designed the crypt for the proposed new church. To the disappointment of all, Fr Cotter asked to be relieved of his post as Superior at the end of a year. He found it unbearable. He remarked in joke that when he was a private he had only one superior but when he was in charge he had 25 men telling what he should do. He gladly returned to the ranks. In time he was called on to act as Bursar and that function he filled with success and compassion for many years. He was remembered as being meticulously exact but sensitive to the susceptibilities of others. One man who treasured a page from his accounts was Eamon de Valera who asked for a full statement of accounts on terminating his service as teacher in Rockwell. Both being from Bruree they saw eye to eye. Fr James presided over many improvements and extensions to the college plant, in particular the main residential wing erected in 1907, linking the chapel with the so-called 'Br Silas,' or northern wing. All his life he took a special interest in preparing the Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes for their big day, and he is said to have given retreats to almost every convent in Munster. He was known for his orthodoxy and the care he put in to composing his conferences. Highly valued as a confessor, his last act before becoming critically ill was to go the chapel at a moment's notice to hear someone's confession. It was said of him: 'To know him was to love him'. And in the sermon preached at his funeral by the Provincial, Fr Joe Byrne, who had known him well as a boy in Rockwell, these remarkable words were used: 'So gentle! So loyal! So Christlike!' Fr James Cotter died 18 September 1922 aged 77 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BG* XXX 786, 883; XXXI 382.

### **COUGHLAN, Fr Patrick J                    1918-1977**



Born 15 March 1918 in Bansha, Co. Tipperary, Paddy could be said to have never left it in that no matter where he went he sang of Tipperary. He came as a boarder to Rockwell and entered Kilshane in 1936. He began his course at UCD, 1937-8, to be interrupted by one year as prefect with the 'Burse', that is, the Promotion team, followed by two years at Blackrock. He then resumed his university course securing the BA in 1943. Then followed Theology at Kimmage being ordained in 1946. During his years in the scholasticate he received professional tuition in painting, and the walls were soon embellished with his murals and canvases. His penchant for working as if in great haste was featured in "The Capers," a magazine which provided a welcome safety valve in its comic sketches, some of which had sharp teeth. A day in the life of a painter depicted the artist felling a tree to provide a frame, then stretching canvases and applying paint frantically, followed by vigorous hammering as the finished works were being hung. The final scene was that of the artist packing his bags as he made off for his next appointment! That was to be a foretaste of Paddy's career as he packed his bags for The Gambia and threw himself with enthusiasm and purpose into his various jobs at St Augustine's School. Suffering

from intestinal ulcers he had to return to Ireland for treatment. From 1953 he was to be attached to Blackrock, first at Willow Park from where he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed in 1954. He proved an enthusiastic teacher and related well to his students who took his exuberance in their stride even if they were often amused at him. He kept up his painting, mostly landscapes, and of varying quality. He worked at increasing speed and made some financial gain, always for good causes. In fact, he was ever busy helping people on in life, trying to find jobs for them etc. He also tried his hand at song-writing and had one of his compositions shortlisted for the national song contest. His violin was never far from his reach as his confreres living beside him could attest. Once when visiting an elderly relative in Tipperary, he was told that he was most certainly one of the "Ráigín" Ryans. On enquiry he was told that the Gaelic word Ráig could be variously translated as "a hurried journey", "a sudden fit", "a rage", "acting on impulse", etc. "Enough", he said, "Too near the bone." As it was felt that he could be of more benefit teaching senior students he was transferred from Willow Park to the college. During his last religion class, where he invited questions, he was asked what he thought about sudden deaths. He replied; "God takes us when he sees we are ready." "What is your idea of heaven?" Just then the bell for end of class went and, as he was dying for the usual pull at a cigarette, he replied: "I'll tell you about that tomorrow boys." He then hurried to his room in Clareville, had his cigarette, prepared for his interview with a man for whom he was to find a job that evening. He played a tune on the violin. Then he came to a confrere and told him to send for the doctor as he was feeling ominous pains in his chest. It was thought that this was alarmist in Paddy's known style. The doctor was called. In the meantime Paddy asked to be anointed, and while waiting he gave instructions to be passed on to the person with whom he had arranged an appointment. He then asked to have himself replaced for ministry the following morning. All seemed so like a piece of good acting in Paddy's tradition, especially as the doctor pronounced that he found nothing irregular with his heart or pulse. Within minutes Paddy had passed to the Lord leaving all around stunned. Fr Paddy Coughlan had packed his bags for the last time in great haste 24 October 1977 aged 59 years. He was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *État*;

#### **COURTNEY Fr Michael 1922-1994**



Born 19 March 1922 in Stradbally, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry, he did his secondary studies at Rockwell College. Professed in Kilshane in 1944 he prefectured at Rockwell from 1947 to 1949. Ordained priest in 1952 Fr Michael was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to Owerri diocese we find him stationed in 1956 at Orsu with Fr Denis McManus as assistant; the number of Catholics is given as 24,159, catechumens 2,267 and 21 primary schools to be attended to. During the Biafran war Fr Michael was known for his bravery and energy in the work of distributing food when his parish was a feeding centre for thousands daily. Forced to quit Nigeria he was appointed to Sierra Leone in 1970. Archbishop Ganda, who appointed him Vicar General, wrote of him; "...Within a few years he adapted himself to the people and became known for his pastoral work and as an accomplished builder of mission houses, convents and churches etc. ...He worked relentlessly with me, our clergy, religious and laity to build up the Archdiocese. No mission work was beyond him." He was remembered for his great rapport with the people both in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, for his care of the sick and for his great sense of loyalty. Forced by serious illness to return to Ireland in 1993, Fr Michael Courtney died 9 November 1994 and was buried in his native parish in Co. Kerry. IPNI No.5 1994; *État*



### **COYLE, Fr Thomas 1847-1884**

Born 7 November 1847 in Crossdrum, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Thomas was principal teacher in the national school, Beltrasna, 1867-73. Père Leman had sent a circular to teachers as part of his effort to secure vocations. A number of teachers took up the offer themselves and asked to be allowed to join the Congregation as priests or brothers. Thomas spent a year in the secondary school, 1873-4, and was retained as prefect for four years. In 1878 he went to France where he was ordained in 1881. The following year he was appointed to Sierra Leone where he was recognised as a very successful and saintly missionary noted for his sound judgement. Several of his letters have been preserved and they were translated into French presumably for public reading in the senior scholasticate. Fr Edward Blanchet, the superior of the mission thought very highly of him and was heart-broken when Fr Coyle died of typhoid 24 May 1884 aged 37 years. *BG* XIII, 290; *BCA* 1962, 196.

### **Coyne Father Patrick Joseph 1931-2004**

Patrick was born in Cloonrane, Ballindine, Claremorris, Co. Mayo on February 21<sup>st</sup> 1931. He did his secondary school studies at Blackrock Junior Scholasticate from 1944 -'49. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane and made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1950. He was awarded a B.A. in Latin and Irish from U.C.D. in 1953 and the H.Dip. in Ed. in 1954. He perfected in Willow Park during the year 1953 -'54. He studied philosophy at Kimmage from 1954 -'56 and theology from 1956 -'60. Paddy was ordained to the Priesthood on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1959 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1960. In 1961 Father Paddy's first mission appointment was to **Kenya**. He was appointed to the Teacher Trainer College at *Kilimambogo* and then ten years later to teach in the secondary school at *Githunguri*. After another two years in 1974 he took up work in the *Catholic Bookshop, Nairobi*. For the year 1976 -'77 he served as Bursar in *St. Mary's College Nairobi*. In 1978 Father Paddy was appointed to work in the **United States**. He worked in **California** in parishes in *Belmont, San Jose, Bakerfield and Los Altos* during the 1978 - '89 period and then was appointed as **Director of Fund Raising**. From 1997 he served as Bursar of the San Francisco Regional Community. Fr. Paddy celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession in September 2000. Fr Paddy died San Francisco (29<sup>th</sup> October) after a car accident on the evening of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

### **CREAN, Br Alban (Patrick) 1845-1867**

Born 14 February 1845 in St Colman's, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Patrick came to Blackrock 6 July 1863 to join the brotherhood. He served for a few months in the new community in Rockwell and was admitted to the preliminary novitiate at Blackrock 8 December 1864. Sent to the general novitiate in Chevilly in November 1866, it was hoped that on being professed he could travel with Fr William Power to Chandernagor, India. He was sent back to Ireland without being professed, but Père Leman kept him on at Blackrock and later recommended that he be sent to The Gambia as assistant to Br Florentin Mathews. Just as he was settled in, proving quite successful in the mission school, he took ill and was sent to Dakar to recuperate before returning to Europe. His health took a turn for the worse there and as he was dying he asked to be allowed make his profession as he wanted to be closely associated in heaven with Fr Libermann and the priests and brothers who had died in Africa. Having edified all with his resignation and piety, he was allowed to make his profession 18 October 1867. The following day Br Alban Crean was called home by

the Lord; he was aged 24 years. BBR No. 17; *BG VI*, 1868, pp 195, 210; *Leman* 210, 275; *SpWAM* 53

### **CREHAN, Fr Edward      1861-1939**



Born 19 June 1861 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Edward received his early education from the Christian Brothers. Intending to join the Civil Service he came to the Castle, Blackrock, which, under the direction of Fr Reffé, had won a high reputation for its Civil Service courses. Arriving in 1878, just as the first public examinations at secondary level were being launched, Fr Reffé got Edward to prepare for Senior Grade. He won a scholarship, being one of those who contributed to put the French College to the fore. That experience influenced Edward's career. To begin with, he decided to join the Congregation as from then. He is described as follows: "Somewhat under middle size, of sturdy build, with broad shoulders crowned with a large square head whose fearless eyes looked you straight in the face and flashed intelligence and decision. His lower limbs, if short, were powerful, and gave promise of a future cyclist and footballer..." He took part in the first ever examinations held under the auspices of the Royal University, winning exhibitions and qualifying for the BA. His noted skill in teaching mathematics was due in great part to his having Dr John Casey as professor. He also acted as prefect, 1880-84, and "organised sports, cycling, football, tennis, athletics of all kinds which were then being introduced for the first time into Irish schools." He featured on the Castle 'Past and Present' team and was twice selected to play on an Irish Youths' side against England. In 1884 he went to Chevilly to do his studies for the priesthood. On discovering his metal his directors sent him to the French Seminary, Rome, from where he attended the Gregorian and was awarded Doctorates in Philosophy and Theology - the first Irish Spiritan to win that distinction. He also won the Gold medal for Scripture. Ordained in 1889 Dr Edward, as he was to be best known, was appointed to Rockwell the following year. Rockwell was going through a crisis and was in danger of being closed. The juniorate had ceased to function as had Senior Grade. Dr Crehan was appointed Dean of Studies or Principal and after some years he also took over charge of Discipline. The college was transformed under his guidance. It was soon to lead in studies. Extracurricular activities were not sacrificed. In particular, they made their mark in Rugby at senior level, culminating in the gaining of international honours by the two Ryans, Pat and Mike. It was the time too of Joseph Shanahan and Thomas McDonagh as prefects. Dr Crehan could be severe in his punishment of those judged to have failed through their own fault. Yet it was written of him: "Few had the gift of winning the affectionate loyalty of their young subjects as he. They knew that his whole soul was rapt up in their advancement, spiritual, intellectual and physical. In return they gave him their wholehearted confidence and affection." Thomas McDonagh dedicated his first book of poems to him. Some in the community felt that as Dean of Studies and Discipline he had assumed the place of the president and that all aspects of community life and liturgy were dominated by the needs of the school. The experiment with a senior scholasticate at Rockwell, 1898-1900, also suffered from the fact that some of the theologians were obliged to serve as part-time prefects in the college to the detriment of their studies. In 1900 Dr Crehan was appointed superior of St Mary's, Rathmines. The school was going through hard times and it was hoped that once again his unbounded energy and experience could save the school. One example of how Dr Crehan tried to make the best use of limited resources was that, in the absence of

sufficient material for successful rugby teams, he concentrated attention on achieving a very high standard in callisthenics. In 1904, when Fr John T Murphy was appointed to take charge of the new foundation at Prior Park in England, it was felt that Dr Crehan was the one who could take charge at Blackrock to complete the developments begun there in the matter of building and laying out the new grounds. In particular, he presided over the reconstruction of the Castle with Fr Ebenrecht as architect. He could also act as the spokesman of the Congregation in the sphere of university education which was once again on the boil. When Fr Larry Healy stepped down as provincial in 1910, Fr Crehan was called on to replace him as the province tried to plan for a separate Irish novitiate and scholasticate. Life as provincial in Clareville had little attraction for a man who wanted to be where the action was. So, in 1910, when Fr Neville (future bishop) ceased to be superior of St Mary's, Trinidad, moving instead to the Mother House, Fr Crehan volunteered for the vacated post. During his tenure, 1910-1920, the number of students nearly doubled and the success of the college in the Junior and Senior Cambridge was remarkable. The Dean of Studies then and for many years was Dr Crehan's own former student at Rockwell, Fr L Graff. The school plant was greatly extended: laboratories for chemistry, physics, botany and zoology were added. In 1920 the Mother House in Paris claimed Dr Crehan's services. His tenure of office there is best remembered perhaps for the telegram he sent at a critical juncture in 1924 authorising the purchase of Willow Park House and lands. He filled the post of General Prefect of Studies for the Congregation, but he still felt the call of active involvement at school level. Rockwell, with which he had formerly so identified, was once again in crisis. Numbers had fallen drastically in the wake of the Troubled Times and, it was said, because the authorities there were too closely allied in the public mind with the Republican party. Again in 1925, Dr Crehan volunteered for the post of president. He was fortunate in having the services of a very capable and forceful Principal in Dr Dan Murphy, 1924-34. Together they restored the fortunes of the college, making it one of the leading schools in the country. Dr Crehan's presidency is best remembered today for the fortress-like wing which he had erected. It provided extra classrooms, a theatre and dormitory space, but it won no medals for its design. Still enthusiastic for excellence in callisthenics and sport, he supervised the planning and erection of a new pavilion. He welcomed the revival of rugby and the launch of a separate past students' union; hitherto Rockwell alumni were affiliated to the Blackrock College Union as were the students of St Mary's, Rathmines. At last in 1934 he was asked to step down and was given the opportunity to rest from his labours. After relishing an extended tour of the Holy Land, paid for by his former students, he reported back at his Alma Mater, Blackrock. Offering his services once more in the classroom, he resumed his old *métier* as mathematics teacher. At last when he could no longer teach class, he retired to Clareville to prepare for the Final Roll call and taught by his example to the end. Dr Edward Crehan died 2 January 1939 aged 77 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 1939 97f ; *ibid.* 1962 215; *IPB* Vol. 1, No 3, 8 'Our Dead'; *RCA* 1946 p.17f; *SpWW* 458.

### **CREMIN, Fr Patrick J      1915-1969**

Born 18 March 1915 in Merchants' Quay, Cork city, Patrick did his studies with the Presentation Brothers, Cork, 1929-33. He joined the Civil Service - Department of Supplies - as Junior Executive and later as Senior Executive. He qualified for a Diploma in Public Administration. In 1945 Patrick opted to join the Congregation, entering Kilshane where he



was professed in 1946. Ordained in 1951 Fr Patrick was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served at Kabachu and later at the Junior Seminary in Kiserian, 1962. In 1968 we find him attached to St Peter Claver's, Nairobi. The following year he went home on holidays and while home he was diagnosed as having a terminal illness. Being a good golfer he played as usual, remarking that he had played well for a man who was to die soon. Fr Patrick Cremin did in fact hand in his card shortly after, dying 4th October 1969 aged 54 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *État*; IPArch File 79.

### **Cremins, Father Patrick Joseph 1915-2003**

Pat was born in Sandymount, Dublin on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1915. After his secondary school studies at the Juniorate in Blackrock College he entered the Novitiate where he made his first profession on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1934. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. and then prefected on the Burse 1937-'38, St. Mary's College 1938-'39 and Blackrock College 1939-'40. During 1939 Pat completed the H.Dip in Education. He studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1943. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1944. In 1944 Father Pat's first appointment was to **Kenya** but due to the war there were no places on board ships so Father Pat spent the year in *Kimmage* working on the *Ordo*. He sailed in 1945 to the *Vicariate of Zanzibar*. During the next twenty-two year span he served at mission and school work in Kenya at: *Mangu, Holy Family Parish, St. Mary's School, Kilima Mbgo* and *Eastleigh*. During the years 1955-1958 Pat studied in Rome and received a *Licenciatus in Jure Canonico*. On his return to Ireland from Kenya in 1967 he again went back to studies for two years and earned a *Diploma in Catechetics* from N.U.I. Dublin. In 1983 he spent a semester at the Gregorian University Rome doing a review of the entire new Code of Canon Law. For a number of years Father Pat taught at *Templeogue College* and *Ballymun Comprehensive School*. In 1972 he was appointed to the staff at *Rockwell College*. Later when he retired from the school he served as community sacristan and librarian. Father Pat celebrated the *Golden Anniversary of his Priesthood* in 1993. Father Pat's competence as a Canon Lawyer was availed of both by Provincial and General Councils. He made a valuable contribution in the formulation of chapter 4, on Religious Life, in S.R.L. He was tireless in promoting the cause of the Venerable Francis Libermann and was appointed "notary for the cause for all the effects of law".

Due to failing health Father Pat was admitted to Marian House in early 2000, where he died 17<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

## **CROAGH, Fr Martin      1856-1909**

Born 13 November 1856, in Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary, Martin's mother died while he was a child. His father took him to Rockwell on the Feast of the Epiphany 1872 to have him join the Brothers. Fr Peter Huvéty's soon discovered Martin's rare academic talent and placed him in the Juniorate where Fr Prosper Goepfert was Director. Greek became his favourite subject and a copy of the New Testament in Greek was to be his life-long companion. He learned German in order to be of help to



the German students sent to study in Ireland because of the Kultukampf. Having no family home he spent the holidays at Blackrock and availed of the opportunity to attend the summer courses in mathematics given by Professor John Casey for teachers of mathematics in Catholic secondary schools. Martin prefectured at Rockwell, 1876-9. Fr Huvéty's wrote in his report as he set off for his higher studies in France: "Health weak, studies strong; an excellent teacher." That was to be a summary of his life story. Having excelled at philosophy at Langonnet he was sent to the French Seminary in Rome to study for a doctorate in theology with a view to being a professor in the senior scholasticate. His poor health necessitated his return to France after two years. The novitiate group photo for 1884 shows him seated at Père Jean-Marie Grizard's right hand, and though he always shunned posts of authority he was to be the right hand man of the local superior wherever he was placed. His first post was as Professor of philosophy in the Colonial Seminary in Paris (1884-59). He was then transferred to Chevilly where he taught dogmatic theology, acted as sub-director of scholastics and bursar to the Brothers' novitiate. Martin was competent and willing, so the jobs came his way very readily. One job he did not relish. The promising venture at Ballarat led by Fr Edward Reffé was becoming unstuck as Fr Reffé's health deteriorated. It was thought that the only man who could rescue the school from foundering was Fr Croagh, and though he spent himself to the bone as Superior, assistant dean, professor of mathematics, English and French, he had to recommend to the Mother House in 1892 that they should withdraw in defeat from Australia. This painful decision clouded the rest of his life. He was then posted to Trinidad where he was very welcome as teacher of mathematics, theological adviser for the diocese, expert as master of ceremonies for the bishop, confessor and retreat-giver for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, bursar to the school, etc. Worn out by work and the climate, a change was called for. He suggested either USA or the newly reconstituted province of Germany where he felt the German learned as a student might be of help. In 1904 he was transferred to the USA where his health improved. He was then asked to report for duty in the newly-opened community at Saint-Alexander in Canada where he was to become one of the founder members. His stay was cut short as it was felt that his presence would be of more value at Prior Park, Bath, which was undergoing serious changes. In fact, it was being abandoned after but two years. He took charge of the novitiate for Brothers, moving to Castlehead, Lancs., the following year, 1907, where he once more had as his Superior, Fr William Carroll with whom he had worked in Trinidad. Fr Martin's health, which was never robust, forced his retirement from active duty, but he retained his noted sense of humour to the end. He died rather unexpectedly after a brief holiday in Switzerland 17 August 1909 aged 52 years. *NB.* 4, 243ff; *SpWW*, 191.

### **CRONENBERGER, Fr Joseph H 1877-1948**



Born 11 May 1877 in Rickeschwir, Alsace, Joseph did his studies at Cellule where he was a contemporary of Joseph Shanahan - albeit his junior by almost five years. After his profession in 1898 he was sent to the newly opened senior scholasticate at St Joseph's, Rockwell, 1898-1900. Like Shanahan he seems to have been called on to do prefecting while trying to study theology. Ordained in Chevilly in 1900 Fr Joseph was appointed to Nigeria where he was actively involved in the new development of schools in Calabar. Ill-health forced him to withdraw from Nigeria within a year. He then worked for a short period in Sierra Leone, but was again obliged to withdraw. He was then appointed to the USA where he had a very fruitful career as pastor among the black population at Harlem, N.Y., and later in Louisiana. Fr Joseph Cronenberger died 20 Feb. 1948 aged 71 years. *SpWW*, 565

### **CRONIN, Fr James J 1914-1980**



Born 4 February 1914 in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, Jim studied at Blackrock, 1928-32, and returned there after his novitiate in Kimmage to do Philosophy at the Castle. He prefectured in Trinidad, 1935-37, and was then sent to Rome where he was awarded the Doctorate in Divinity at the Gregorian University. Ordained in 1940 his first appointment was to Nigeria. Fr Jim landed on the African continent on a stretcher and from then on he was always a sick man. Nevertheless he struggled to give of his full potential. For the first year he taught in Christ the King College. During the next three years he and Fr Joe Whelan, future bishop, formed together the staff of the senior seminary, St. Paul's, sharing all the disciplines of philosophy and theology between them. Jim contributed an article a week for the Nigerian *Catholic Herald*; he also preached to sisters and helped in the parish ministry. In 1947, after four years, he was invalided to Ireland. He continued to work, however. For two years he taught Moral theology in Kimmage. Thereafter he taught at Rockwell where he headed successfully the Mathematics and Science Departments. His teaching there, as indeed in Kimmage, was somewhat marred by the too high standard he demanded of his students. He had a very keen mind himself and a sharp tongue. In 1957/8 he did the H.Dip.Ed. at UCD and returned again to Rockwell. The 1960s were sad years for Fr Jim as he was then dogged by continuous ill health, relieved only by engaging in his favourite hobby, fishing. He had severe surgery for intestinal cancer, but he rose from the weakness of his broken health to a new mission: he became chaplain to the clinic at Athy - Cuan Mhuire - run by Sr Consilio for rehabilitating people suffering from alcoholism. Towards the end Fr Jim was hospitalised for treatment for his recurring cancer problem. Fr James Cronin died quietly in his sleep at Kimmage 18 August 1980 aged 66 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPNI* 44 (Nov. 1980); *BCA* 1981, 177; *SpWW*, 1088; *RCA* 1981, 116.

### **CROSBIE, Fr Patrick 1926-1973**



Born 30 March 1926 in Scallionstown, Navan, Co. Meath, Patrick did his secondary studies at St Patrick's College, Navan, 1938-44. Professed in Kilshane, 1945, he studied at UCD where he secured the BA in 1950 having profected at Rockwell, 1947-49. Ordained, 1953, he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. We find him listed for 1961 as director of Our Lady of Lourdes Teachers' Training College at Iwollo-Oghe, Enugu, and in 1968 he was Principal of St Vincent's Secondary School, Agbogugu. While at home in 1968 he served for a period in England and later in Sierra Leone. Having managed to get back to Biafra he was among those deported in February 1969. In 1970 he set out for Brazil. Suffering seriously from diabetes he returned to the USA. He died after a brief stop over in New York, 1 November 1973, aged 47 years. He was buried at Ferndale. A confrère who knew him well said of him: "He was always a hard worker, a very good footballer and excellent in every respect." IPArch C 96.

### **CROWLEY, Fr Declan 1915-1993**



Born 1 January 1915 in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, Dec did his secondary studies at Rockwell and entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1935. He took philosophy for his degree at UCD and profected for one year at Rockwell, 1938-9. He did Theology at Kimmage and was ordained in 1942. Fr Dec's first appointment was to Onitsha-Owerri, Nigeria. He worked in Oguta, Utura, and Enugu, 1943-46, doing pastoral ministry. He was a teacher in Oturkpo, 1946-8, and at CIC, Enugu, 1949-54. Returning to Ireland he taught for a year at St Mary's, Rathmines. In 1955 he was appointed Director of the Brothers' Novitiate in Kimmage and two years later was transferred to St Michael's College, Dublin, where he served till 1990 except for a short time spent in pastoral work in the USA East. Suffering from serious ill-health Fr Declan Crowley retired to Kimmage in 1992 where he died 27 October 1993 in his seventy-eighth year. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 6 Dec. 1993

### **Crowley, Fr. Timothy Joseph 1912-2002**

Tim was born in Ballingarry, Co. Limerick on 30<sup>th</sup>. August 1912. He did his secondary studies in Blackrock College and made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1932. He profected in Blackrock from 1934 to 1936. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 25<sup>th</sup>. June 1939. After his consecration to the Apostolate in 1940 he was appointed to Nigeria and worked there until 1967 except for one year as chaplain to Killeshandra ( 59-60 ). During his time in Nigeria he worked in the Diocese of Owerri and spent several years in Aguta where he was involved in parish work. His brother Fr. Ned was also working in Nigeria at the same time. After leaving Nigeria he took up Ministry in the USA and worked in New Orleans for one year, and three years in the Diocese of Brooklyn. During his time in New York he did a one year diploma in counselling at St. John's University. After two years helping out in Askeaton Fr. Tim went to Sierra Leone in 1987 where he helped out in Sacred Heart Parish in Freetown for three months. He returned to Sierra Leone again for a short time and helped out in Serabu and Bo. In 1988 he retired to the Kimmage community.

Due to failing health he spent his latter years in Marian House where he died September 14<sup>th</sup> 2002.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **CUDDIHY, Mr Joseph 1882-1913**



Born 8 July 1882 in Bawnavrone, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, Joseph he was a student at Blackrock, 1901-07. While prefecting at Blackrock it was discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis and as it was thought then that the climate in Trinidad was more beneficial for such a complaint he was sent to St Mary's as prefect. The hoped for cure did not materialise. One of the last entries made by Fr Ebenrecht in the Blackrock community journal which he kept from 1884 to 1914, read as follows: "Mr. Joseph Cuddihy, formerly prefect here, died at Langonnet after his return from Trinidad where he had been sent in the hope of being cured." He died 10 January 1913 aged 30. *BG XXVII 31; SpWW 211.*

### **CULHANE, Fr John Francis 1916-1979**



Born 30 March 1916 in Dublin, the family were well known to Republicans on the run in the Rathmines-Rathfarnham area during the troubled times. Frank's mother was a niece of Fr Eugene Sheehy, curate of Bruree, Co. Limerick, at the time when Dev was growing up there and from whom he had imbibed a love of all things Irish. Frank went first to St Mary's, Rathmines, and transferred as a boarder to Blackrock, 1930-34. He was a member of the cup-winning SCT in 1934 and we find his name - albeit not readily recognisable as Proinnsias O Cathláin, as one of the signatories to the address presented to Pope Pius XI on behalf of Blackrock College students, Past and Present, for the Holy Year 1933/4. Dev and Dr McQuaid signed on behalf of the College and alumni. Frank was also a leading performer on the college stage. Wonderfully articulate and without the least trace of self-consciousness, he delighted his audiences with his talent in dramatic pieces and compelled attention. He provided a similar service during his days in the senior scholasticate in Kimmage where his appearances on the stage and in the pulpit for practice sermons introduced a welcome note of originality into an otherwise rather regimented uniformity. And some of his practical jokes on teachers at UCD still raise a laugh at reunions. Tragically, he was affected with a pulmonary disease which dogged him all his life and which made him a regular if unconventional patient in hospitals and sanatoria in Ireland and Switzerland. He spent most of his last years in Lausanne where, in spite of his illness, he was a focus of activities - pastoral, cultural and ecumenical. An unexpected pleasure, when twirling the knobs of a radio, was to hear his unmistakable, high-pitched, semi-preacher's tone, as he addressed the world in the religious slot on the English hour from Switzerland on the short-wave band. He published a book of his poems and occasionally wrote letters to the Irish papers to try to get us to correct our wayward attitudes in the matter of ecumenism and confess the wrongs inflicted on our Protestant brethren. He had to fight for his life all along the way. Finally he collapsed as he had brought the Blessed Sacrament to a patient in hospital and died a few days later 27 April 1979 aged 63 years. *BCArch; BCA 1979 209f; IPNI 38 July 1979*



**CULLEN, Fr Bernard 1922-1992**



Born 19 April 1922 in Ballymartin, Co. Armagh, Barney did his secondary studies at the CBS Armagh (3 yrs), and at St Patrick's, Armagh (2yrs). He entered Kilshane in 1940 and after his profession he did Philosophy in Kimmage. Having perfected in Trinidad, 1943-46, he was ordained priest in 1949. Appointed to Nigeria he served at Nsukka where veteran Fr Joe Horgan was director. They ministered to some 14,000 between Catholics and catechumens. By 1961 he was director at Awgu and with his two helpers Frs Michael and Thomas Flynn, they were caring for some 23, 000 with 350 teachers and 10, 790 students attending in 54 schools. In 1967 when he was obliged by the Biafran war to leave all this wonderful missionary involvement behind him. 49 years by then, he volunteered for work in Malawi having to learn a new language and get to grips with a new culture and know a new people. He worked hard for the next twenty years in the huge parish of Thunga. Having suffered a stroke in 1990 he was obliged on medical advice to return to Ireland. His final two years were marked by the sign of the cross as he suffered patiently, cared for by the staff of Marian House. The Lord called Fr Barney home 3 July 1992. He was aged 70 years. He was buried in Kimmage.

IPArch; *IPNI* No. 4 1992; *État*.

**CULLIGAN, Fr Bernard J 1904-1969**



Fr Bernard J. Culligan, C.S.Sp. (Meath) is to the Zanzibar-Kenya Vicariate

Born 9 November 1904 in Tubbrid, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Barney was a short time at Maynooth before joining the Congregation in 1923. He attended UCD taking a BA in classics followed by the H.Dip.Ed. in 1927. After Philosophy he went as prefect for two years at Blackrock, 1929-31. Ordained in 1934 he was sent the following year to St Mary's, Trinidad, but after three years he was transferred to the missions in Kenya. There his years were divided almost equally between parish and school work, in the schools of Kabaa, where he was headmaster 1952, at St Mary's, Nairobi, and the mission stations of Kilimambogo, 1961, Riruta, Kalimoni and Thika. He returned to Ireland for a medical check-up and it was discovered that he was suffering from leukemia, He asked to be allowed to return to Kenya, and went back in 1963. For the remaining years he was actively occupied as Vice-postulator of the cause of Edel Quinn, Envoy of the Legion of Mary in East Africa. In spite of his illness he was able to complete this work, and the last documents were dictated by him from his sick-bed. in St Theresa's, Nairobi. Fr Bernard Culligan died 27th October 1969 aged 64 years.

*BCA* 1970, 223; *SpWW* 851.

**Cummins, Fr Richard 1910-1990**



Born 21 January 1910 in Portland Place, Drumcondra, Dublin, he completed his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1927-28. He began his novitiate at Kimmage but, after some months, decided to withdraw. Two years later he opted for the English Province of the Congregation and after two years perfecting at Castlehead, he went to Neufgrange in France to do his novitiate. Professed in 1934 he did Philosophy at Mortain and Theology at Chevilly. Because of the outbreak of World War II he completed his studies in Langonnet being ordained in 1939. He arrived in Mauritius in 1944 and served for periods in parish work and in the Holy Ghost College, Quatre-Bornes. On retiring from Mauritius he did ministry in a number of

places including Metuchen, New Jersey. Fr Richard Cummins died at Kimmage 21 September 1990 aged 80 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPM* No. 6 September 1990; *IPArch* File C 64.

### **CUNNINGHAM, Br Kilian (Cornelius) 1852-1908**



Born 25 July 1852 in Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, Cornelius entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell, in January 1875. Among his contemporaries there, under the supervision of Frs Huvéty's and Goepfert were Brs Onuphre Cooney (Angola), Adelm Walsh (Nigeria) and David Doran (Nigeria). Professed in 1877 he helped in running the college farm at Rockwell and was later called on by Père Leman to take charge of the Blackrock farm at Leixlip. Living away from community life was not to the liking of Br Kilian. Later he was active at the college in functions within the house especially as infirmarian. It was as infirmarian over a period of 26 years that he gave heroic service to the community and the students. He was totally at the disposal of his patients, looking after their material and spiritual needs. He was always on duty, taking the students to visit medical care outside when required, taking them for walks etc. He led an intense devotional life - doing the Stations of the Cross before morning prayer, attending several masses etc. He was delighted when Pope Pius X encouraged more frequent Holy Communion. People wondered when did he ever have time to eat. He really didn't. And in his last years he suffered severely from intestinal trouble. An operation was advised. When he thought his energy was returning he asked to be allowed visit his native Aherlow in the hope that his youthful vigour would be restored there. On reaching his own home he was confined to bed and it was soon realised that he would never be able to return to Blackrock. He was lovingly cared for by his family as they felt they were dealing with a saint. He was also visited by the confreres from Rockwell. Br Kilian died 12 July 1908 aged 56 and was buried in Tipperary town. His brother had also joined the brotherhood at Rockwell, being professed there as Br Palemon in 1882. He was to serve at Rockwell, Paris and Blackrock. In 1896, having decided that he had no real vocation for religious life, he departed for the USA. Br Kilian was an uncle of Fr Timothy Cunningham CSSp. *RBR*; *B. III* 349ff; *État*

### **CUNNINGHAM, Fr Paul L. 1917-1995**



Born 28 June 1917 in Phibsboro, Dublin, Paul received his secondary education at O'Connell's School and at Blackrock, 1934-37, where he completed his Leaving Certificate. Professed in 1938 he studied for the BA at UCD and prefectured at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1939-41. In 1943 he started Theology being ordained in 1946. Appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar he quickly became fluent in Swahili. After three months working in St Peter Claver's Parish in Nairobi, he was posted to Zanzibar. Next he was appointed to Kabaa High School which he greatly developed during the five years he served there. He moved to Mangu High School in 1955 where he spent one year before being appointed to St Mary's, Nairobi, where he was to serve for eleven years. His final years in education work, 1968-72, were spent at Muhoho High School. Recognising his remarkable talents and his human understanding, he was voted Principal Superior of the District, 1972-78. He led the District through difficult times. Described as 'incurably optimistic' he radiated confidence and peace. From 1978 to 1983 he worked mainly in

pastoral ministry in Nairobi and Mombasa. In 1983 he was appointed Secretary to Cardinal Otunga and then made Secretary General for the 43rd Eucharistic Congress to be held in Nairobi. About his performance on that occasion it was said; "In many ways Paul was born for this. For the two years of preparation the Secretary General for the Congress needed, along with the gift of pure leadership, the capacity of cajolement, convincing ways, optimism, deep trust in God, prayer. Paul had all this and he was able to get the members of different tribes, colours, creeds, both believers and non-believers, power mongers, racists, all to join together to organise, to sit around a table and to set up what was to be an overwhelming success. Paul remained in the background much like a conductor who orchestrated a marvellous symphony." Paul's own health was seen to fail. He was appointed to the Little Sisters of Charles de Foucoud in Mombasa. "He was sick. He had no possessions, four walls, a bed, a chair and a little chair in the garden where he sat, smiled, laughed and was joyous." Paul retired to Kimmage in 1991 and died there 19 May 1995 aged 77 years. IPArch; *IPNI* June 1995

**CUNNINGHAM, Fr Séamus            1923-1992**



Born 29 June 1923 in Strathroy, Omagh, Co. Tyrone Shamy attended the local C.B.S. Cunningham and completed his secondary studies in St Columba's College, Derry. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1941 and after his profession he did Philosophy in Kimmage. He was remembered for his keen interest in soccer which he played with the skill and zest he was to bring to bear on every aspect of life in the years ahead. Totally honest and good humoured, he made no enemies. After prefecting at Blackrock, 1945-7, he went on to do his Theology and was ordained in 1950. Appointed to Nigeria the following year Fr Shamy worked mainly at Urualla in Owerri Diocese until he was forced by the Biafra war to leave there in 1967. A visitor to his mission was somewhat taken aback to find that his hobby was collecting snakes, live ones, with which he seemed to have no problem in storing under the bonnet of his car en route. Shamy himself confessed to have been somewhat intimidated by his route though the swamps of Southern Nigeria and the Cameroons as he made his escape from Biafra. Like other confreres displaced from Nigeria by the war he worked for some years in Kenya being stationed mainly in Nairobi. In 1973 he was appointed to the USA where he worked in the diocese of Louisiana and Alexandria. His parish was St Peter's in Bordelonville, Louisiana. Always inclined to be conservative in his theological and pastoral approach he was noticed to become more so in his latter years as he saw the inroads of liberalism in the American church. Noted all along for his splendid physique and good health his final illness came as a surprise. A brain tumour was diagnosed and the end came rather swiftly, surrounded by the caring attention of his former confreres of Nigeria and in particular by his brother Fr Tom, CSSp. They succeeded in bringing him home to Ireland where he died 25th March 1992 aged 61 years. He was buried in Kimmage. His brothers Tom and Colm followed in his footsteps in joining the Congregation. *IPNI*, No. 2, 1992.

### **Cunningham, Fr Timothy 1881-1955**



Born 27 March 1881 in the Glen of Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, Tim did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1895-1900. It was during this period that his life-long friendship with Eamon de Valera, future President of Ireland, began. This friendship was deepened during the years in Rockwell where Tim prefectured and Dev as a lay teacher boarding in the college lived almost the same life as the prefects. In later years the escapades of those days and nights provided an unending source of anecdotes when the actors got together for a *tête-à-tête*. Dev, for his part, treasured the snaps taken then of this closely knit group. He even thought seriously of going to the novitiate in Prior Park with them in 1904. In 1905 Tim went to do his studies for the priesthood, part in Fribourg and the remainder in Chevilly where he was ordained in 1909. His first appointment was to Blackrock where he remained from 1910 to 1917, being Dean of discipline for the last three years of that period. He was then called on to help in the English province in the juniorate at Castlehead in place of Fr John Foley who was appointed to Zanzibar. There he joined Fr Edward O'Shea, whom he had known well as a student in Blackrock and with whom he was to return to Rockwell in 1923 to give the last lap of their lives there. Fr Tim was to be known best for his Latin classes, especially with those 'who went unwillingly to school'. About this aspect of his life it was written : 'Fr Tim was a good teacher, a good disciplinarian, patient, but not too patient... He looked for no popularity, rarely used a Christian name, sharp in his manner, brusque yet kindly, knew his boys, was interested in them, remembered them. Boys felt he was genuine and boys are good judges...' How they used love recall his sallies in class invariably introduced with the words " 'Pon my word," and punctuated with "You see, you see". For example: 'O'Shea, your Latin reminds me of a gander on crutches... or a turkey on stubbles...' or 'What you don't know about Latin would fill libraries...' Others will remember him for his interest in rugby. He had been an outstanding player as a schoolboy and as a prefect. Later he was a splendid referee, a keen judge, a wise tactician, and enthusiastic supporter. To quote again from an obituary: 'Fr Tim was a good priest, a loyal friend, a sincere man. Though he filled in his life many functions of importance and was vice-president for many years, it is not as an administrator he will be best remembered but as one of that long line of grand single-minded devoted men who taught their classes and unobtrusively, unconsciously to themselves, moulded and influenced, by their influence, generations of boys to sterling character.' Fr Timothy Cunningham answered the Lord's roll call 21 September 1955 aged 74 years. He was buried in Rockwell, He was a nephew of Br Kilian Cunningham CSSp. BCArch; RCA 1956 40f; *Dev and his Alma Mater* 73 ff.

### **CUNNIFFE, Fr Michael Francis 1927-2001**



Born in Cornafulla, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Michael did his secondary studies in Rockwell College. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1950. After Philosophy in Kimmage he prefectured in Rockwell College, 1952-53. Returned to Kimmage he did Theology and was ordained priest in 1956. The following year he was appointed to the Diocese of Owerri in Nigeria. He ministered at Owerri, Emekuku, Urualla, Ohaji, Uli and Nguru. Due to the civil war in the country he returned to Ireland in 1969. In 1971 he was appointed to the District of Kenya and served at Kilungu, Mbiuni, Katungi and Kola. His last assignment was at St Joseph's

Pastoral Centre in the town of Machakos. Fr Michael returned to Ireland for medical treatment in October 2001. He died suddenly on 16 December 2001 during a visit to his sisters in England. Fr Michael was buried in Dardistown Cemetery.

### **CURRAN, Fr James Gerard 1906-1944**



Born 1st January 1906 in Bray, Co. Wicklow, Gerry came from a family well known in the world of journalism. He received his secondary education at the CBS North Richmond St and Castleknock. In 1923 he entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed but, feeling the call of journalism, he left and became at first a sports writer. He contributed a witty series of sketches published in the Evening Herald under the title Telling it to the Judge. He then moved to the USA arriving there during the Depression years. He saw an advertisement for a journalist in a local paper. Knowing that there would be a long queue for the interview he bought a copy of the said paper, dressed in his best suit and walked past the dejected-looking queue, wishing them luck as if he were part of the firm. He walked straight in to the office, regaled the editor as best he knew, and was given the job. He then went to the door to tell those lined up that the job has already been filled. Gerry, however, soon realised that his real vocation was elsewhere. He applied to be readmitted to the novitiate in 1935, this time in Kilshane, where he was professed and was duly ordained. He acted as photographer during the official opening of the Kimmage complex in 1938. His performance on that occasion was remembered more for its originality than its success. After his ordination it was not a surprise that he was appointed editor of the *Missionary Annals*, 1940-1. He was also in demand for retreats and missions and gave much of his spare time to the Legion of Mary. Having represented the Kimmage community at the special course on air-raid precautions he began his talk to the confreres as follows: "Let's start with the simplest emergency - the direct hit!" Very soon, however, Fr Gerry was to be associated more closely with the war effort, as chaplain. He offered his services in 1941 and was attached to the Irish Guards. During their period of waiting for more active service, he and members of the Guards built a public church, the painting of which was done by Fr Gerry. His occasional visits home to Kimmage were looked forward to by all because of his cheery unconventional approach. His tireless energy and constant good spirits readily endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. It was with deep shock that the news broke of his sudden death 4 May 1944 aged 37 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 144, 40; *MA* 1944

### **CURRAN, Fr Patrick V. 1926-1984**



Born 29 January 1926 in Ring, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, he did his secondary studies at Rockwell and entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1945. He took a BA in philosophy and English at UCD in 1949 and then professed for three years at St Mary's, Trinidad. Having studied theology in Kimmage he was ordained in 1945 and was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. He worked for three years in the Teacher Training College at Bo and for one year in the PTC, Moyamba. From 1960 to 1974 he was principal of Bonthe Secondary School. Ill-health forced him to quit the tropics and he then went to work in USA, being appointed to St Joseph's parish in Chauvin, La. A man of quiet disposition, warm and gentle in his relations with others, his parishioners were aware of his total dedication

to the apostolate and that he was a man close to God. They kept close to him in his final illness. He died 6 January 1984 aged 57 years. *IPNI* no 56, Feb 1984

#### **CURTIN, Br John 1916-1999**



John Curtin, JC as he was best known, was born 1916 in Cordial, Castleisland, Co. Kerry. Following in the footsteps of his two brothers, Frs Patrick and Thomas CSSp, he attended Rockwell College. He was seen to be a highly intelligent student and a useful forward on the rugby team. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1935, he was professed the following year. After two years studies in Kimmage Manor he was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where his granduncles, John T Murphy, later Bishop, and Br Vincent Tuohy, had served in the 1870s. John returned to Ireland in 1942 - experiencing a perilous voyage in the middle of the war. He resumed his studies for the priesthood, but due to the onset of ill health he decided, to the regret of all, that he could not go on for ordination. He resumed his studies at UCD and having secured his degree he was appointed to Willow Park Preparatory School in 1947. There he proved a highly successful tutor much beloved by the students. They appreciated his kindly approach when encouraging them to take interest in such off-beat areas as astronomy, anatomy, nature study, stamp collecting, botany, music appreciation and the history of art. John himself attended the Sunday lectures on art in the National Gallery and the course on the history of painting given by Madame Françoise Henri at UCD. He influenced others to do likewise. He was seen to continually broaden his own mind and help others to do like wise. He had deeply spiritual outlook on life and was a good counsellor. Having to struggle incessantly with the cross of ill health, he eventually abandoned the classroom. In later years he eschewed normal social contacts. Requiring special medical care he transferred to Marian House, Kimmage, in 1994 where he died 22 June 1999. Just a hundred years earlier two of his grand uncles had come to Blackrock, one, Fr John T Murphy, as President; the other, Fr Jeremy Tuohy, returned from his mission in Sierra Leone. John's death closed a long chapter of his clan's connection with the Holy Ghost Congregation, which began away back in 1868. *Ar dheis Dè go raibh a anam caoin cneasta*. He is buried in Shanganagh Cemetery, Co. Dublin.

#### **CURTIN, Fr Patrick 1912-1989**



Born 4 April 1912 in Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, Paddy was the eldest of three brothers to join the Congregation; he entered the Juniorate in Rockwell in 1928 where he had Fr John McCarthy as director. Big and strong for his age, Paddy soon made a name for himself on the college rugby team and as an inter-provincial forward. He also played on the Manseragh Senior Club team. Professed at Kimmage in 1932 he went to the Castle, Blackrock, to do Philosophy. As his health gave reason for concern he was sent in 1935 to Montana, Switzerland, where he was confined to bed for over a year. When well enough he joined the Irish scholastics at Fribourg where he was ordained in 1938. Bishop J.W. Heffernan, a neighbour of the Curtin family in Kerry, offered Fr Paddy a place in healthy surroundings in his diocese in East Africa. Soon after his arrival, however, he was called on to undertake responsibility for an area left without pastors when the Italian missionaries were interned after the outbreak of World War II. Fr Paddy accepted the onerous task for which he had little preparation. It involved endless work, visiting out-stations, saying

Mass, hearing confessions, catechising, baptising, etc. Not surprisingly his health began to deteriorate rapidly, requiring his return to Ireland in 1943. From that on his life was to be spent between Rockwell, Kimmage and hospital; yet he always managed to try to take part in priestly work, especially in the confessional, with the Legion of Mary and the St Vincent de Paul. He loved company and wanted to be involved in every activity he saw going on around him. And yet, because of the nature of his illness, he often found himself cut off. In spite of his recurring illness, Fr Paddy never gave up. He died 6 March 1989 aged 77 years and was buried in Kimmage. His brothers, Thomas and John also joined the Congregation. They were grandnephews of Bishop John T Murphy CSSp. *IPNI Obits.* 1989

### **Curtin, Father Daniel Francis 1920-2003**

Dan was born in Ballycommane House, Tournafulla, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1920. After his secondary school studies at Blackrock College he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. and then prefect in Blackrock College from 1943 to 1945. During 1945 Dan completed the H.Dip. in Education. He studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1948. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1949. In 1949 Father Dan's first appointment was to **Nigeria** and he was assigned to the Vicariate of **Owerri**. He was a teacher in *Stella Maris College in Port Harcourt*. Later, from 1955 until 1966, he was Principal at *Mbaise Secondary School in Owerri*. From correspondence of Bishop Joseph Whelan at that time we read:

*"When Father Curtin was teaching on the staff of Stella Maris, Port Harcourt, a British Inspector of Schools said that he was the best teacher in the Diocese". "He built up Mbaise Secondary School, supervising the actual construction and at the same time organising the school. His school was extremely successful and the school ranks among the best in Eastern Nigeria". "I release him with great reluctance on my part, since it means losing a very valuable educationalist".*

In 1966 Father Dan returned to **Ireland** and was appointed to the teaching staff at *Blackrock College*. For a year (1966-'67) he had the additional post as *Director of the Junior Scholasticate*. In 1980 Father Dan retired from teaching and was appointed to parish ministry. He served first in *Schull*, Co.Cork and then at *St. Andrew's in Westland Row*, Dublin. In 1986 Fr. Dan retired from full-time parish ministry, owing to the loss of an eye, and joined the community at *St. Mary's, Rathmines*. He served as community librarian until 1998 and was chaplain to the St. Louis Convent until his recent illness forced him to discontinue. In recent months Father Dan had spent time in St. James's Hospital, before being moved to Beaumont Hospital, where he died 20<sup>th</sup> March 2003

Fr. Dan was a brother of Fr. Maurice and Monsignor Jerome Curtin.

He is buried in the community plot at Dardistown.

### **CURTIN, Fr Thomas P 1918-1978**



Born 10 July 1918 in Coom, Cordal, Co. Kerry, Tom followed his elder brother Paddy, qv, to Rockwell where he did his secondary studies. Professed in Kilshane, 1938, he did Philosophy and Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1943. The following year, in the height of the war, when submarines infested the Atlantic, he set off for Trinidad. He was to give 34 years competent and

wholehearted service there, first at St Mary's and later at Fatima where he acted as bursar from 1949. Next, he moved to parish work at Mount Lambert, Curepe, and finally at St Joseph's, which formerly had been served by Fr James McDonnell and Fr Nicholas McCormack. Fr Thomas was a shy man but working with people who appreciated him brought out new resources. A young seminarian who worked with him during week ends found it a rewarding experience and Fr Tom got to like his work more and more. He took seriously ill with peritonitis and, in the absence of antibiotics and the delay in treating an ulcer, Fr Thomas Curtin died within a short time on 21 October 1978 aged 60 years. He was buried in Trinidad. *IPNI* 35 1978; *SpWW* 1056.

### **CUSACK, Mr Brian 1916-1937**

Born in 1916 in Clonmethan Lodge, Oldtown, Co. Dublin, where his father was a medical practitioner, Brian studied at the local national school till 1931 when he followed his elder brother, Pearse Aidan (O.CSt) to St Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Ballinasloe. He was a good athlete but due to an blow he received in the ear he developed tuberculosis. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1936 but on the discovery of the latent tuberculosis he had to return home after a few months. The family were by then living in Lusk, Co. Dublin. When it was realised that he was in danger of death, the Congregation was alerted and Brian was allowed to make his simple profession. Brian Cusack died 28 September 1937. He was buried in the family cemetery. (From information supplied by his brother, Fr Pearse Aidan Cusack OCSO).

### **DALY, Fr Cornelius 1904-1953**



Born 17 December 1904 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Conny did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1918-22. Professed in Kimmage in 1923 he then began a three year stint as prefect at Blackrock in the company of his former classmates, Ambrose Kelly, future bishop, Jack Dempsey, Leo Broolly and Walter Finn. With them also were Eugene Butler and Michael Comerford. Some of these prefects, including Conny, played on the Rock senior hurling team. Conny served as secretary to the Dean of Studies, Fr Ned Leen, also from Abbeyfeale. In 1926 he began his studies for the priesthood in the Castle, Blackrock. At that period, because of the shortage of funds, it ceased to be the practice for scholastics to attend the University. Ordained in 1931 he was appointed the following year to Blackrock. In 1934 he was called on to succeed Dr Dan Murphy as Dean of studies at Rockwell - a daunting task for a young man with no previous experience of the college or community. His jovial, buoyant temperament, his handsome features and gifted singing voice, soon endeared him to his confreres, and indeed to the students, who had been accustomed to a more austere regime. In 1939 he was recalled to Blackrock where once again he was called on to take over as Dean of Studies - a post he filled till 1942 when he was appointed Director of the Juniorate. In 1945 he replaced Fr Tom Maguire as Director of the recently opened preparatory school at St Michael's, when the latter had been appointed President of St Mary's, Rathmines. Fr Daly's final appointment was as bursar at Blackrock where, teaming up with the president, Fr Dinan, he was expected to keep a close eye on the financial resources of the college as they tried to achieve many ambitious development schemes. In 1952, however, when Fr Conny was as yet



only 47 years of age he was diagnosed as having an illness which at the time was incurable. Having a great zest for life, he did not find it easy to adapt to the prospect of the inevitable gradual loss of the use of all his faculties, but the dedicated support of his confreres and of the Sisters of Charity at Linden Convalescent home made the approach of death far more reassuring for him. Fr Cornelius Daly died at Linden 15 July 1953 aged 48 years and was buried in Kimmage. It took some time for people to realise that his hearty laugh, his enchanting tenor voice and his ever cheerful spirits had vanished from their midst. *BCA* 1953 91f; *IPB* 1953 No.28 p.8.

### **DALY, Fr John      1924-1991**

Born 1st January 1924 in Drogheda, Co. Louth, John came as a boarder to Blackrock



in 1937 and entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1941. After profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD where he took English and History for his degree. Having profected for two years at Blackrock, 1947-49, he went to Fribourg to study theology where he graduated '*cum laude*'. Ordained in 1952 Fr John was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was assigned to the Junior Seminary in Ihiala. In 1956 he was appointed to the Bigard Seminary in Enugu to teach theology, and in

1958 he became Headmaster of St John's Secondary School in Alor. John was theological adviser to the Nigerian bishops at the Vatican Council. In 1965 he was appointed Rector to the Bigard Seminary in Owerri. In 1970, in the aftermath of the Biafra war, "John was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour." Released a week later, he returned to Ireland. In 1971 he was appointed to Zambia. In 1974 John was elected as the Irish delegate to the General Chapter and was appointed to the General Council and Assistant Superior General of the Congregation in Rome. During his visitation of Sierra Leone he became so seriously ill of heart-disease that he was forced to resign from the General Council. He returned to Ireland, thus ending a colourful chapter in the story of the General Administration. But the last ten years of his life were packed with productive and fruitful work for himself and for others. He then came closer to his own family and to many members in the Congregation. He found a new career in giving retreats and in chaplaincy work. Once more he was closely involved in formation work; he was also Registrar of the Kimmage Faculty and Director of the One Year Course in the newly formed Kimmage Institute. All the time, though given up by Doctors, he confounded people with his physical feats in mountain climbing and long walks in his efforts to keep fit mentally and physically. He loved the Congregation, its work, its history, and above all its Rule to which he contributed so much while it was being drafted and explained to the confreres in the various communities. His researches into the development of the Spiritan Rule he published in his well documented book, *Spiritan Wellsprings*. John was always loveable, though sometimes he could be exasperating, especially when he held forth on his own pet scheme while ignoring for the moment all other points of view. During his years in the Senior Scholasticate he was notorious for his forgetfulness, his sardonic comments, which gave glimpses of his keen intelligence and his impatience. At times he was insensitive but never really hurtful. And then he always gave of his best and he improved with the years. Just when he was getting enthusiastically involved in the organisation of the new Mission Institute in Kimmage, armed with his new-found tool, the computer, the Lord called him to a well-earned rest from his labours. Fr John Daly died October 1st 1991 aged 67 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No. 5 Oct. 1991

**DALY, Fr Richard****1897-1978**

Born 19 June 1897 in Bradford, Co. Limerick, Dick attended Rockwell, 1910-14, and went to the novitiate in Kimmage being professed the following year. He then went on to study for his BA at UCD and qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. while prefecting at Blackrock. He also won his place on the Blackrock Club XV, playing beside J.J. McCarthy, future archbishop. Ordained in 1925 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was to serve for the next forty years in various capacities. Fr Dick was a professor at Igbariam (1926-28); Professor at St. Charles Training College, Onitsha Town (1928-32); ministry in Abu (1933), ministry at Port Harcourt and Ihiala (1934-37); he became Secretary for Schools in 1935 and in 1937 he moved to Onitsha where, later, he was to become Chancellor of the Archdiocese. It was at this latter post, at Onitsha Waterside, that many missionaries came to know Fr Dick. He received his visitors graciously, listened quietly and transacted business with a sure touch. The trouble then was to get away, for Dick, as he was known to all, had a keen interest in every mission station. He wanted to know all the most recent developments and then recalled to mind the early days when the said mission was just an outstation of somewhere else. He had a prodigious memory for details and was often exhorted to commit his earliest memories to paper. It was not easy to get him to write. We have an extract from one of his few letters in the 1928 Dec Missionary Annals: 'St Paul's Seminary and St Mary's Training College are now in full working order in Onitsha Town. The number of Seminarians has been rather small so far, but several applications have been received this year. Some of the students are now ready to present themselves for the London University examinations. Several Nigerians have done very well at these exams already, so that it seems necessary for our Seminarians to read for degrees. The Training College will have 32 teachers entering for the Nigerian Lower Certificate Exams in December.' This letter written 50 years before his death highlights an awareness of the necessity for a well-qualified native clergy. Fr Daly in his quiet self-effacing way makes no mention of the fact that he himself was the first Director of St Charles Training College for teachers. In 1934 there was some question of recalling Fr Daly from Nigeria for work elsewhere. A sentence from a letter written by Bishop Charles Heerey at the time to the Irish Provincial indicates Dick's standing in the Nigeria of his day: '...he is very necessary here for education work. Nobody could do it as well. He has a perfect knowledge of the Code and interests himself in all things connected with the schools.' Needless to say there was no change. These few notes cannot do justice to the loveable character known so well to so many. Fr Richard Daly died 1978 aged 81 and was buried in Kimmage. RJR; *IPNI* 34, September 1978; SpNM 72

**DANAHER, Fr William** **1898-1975**

Born 9 August 1898 in Shanagolden, Co. Limerick, Bill studied at Blackrock, 1912-17. After Matriculation, he made his novitiate in Kimmage and was professed, 1918. He joined 'Philosophy' students at St Mary's College, Rathmines, and took the BA at UCD, 1921. After a period as prefect in Rockwell College, 1921-23, he completed his studies at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained in Blackrock chapel by Bishop Joseph Shanahan in 1926. These were the first ordinations at Blackrock since Dr Shanahan himself had been ordained there in 1900 by Mgr Emile

Allgeyer CSSp. Appointed next year to the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro, E Africa, he was attached first to the mission of Kilomeni, high in the mountains, and then to St Patrick's School for Catechists, Singa-Chini, Moshi, which had been founded by Father James Jos. Gilmore. In 1932 he succeeded Father Joseph Gilmore as Director of the School, and later went to St James Junior Seminary, Kilema-Chini, to replace Father Patrick Hewitt, who was going on leave to Ireland. He spent short periods also at the mission station of Mashati and as chaplain of the Holy Rosary Sisters in Ireland; but almost all his life was spent in the work of education and seminary training in the district of Nairobi in his latter years, he continued to work in the seminary of Nairobi, and the parishes surrounding. In 1961 he was appointed to the Council of the Kilimanjaro District of the Holy Ghost Fathers, though he was by disposition little inclined to take any prominent post. On 25 July 1975 Fr William Danaher he died in his house, unexpectedly - an occasion of great regret for his fellow missionaries, who valued the work he was doing for the training of the clergy of Kenya. *BCAch*; *BCA* 1975 228f; *IPN I* No.17 1975.

**DANGELZER, Fr Michael 1851-1912**



Born 11 April 1851 in Bernardsweller, Alsace, Michael was a cousin of Fr Richert CSSp, qv. He entered the Congregation at Langonnet in 1864 and transferred to the senior scholasticate in 1870. Ordained in 1874 he was sent the following year to teach in the new college at Langogne and later at Cellule. From 1878 to 1883 he taught at Blackrock. While on holidays in Rockwell he suffered a severe fall from a side-car which put his life in danger for a period. Transferred to the USA in 1883, he taught for a year in Pittsburgh and then went to work in a Canadian parish in Detroit. He had to cope with some opposition there but he remained on for six years. His hard work was appreciated. In 1891 he was appointed bursar at the college in Pittsburgh, and in 1895 he was transferred to St Joseph's Parish, Bay City. He spent a period at St Peter Claver's, Philadelphia, and the last nine years of his life were devoted to St Anthony's, Millvale, Pa. Fr Michael Dangelzer died 3 November 1912 aged 62 years. *NB*, 5, 287ff; *BG* 25 935; *SpWW* 209.

**DARCY, Fr Edward 1916-2000**



Born on 13 July 1916 in Clonmacnoise, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ned did his secondary studies at St Mel's College, Longford. Having joined the Congregation at Kilshane in 1936 he was professed the following year. Moving to Kimmage Manor he studied at UCD, acquiring the BA in 1943 having also done three years prefecting - one in the Burse, 1938-39, and two in Rockwell, 1939-41. Ordained in 1946 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria but as illness delayed his departure till 1948 he worked in the Propaganda Office. Assigned to the Owerri diocese he served at Ogbaku, a station just opened in 1948, at Ahiara in 1952, and then in charge of the Ogbaku Elementary Teachers Training College in 1961. He was seen to be lively and energetic in all aspects of his life. He dressed neatly. He was always very precise and exact, and he prided himself on his diction. He was commissioned by the Bishop to build a new secondary school in the town of Uli and to be its first Principal. He built well, but more than that, he insisted on good discipline in his school. He expected his students to practice their Christian faith. In 1967, early in the Biafran war, he had to close his school and leave for home. He went to the USA in 1968 where he worked in

the Diocese of Corpus Christi but had to return to Ireland for an operation in 1969. In 1972 he went back to Africa - this time to Kenya where he served in pastoral duties in the Archdiocese of Nairobi for five years. Having developed serious eye trouble he had to return to Ireland for major surgery requiring the removal of the affected eye. Stationed at St Mary's College, Rathmines, he continued teaching with enthusiasm though he always made it clear that he would much prefer to be engaged in missionary work. He had a great love for his work in charge of the College chapel, which he kept spotlessly clean. He was always remembered with affection and was one of those characters whose exploits have made the stuff of legends recounted when there were reunions of the Spiritan family. Those who knew him as a totally dedicated prefect in Rockwell liked to recall the telegram he sent back from a cup match in Cork as the community eagerly awaited the result. The telegram read: "The boys beat the lads." It was only when a prefect who knew his lingo well arrived that it was interpreted as meaning that the Rockwell team was victorious! In 1994 Fr Ned was removed to Marian House where he was cared for during his last years. He died on 10 January 2000 aged 83 years. Fr Ned was buried in Clonmacnoise. *IPN* No.1 2000; *KNSM* No. 229

#### **D'ARCY, Fr Brian 1921-1978**



Born 25 November 1921 in Sarsfield St, Mountmellick, Brian was educated at St Mary's College, Knockbeg, and joined the Congregation in 1940. He took 1st Class Honours B.A. from UCD in 1944 and again took a 1st Honours in the H.Dip.Ed. from UCD while prefecting at Blackrock, 1944-46. He was much appreciated by his confreres in the scholasticate for his good humour and his common sense. Ordained to the priesthood in 1949, Fr Brian was appointed the following year to The Gambia in West Africa where he held various pastoral and educational posts until he was transferred to Nigeria in 1961. He worked in similar posts there in the Onitsha and Enugu regions, notably in charge of S John's parish in Owelli. Indifferent health forced him to return to Ireland in 1968. He was curate at Ferrybank in the Diocese of Ossory from 1968 to 1971. In 1971 he returned to the missions, this time to Malawi, where he was appointed to the staff of the Seminary in Blantyre. In 1974 he was again obliged to leave Africa and once more took up work in the Diocese of Ossory. He spent the last four years working in the parishes of Callan and Freshford. He was a very devoted pastor and was loved and esteemed by the people. As well he had a wide range of interests: he was a great reader, a keen fisherman and a gardener. Above all he was a great conversationalist and was always most welcoming to all both in Africa and in Ireland. He died unexpectedly in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny 11 April, 1978 aged 56 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 33 June 1978.; *SpNM* 535

#### **DARCY, Fr David P1934-1988**



Born 12 July 1934 in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, David did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1947-52. He was recalled as having been always gentle, totally committed, cheerful and absolutely without pretence - characteristics that were to be his hallmarks wherever he served. Professed in Kilshane 1953 he studied Hebrew and Greek for his BA degree in UCD and did his philosophy course in Kimmage. After two years prefecting at Blackrock, 1956-58, he was sent to Rome

to do his Theology and was ordained in 1963. The following year Fr David was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, where, apart from teaching class, he trained rugby and tennis teams and was chaplain to the Scout Unit . He acted as Dean of studies and for a period was the acting superior of the community and president of the college during the illness of the superior. In 1979 he was assigned to Brazil as he had wished all along. In preparation for his new ministry he studied pastoral theology at Marienella, Orwell rd. David's short years in Brazil were distinguished by his generosity and total gift of himself, ever available to all classes, a great 'listener' and hospitable. He was seen to be a man of prayer, one for whom the liturgy well prepared was his great pastoral exercise. He wrote an inspiring account in St Mary's College Annual about his encounter with mission life in Brazil. Soon, illness began to make itself felt. Back in Ireland he celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. Serious deterioration had set in. He was taken on a pilgrimage to Lourdes by his family and confreres. He received the grace of peace and resignation to God's plans for him. Fr David Darcy died 5th October 1988 aged 54 years and was buried in Kimmage. His passing was mourned in his home place in Greystones where he had been a favourite son, and in Brazil where tributes were paid to him at the very special requiem in the Parish of Sto Sebasto presided over by Bishop Santos Davi Picas. Represented at that mass were members of the Negro Movement, The Black Apostolate, Prisoners in the local jail, the Apostolate of the Sick, and Women in the Prostitution zone. They all thanked the Lord for his pastoral care. BCArch; *StMRA* 1988,188f; *BCA* 242.

**DELANEY, Fr Joseph      1871-1957      654**



Born 15 February 1871 in Littleton, Templetuohy, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Joe received his education at the local National School and Thurles CBS. He then served for a period in a cousin's shop in Dublin but refused a share in the business. Believing God was calling him to a special vocation, he thought of joining the Trappists but opted for entering the Christian Brothers as a lay-brother. Later he felt called to work on the foreign missions and was dispensed by Rome from his religious vows. Perhaps due to a contact with another Tipperary man, Fr Patrick McDermott, then home from Nigeria, Joe went to Castlehead, Lancs., in 1908 where there was a juniorate and a Brothers' novitiate. He worked there as a gardener for sometime and enrolled as a postulant for the brotherhood but, on deciding that he was not happy in that role, he went direct to Nigeria in 1910. He worked as a catechist, gardener, builder, carpenter, superintendent of schools, nurse during epidemics , working all over the vicariate. We find him 1910 at Nteje with Fr Bubendorf, and in 1912 with Fr Joseph Shanahan opening up Owerri and Emekuku as they travelled on their newly acquired bicycles. At last, because of the acute shortage of priests, aggravated by the Great War, it was decided that he could go on for the priesthood as he himself desired. Fr Shanahan wrote to the Superior General to apply to Rome for a special indult to allow him to be ordained without having to go through the full seminary course, especially as he had served so well as a catechist and the mission was in such dire need of priests. In the meantime he studied his theology at the Teachers' Training Centre at Igbariam under the direction of Fr Joseph Bubendorf., and an indult was given in Rome allowing him, because of the mission situation and his record as catechist, to be ordained without having to go through all the normal stages. As the indult from Rome was late in arriving, Fr Shanahan was forced to miss this big occasion which he had long awaited, as he had already booked his passage for home with a view to attending the General Chapter. The ordination took place 14 June 1919,

the ordaining prelate being Bishop Broderick SMA. Fr Joe Delaney was the first to be ordained priest in Nigeria, and by the first bishop serving in Nigeria. Though he was ordained for the Vicariate of Nigeria he wanted to become a member of the Congregation. There were problems because of his age, his lack of Latin and his rudimentary acquaintance with theological science. He wanted to do his novitiate in France but he knew no French. It is said that Fr Hugh Evans did not feel happy with the prospect of having to accommodate such a veteran as a novice in Kimmage. Years later, it was arranged that he return to Castlehead and spend a year there, 1931-2, after which he made his profession and returned to serve in Nigeria. It is said that at some stage of his missionary career Fr Joe had a miraculous escape from death at the hands of cannibals but, when questioned by the civil authorities, he refused to give evidence. He feared military intervention on a scale which had happened elsewhere. He was to work in Nigeria till his death, apart from a period when he had to return home seriously ill. He is remembered with affection and veneration as a very saintly priest. Many places owe much to his services over the years. To mention a few: we find him listed as working at Calabar, Anua, Emekuku, Onitsha, N'wam, Newi, Aguleri, Thiala. He returned home suffering from ill-health, but even when still partially incapacitated by a stroke which confined him to the Hospice for the Dying, he asked to be allowed to return to Nigeria where he said he could at least hear confessions. Fr Joseph Delaney returned to his mission and answered the Lord's call at Aguleri 3 November 1957 aged 86 years. GenArch; *Missionary Annals* 1958

#### **DELANEY, Fr Noel P      1932-1979**



Born 30 Nov. 1932 in Dublin, Noel was educated at CBS, Synge St. He entered the novitiate in 1950 and in 1954 he graduated from NUI with a B.Sc (Hons). He prefectured in Rockwell for two years, 1954-56, and then did a further year at St Mary's, Rathmines, during which he did the H.Dip.Ed. He took further studies in Fribourg where in 1960 he obtained a B.D. and in 1962 the S.T.L. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1961 and in 1962 took up an appointment teaching Chemistry in Ituru High School, Nairobi. Later he was appointed to the teaching staff of Kenyatta College, a third level educational institution, where he taught Religious Education leading to a B.Ed. degree. He was also chaplain to the Catholic students in the college. His availability and personal interest in the students were well known and appreciated. He was Religious Superior of the District of Kenya from 1969 to 1972 where he continued his living of the Gospel. All knew how reliable, trustworthy and dependable he was; always most anxious to oblige and help out with ministry notwithstanding a full schedule of work in teaching theology and counselling students. He was always ready to share a joke, a smile, a witty remark. In 1972 Fr Noel was appointed Headmaster of Muhoho High School where he served until 1975 when at the request of the Bishops of Kenya he was appointed to the National Senior Seminary of St Thomas Aquinas, Nairobi, where he was Vice-Rector and Dean of Studies until his death. Fr Noel Delaney died in Nairobi after an illness of only a few hours on Good Friday 13 April 1979 aged 46 years. *IPNI* 38 July 1979.

### **DALY, Fr Michael 1931-1998**



Born on 18 March 1931 in Kildoney, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, he entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kilshane where he was professed in 1958, taking the name Christopher. He worked in Kilshane until 1972 when he was transferred to Blackrock. Of this period it was said: "He was devoted to the house staff and his services were available to those in ill health or those who needed special attention." Afterwards he was appointed to The Gambia where he served till 1978. On returning to Ireland he studied for one year at the Development Studies Centre and then began his studies for the priesthood. Ordained priest in 1982 he was appointed to Ghana where he worked until 1990. He then took up an appointment in Australia. Due to ill health he returned to Ireland in 1997 and was cared for in Marian House where he died 9 November 1998 aged 67 years. At his funeral mass it was said of him by one who had worked with him: "As a brother and later as a priest, Michael endeared himself to everyone because of his humble and unassuming ways. He was a type of person who could easily sit with kings yet not lose the common touch. The poor people with whom he worked found in his presence a listening ear and a compassionate heart. He knew the sufferings of those he served because he was never without his own crosses, which gave him a big heart. He was a simple but humble priest who possessed great wisdom that is not gleaned from books but comes from being close to the soil. His many years working the land and turning the soil in such places as Kilshane in Tipperary were like the "hidden life" in Nazareth in which the Lord was preparing his soul for great things." Fr Michael is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *BCA* 1999 p.343; *IPN* No.5 1998; *KSWAM* No. 448

### **DEMAISON, Fr Louis 1865-1950**



Born 2 November 1865 in Foverges, Savoy, Louis was ordained in 1889 and the following year he was appointed director of the Juniorate in Rockwell which had reopened after a two years' lapse. Fr Louis was called on to act as bursar at Chevilly for a period - being replaced as Director of the juniorate in Rockwell by Fr Louis Leininger, 1891-2, and after him by Fr John Stephens, recently returned from Ballarat. Fr Demaison returned to his post in Rockwell for another four years.

Among the students who passed through the Juniorate in these years were Thomas McDonagh of 1916 connection, Pádraic O Conaire, the Gaelic writer, Larry Graf of subsequent Trinidad fame, Richard Harnett, future Provincial, James Murphy, professor of Theology, and John W. Heffernan, future Bishop. When the Juniorate was again closed in 1898 to make way for the senior scholasticate, Fr Louis expected to be kept on as a director, but he was transferred to the Apostolic School at Seysinnet near his native place. We find him in The Gambia in 1903 and from there he moved to Nigeria where he renewed his acquaintance with Fr Shanahan. Ill-health forced him to withdraw after a matter of months. He then transferred to Zanzibar, where he was to serve under Bishops Allgeyer and Neville. He spent a period in Paris as Procurator General and served in the senior house of studies in Fribourg. In 1926 we find him in Mauritius as pastor under Bishop John T Murphy and Archbishop James Leen. Fr Louis Demaison's final years were spent in Reunion where he died 25 March 1950 aged 85 years. His brother Charles was also a priest in the Congregation.

*État*

### **DEMPSEY, Fr John 1904-1940**



Born 9 April 1904 in Ballygalduff, Tobinstown, Tullow, Co. Carlow, Jack was educated by the Christian Brothers and at Blackrock College where he came in 1921 for his final year. He went to the Novitiate in Kimmage, 1922, and after his profession he profected for three years at Blackrock, 1923-26. What was written about him during those years can be applied to the rest of his life: "Straightforward, thoroughly decent and disinterested with his confreres and with the boys, he was level-headed, efficient and very popular - always reliable and ever ready to give his time and labour". He proved a very useful member of the Blackrock Club XV. He went on to do his philosophy at the Castle, sitting in class with some who had been his students. After a year's theology in the Castle he was sent to Rome. For most of his time he was the only Irish representative at the French Seminary where he was dubbed by his French companions '*Le Boxer*' because of his name-sake of world boxing fame. He was asked to do his thesis for the doctorate on Pelagius' commentary on St Paul' - a work but recently discovered. On completing his studies at the Gregorian University in 1934 Fr Jack was appointed Director of Philosophers in the Castle, a post he retained when the senior scholastics all moved to Kimmage in 1938. He was also entrusted with the duties of bursar for the Senior Scholasticate in 1938 thereby joining that galaxy of doctors of theology who were called on in the Congregation to turn their talents to more earthy matters. In 1939 Fr Jack was relieved of his duties as director of philosophers and was appointed a member of the Provincial Council. Came Christmas 1939 he deputized for another confrère to give the end of year retreat to the St Louis Sisters in Bundoran. He stayed on an extra day at the request of the local branch of the Legion of Mary and preached a one day retreat to its members 1st January. It was with great shock all round that it was learned that he died in his sleep in the early hours of 2 January 1940. Fr Jack was aged 34. It was recalled that he had preached a very striking conference to the Sisters on death, referring to the incidence of sudden deaths in the recent months. The only sign of illness was that he had remarked that he felt uncommonly cold that day. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 1942, 54; *IPNI* Vol. II., No.2., April 1940.

### **DEMPSEY, Mr Michael 1931-1955**



Born 1 August 1931 in Mullaghmore, Co. Galway, Michael did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1946-51. He is reported as "having given all round satisfaction, that he was friendly, tractable, and earnest", "serious in work and energetic in games". He was professed at Kilshane in 1952. After Philosophy he was about to start his term as prefect when he took suddenly ill with leukaemia and it soon became clear that there was no remedy. His death was a shock to all who were aware of his qualities and potentialities. Michael Dempsey died 27 March 1955 aged 23 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BJJ* No.1683; *BCA* 1955 74.

### **Dempsey, Father Aloysius Patrick 1914-2006**

Alo was born in Cadamstown, Birr, Co. Offaly on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1914. After he completed his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Rockwell College he entered the Novitiate in Kimmage where he made his first profession on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1933. After doing philosophy at Kimmage, he profected for two years in Blackrock College (1935-'37). Alo studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was



ordained to the Priesthood on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1940 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1941. In 1941 Father Alo was appointed to the Novitiate in Kilshane. From 1944 until 1947 he served with the British Royal Air Force as chaplain. He was assigned to a Polish squadron and served in various areas including France, Belgium and Holland. In August of 1947 he was appointed to **Nigeria** to the **Diocese of Owerri** where he was to do evangelisation and pastoral ministry for two decades. He worked at the parishes of **Urualla, Ahiara, St. Paul's Owerri** and **Okpala**. Early in the Biafran War, he left Nigeria in 1967, and went to the **U.S.A.** where he joined the Irish Spiritans of Long Island City, doing parochial ministry in the New York area and promotional work all over the United States; as he himself once wrote "from Portland Oregon to Portland Maine, from Canada to Mexico". He continued at this work for twenty-eight years until he retired back to Mission House in Kimmage in 1995. For another 10 years Alo had a very active retirement and being kept busy with letter writing to all his many friends and relations. It was only in these recent months of 2006 that Father Alo needed the care and attention of Marian House, where he died 9<sup>th</sup> May. Alo is interred in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

#### **DESCOURS, Fr John Baptist 1859-1917**



Born 25 September 1859 in Cluny, S. et L., France, J.B. entered the Senior Scholasticate in 1878. He perfected at Langogne College, 1879-81, and at Blackrock, 1881-85. Professed in 1889 he was appointed to the new college at Castelnaudary, 1889-93, where some of the students who had been with Joseph Shanahan at Beauvais had been transferred after the Apostolic School there had to close its doors there. In 1894 Fr Descours moved to Cellule, where Shanahan was then in his final year. Because of his years in Blackrock, Fr Descours was called on mostly to teach English. When the schools conducted by the Congregation were closed as a result of Combe's persecution of the church, Fr Descours was transferred to the USA. He taught for some time at Cornwells and at Pittsburgh before taking on parish work in the special parishes confided to the Congregation for the black people in Philadelphia. Fr John Baptist Descours died 9th October 1917 aged 58 years. GenArch; SpWW 245

#### **DESNIER, Fr Jean Michel 1857-1909**



Born 25 September 1857 in Riom, Puy de Dome, France, 1857, Jean entered the Holy Ghost Junior Seminary, in nearby Cellule, and came to Blackrock with Emile Allgeyer, 1874-78, future bishop in East Africa. He perfected in Blackrock, 1878-79, then in St Louis de Gonzague College, Martinique, until 1884. Ordained in 1884, professed, 1885, he was appointed to the college in Para, Brazil, where he taught Latin and English and preached in Portuguese. When the college in Para closed, he was appointed to the college in Beauvais where he taught for one year. In 1897 he was posted to Blackrock, and the following year he was sent to Rockwell to help with the new senior scholasticate being launched in St Joseph's. One of his students there was Joseph Shanahan of Nigeria fame. Jean taught Sacred Scripture, Moral Theology and Liturgy. When the scholasticate was closed in 1900 he went again to Martinique, where he taught mainly English, and besides being tutor at the college he took part in parish work. When the volcano of Mount Pelée erupted in May 1902 destroying the town of St Pierre with almost all the population, Fr Jean, then ministering in an outlying parish, was one of the few who escaped death.

Transferred to the USA, he taught at the senior seminary of Cornwells and later became director of the junior seminary at Holy Ghost College, Pittsburgh. When this junior seminary transferred to Cornwells in 1906, he went along with it. His health, however, deteriorated rapidly. He then piously prepared for death which came 19 May 1909. He was aged 52 years. BCArch; *BG IV*, 107ff; *BCA* 1962, 199; *SpWW*, 187.

#### **De VALERA, Mr Éamon 1882-1975**



Born 14 October 1882 in New York, he died 29 August 1975. Éamon de Valera, Uachtarán na hÉireann, an alumnus of Blackrock and a professor at Rockwell and St Mary's, Rathmines, had been all his long life closely associated with the Congregation. He was officially affiliated to the Congregation by the Superior General 13 September 1960. Farragher, Seán, *Dev and his Alma Mater*, p. 218.

#### **DEVENA, Br Eugène (Cyrille) 1836-1909**



Born 21 April 1836 in Clairvaux, dept Jura, he entered the Congregation at Notre Dame du Gard in August 1850 aged 14. Coached in the art of shoemaking, he made a pair of slippers for Fr Libermann. His designs in leather revealed his talent for drawing, so Fr Frederick Le Vasseur took him to Paris where he was apprenticed to M. Eugène Schwindenhammer, brother of the Superior General, who resided as an *agrégé* at rue Lhomond, and he was sent to be trained in plaster and stucco work in an Paris workshop. Br Eugène acted as instructor in the arts at the Brothers' novitiate in Langonnet and from 1864 he was called on from time to time to carry out decoration schemes in churches and oratories of the Congregation in France and over seas. His first major commissions were to decorate the new churches at Chevilly, Cellule and Blackrock. Br Eugène was seconded to Blackrock, 1867-69, to collaborate with Fr J.M. Ebenrecht in the interior stucco work of the college chapel, which still happily remains as one of his principal monuments in spite of a narrow brush with a major fire in 1984. Later Br Eugène was called on to cooperate with M. Eugène Schwindenhammer in modifying the interior of the chapel at the Mother house in rue Lhomond. Next he was appointed to St Pierre et Miquelon where he took charge of decorating the church and also taught catechism in the mission school. Returning to France he served as art teacher and decorator in the schools then being conducted by the Congregation at Merville, Rambervilliers, Cellule, Seysinnet and Suse in north Italy. His last years were spent in retirement in Langonnet. Hypersensitive and rather timid, Br Eugène had to suffer much while being respected for his artistic work. Br Eugène Devena died in Langonnet 28 February 1909 aged 73 years. *NB* No. 4 pp 33ff.

#### **DEVENISH, Fr Kevin 1906-1974**



Born 20 August 1906 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Kevin attended St Mary's College until 1923 when he having opted to join the Congregation it was arranged by Fr John English that he transfer to the juniorate in Rockwell. After but a short while there he was co-opted on to the college senior hurling team. The following year he went to the novitiate in Kimmage where he was professed in 1925. After completing Philosophy he professed for three years at St Mary's, Rathmines, which had been reopened as a secondary school in 1926. As the St Mary's R.F.Club had not yet been

reactivated, Kevin played for the Blackrock Club which he captained. As an outhalf he was considered by many as worthy of his place in the Irish team. He continued his studies at Kimmage and in Chevilly and was ordained priest in Dublin in 1933. His first appointment was to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, being stationed at Mombasa and later at Waa. In 1939 he was appointed the first official headmaster of the newly founded St Mary's college in Nairobi. When Ethiopia was taken from the Italians in 1943 the Holy See named Fr Kevin Pro-vicar apostolic of Addis Ababa - a post he held under very difficult conditions till 1947. Returning to Trinidad, he joined the teaching staff of St Mary's, but as he longed for pastoral duties he was appointed pastor of St Joseph's in 1950. Fifteen years later he took over the parish of Curepe. He died in Port of Spain 8 April 1974 aged 67 years and was buried there. *SpWW*, 963

**DEVLIN, Br Sabbas (Joseph) 1880-1958**



Born 1880 in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, he did clerical work before entering the Congregation in 1908 at Castlehead, Lanc., where the Brothers' novitiate was at the time. Professed in 1910 he spent eight years in Sierra Leone teaching in the mission school in Bonthe where in 1912 there were 40 boarders and 120 day pupils. Returning to Ireland in 1918 for his first holiday, he was stationed for a period at Blackrock before being appointed to The Gambia where he was to spend the next five years attached to the mission school at Banjul (Bathurst). There were 350 boys attending that school in 1920. When Br Sabbas returned home in 1924 he was appointed to Rockwell where he taught art till 1934 when he was transferred to the Preparatory School at Blackrock, thus becoming one of the founder members of Willow Park. He taught there for a number of years until his failing health obliged him to retire from active life. Retire he did; he almost became a recluse in the community. Tall and gaunt, with a slight stoop, he was to be seen around Clareville, gliding smoothly along, with his hands up his sleeves and seldom engaging in conversation. Uncritical of others, he was silently charitable. He was seen to be preoccupied with his health: he ate sparingly and eclectically of the few things he thought agreed with him, reducing himself almost to a Dachau diet. This lowered his resistance to cold and gave a pinched look to his long El Greco countenance. During his long life he may have had few intimate friends but he certainly never created an enemy. He spent long, peaceful spells in the chapel and he read nothing but spiritual books. The Mary rather than the Martha type, he lived near the Lord, and his death was as tranquil and as unobtrusive as his life. Br Sabbas Devlin died 21 December 1958 aged 77 years and he was buried in Kimmage. *BCA*, 1959, 63 f.

**DILLON, Fr Matthew 1915-1999**



Born on 28 March 1915 in Gurtaclohane, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Mat did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1933-36. Professed in 1937 he was ordained priest in 1942 and the following year he was appointed to Nigeria. Being wartime he had to endure a perilous time at sea. They had to travel in convoy up by Scotland, out to South America and back over the Atlantic to Nigeria. He served in Owerri vicariate at Mbasi - a newly opened station - and later at Mbutu-Okohia and in Umahia. He did Trojan work. A dedicated man with a sense of humour, "full of divilment" and an ability to socialise. A good singer, and he liked to sing. In 1955 he returned to Ireland and worked for ten years on promotional work, fundraising and mission animation. He

travelled the length and breadth of Ireland showing films at a time when there were few films in rural Ireland. Appointed to St Michael's College, Ailesbury Road, in 1966 he served there until 1971 when he was seconded to the USA to work in parish ministry. After some chaplaincy work in Elmhurst Hospital, Queens, he spent the next twenty years in St Joan of Arc Parish, Jacksonville Heights, New York. The tributes sent for his Golden Jubilee show how much he was appreciated by his parishioners. Ill health forced him to return home in 1994. Stationed at Kimmage he was in declining health and died in Marian House on 28 January 1999 aged 84 years. Fr Matt is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. IPN No.I, 1999; *KNSM* No.175

### **DINAN, Fr Peter (Peadar) 1924-2000**



Born on 13 August 1924 in Maghera, Caragan, Ennis, Co. Clare, Peadar did his secondary studies at Rockwell College, 1939-43. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane, he was professed in 1944. He prefected in St Mary's College, Trinidad, 1945-48, and took his BA in 1950. Ordained priest in 1953 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. His first assignment was to Aguleri where Blessed Cyprian Tansi had worked a few years earlier. After one year Peadar was transferred to Enugu where he is remembered for collecting the funds from door to door to complete the Cathedral at Enugu. In 1960 he was transferred to St Anthony's Teacher Training College at Agulu where he taught Scripture and Liturgy. The following year he was appointed to Aguobu-Owa to found and be the first Principal of Fatima High School in Enugu diocese. In May 1967 he went on leave. As the Biafra war broke out he was assigned to parish work in the Brooklyn area of New York. In 1969 while the civil war was still in progress he availed of an opportunity to return to Nigeria. He went to Aji for a year and then to Awgu area where he lived in the Training College and ministered in St John's Parish, Owelii, till 1973. He was then assigned to St Michael's Parish, Asata, Enugu, where he was to spend the remaining 27 years of his life. When he was appointed in 1973 all he had was £200. There was a coalmine under the old church and it had damaged the structure. So he built a magnificent solid church to seat about 1,500. He designed the windows himself and also the Stations of the Cross. He also built a parish hall, guesthouse for visitors and a catechist's house. Being a Tulla man you will appreciate Fr. Peadar loved traditional music and was no mean step dancer. He was seen to be a dedicated pastor who built up an extraordinary rapport with his flock, knowing them all individually. He received the Chieftancy title of Ochendo I in 1992 from the people of Nigeria for the work he did for the youth of Enugu. He had a special interest in students for the priesthood and would defend them when problems arose, because he had the real gift of being able to see through the accidental flaws to where true quality lay. He was a wonderful host and was much loved by all. During his stay in Tallaght Hospital and in Marian House in Kimmage he was grateful for the many visitors he had, both from members of his own family among whom he loved to be and from his confreres in the Holy Ghost Fathers. The faith he had received in Meghera from his parents and which he shared with his brothers and sisters deepened throughout the years of his priesthood. He had got to know Christ in a deeply personal way during his joyous moments in bringing the good news of Christ to many and through his sharing in His Cross, sharing in Christ's victimhood. Fr Peadar died on 19 May 2000 and is buried in his native Maghera, Co Clare.

## DINAN, Fr Jeremiah Vincent 1907-1975



Born 3 September 1907 in Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, Vincent did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1919-23. He played on the college hurling teams in 1922 and 1923, which won the Leinster Colleges competition, and when the Director, Fr Bertie Farrell, decided to break new ground in having the scholastics produce 'Macbeth' in 1922, he found a good candidate for the title-role in Vincent. He was professed in Kimmage in 1924 and returned to Blackrock to do his senior studies in the Castle. For administrative reasons he and others were not afforded the useful experience of prefecting nor given the opportunity of following a university course. This was one of the economies introduced by the provincial, Fr Joseph Byrne, who was alarmed at the financial state of the Province. While in Theology, Vincent was encouraged by Fr John Kearney to help in the preparation of a revised edition of Archbishop Sheehan's *Apologetics and Christian Doctrine*. At this period his good baritone voice was heard to effect at the ceremonies conducted in the college chapel by the senior students from the Castle on the occasion of the principal church festivals. Ordained in 1929 he was appointed the following year to the staff at Blackrock. He was soon recognised as an excellent teacher. Full of youthful energy, dignified yet affable, he quickly showed his worth. One man who appreciated his talents and personality was the President, Dr J.C.McQuaid. They were to be life-long friends. "In 1930-35 he carried a work-load of six classes a day, with no 'free period', and also had charge of the Day-School, 1933-38. He had a vigorous, alert figure, and a ready smile, and in spite of being busy was unruffled, and his demeanour, in class and out of it, was habitually controlled and good-humoured. He found time to coach senior and junior hurling teams in 1933-35, and the Leinster Colleges Cup came to Blackrock in 1935. He was also a keen tennis player, helping to coach future international player, Joe McHale. His classes included, besides Latin, Christian Doctrine, History and English, and his office in the Day-School was liberally scattered with students' aids which he had prepared for his classes. His neat handwriting appeared on many a sheet of duplicated notes. From his insistence on the role of the Church in teaching, he gained the nick-name, 'The Church', which clung to him for years. He was for a couple of years assistant Director of Junior Scholastics, and in 1938 was made Director. As in the Day-School, he had a generous and kindly approach to all, and he also provided for the Scholastics a more liberal regime than had been traditional, and obtained for them some material amenities. The ball-alley near the Castle was built by him for the Scholastics. In 1939 he was unexpectedly appointed President of Rockwell College, and held the post for ten years. He will for ever be associated with the building of the tower and two new wings; as well as the beautiful stained glass windows, one of which, Our Lady of the Woods, was the gift of his lifelong friend, Archbishop McQuaid. All recollections of him are punctuated by frequent references to his understanding and kindness." He returned to Blackrock in 1949 and was appointed President in 1950. For the next six years he was to carry out a major scheme of developing the college plant. He had big plans for restructuring the general layout of the school building but he soon found that the more pressing needs were the restoring the existing fabric, re-roofing and restructuring the old Castledawson mansion and refurbishing other parts of the college then in urgent need of repair. In this process he did manage to create a thing of beauty in the re-modelling of Our Lady's Hall. The water mains for the college and Willow Park called for renewal as did the whole central heating system. Running water was laid on for the rooms, new toilets for the students, for visitors etc. - many necessary improvements but leaving no money for more ambitious plans. He also restructured

Willow Park, building a complete new classroom wing and oratory, and landscaping the grounds. There were a number of big occasions to be planned and at this work Fr Dinan was at his best, e.g., the formal reception for Cardinal D'Alton, the hosting of a number of congresses, the arrangements for the ordination of Dr Alfred O'Rahilly for whom he provided a new apartment in the Castle. By 1956 as his term of office ended, Fr Dinan must have felt he had not achieved a half of what he had hoped to do. From 1956 to 1962 he was Director of the Castle where he was affectionately known to the sixth year students as the "Veeg", as he had signed VJD so often for them. Snatches from his speeches and pep talks in those days were to be repeated down the years at their reunions. Dr McQuaid had defined the role of the Castle as 'providing a generous measure of controlled freedom.' Fr Dinan used refer to its work for the 6th Form as 'providing a bridgehead onto the untrodden tomorrow.' A big event was invariably referred to as 'this auspicious occasion!' As the centenary of the college drew near in 1960 it was realised that little was being done in preparation. With just six weeks to go Fr Dinan was called on to take over arrangements. He asked for a free hand and was given it. A whirlwind of activity followed in which all were caught up. The college chapel underwent its first major refurbishing since the Silver jubilee in 1885. The reception areas also underwent a major overhaul. Three principal events were planned for and organised to the last detail, invitations sent out, speakers chosen and briefed etc. In the event the occasion proved memorable and 'auspicious' due to Fr Dinan's direction and sense of style. In 1962 he was again called on to act as President. Much was achieved in the next three years though there was a noticeable sense of his having slowed down. A new wing was added to Clareville providing much needed improvement in the accommodation for the confreres, but his plans for the major new college building had to be put on hold. In 1965, when the office of Provincial was to be filled, Fr Dinan was a popular choice. His humanity and his vision were well known by then and there were great expectations. It gradually became evident that his surprising lack of energy had a physical cause. An ailment was gradually sapping his energy, rendering him incapable of responding adequately to the Biafran crisis, changes in the senior scholasticate and its aftermath and other problems. He took part as Irish Provincial in the General Chapter of 1968-69 but in 1970 he was forced to submit his resignation due to ill-health. The resignation and subsequent sudden death of Archbishop McQuaid was one of the many blows that made his final years really sad in spite of the devoted attention of his friends. A debilitating illness left him embarrassingly incapacitated. For a man who had been a dynamo of energy and of fruitful activity, death came as a happy release for him on 31 July 1975 aged 69 years. His last outing had been to Blackrock to assist at the unveiling of memorials to the late Dr McQuaid and to President de Valera by then retired. Dev, whom he had known as a close friend since he had charge of his sons in the day school at Blackrock, was soon to answer the Lord's call as well. It was the end of an era. Fr Vincent Dinan is buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1975 222, 229ff; *IPNI* 1975; *Dev and his Alma Mater* pp 161ff.

#### **DOERNEMANN, Fr Geoffrey 1855-1884**

Born 12 October 1855 in Velbert, Düsseldorf, Germany, Geoffrey studied first at the Juniorate of the Congregation at Marienstatt, but when the Spiritan houses were suppressed under Bismarck, he transferred with the other German aspirants to Ireland. He studied at Blackrock, 1872-4, and profected there for four years. Due to his ill-health he was sent to Pondicherry where he was ordained priest. Returned to France 1883 it was decided that his only chance of survival was that he go immediately to a

warm climate. In a weak state of health he set off for Martinique in the company of a prefect, Mr Metz, and Br Vincentius. Fr Geoffrey Döernemann took seriously ill during the voyage and died at sea 30 October 1884 aged 29 years. *BG* 13, 465; *BCA* 1962 193; *Rath* No.18.

### **DOHENY Fr Kevin F. 1925-2000**



Born on 3 May 1925 in Ballinakill, Co.Laois, Kevin, following in the footsteps of his brother Michael, did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1939-43, with the intention of joining the Congregation. Professed in 1944 he did his studies at UCD where he qualified for the BA in 1950. He then prefected for three years in Trinidad, 1945-48. Ordained in 1953 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to the Owerri district he served one year in Uturu as Master of Novices to St Peter Claver Brothers. He was then transferred to Bishop Shanahan Teacher Training College in Orlu where he served for five years. In 1960 he was appointed Director of Okpala Junior Seminary where he was to serve for ten years while also occupied in relief work during the Biafra war. Obligated to leave Nigeria because of the war he qualified for a Diploma in Social Science on Community Development at Swansea in 1970. In 1972 he was appointed to Ethiopia serving at Addis Ababa in Community Development and Social Work. During the period 1972-1990 Kevin worked all over East Africa for the needy. He helped set up Cheshire Homes in Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He was also involved with prison work in a top security jail in Ethiopia. Later he became involved with prisoners in Iraq before the war there in the early 1990s. He founded Refugee Trust when he returned to Ireland with a view to financing his work for refugees. He continued fund-raising throughout the 1990s. He was tireless in his caring for the disadvantaged poor. While living in active retirement in Kimmage he published a book "*Without Hands*" in which he tells the story of his involvement in social and relief work. Towards the end it became obvious that he was suffering from brain tumour, which eventually caused his death. Kevin died in Marian House on 1 July 2000, Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was 75 years of age. Fr Kevin was buried in the Spiritan plot at Dardistown Cemetery. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KNSM* No. 371.

### **DOHENY, Fr Michael 1915-1992**



Born 8 September 1915 in Ballinalackin, Co. Laois, Mick did his secondary studies in England and at Blackrock, 1932-35. He won a Leinster medal as he played on the college senior hurling team. Professed in 1936 he did his Philosophy in Kimmage followed by three years prefectorial in Blackrock, 1938-41. He did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1944. The following year he was appointed to Nigeria where he served at Ahiara, Aba, and Okpala, 1945-59. As well as his missionary work, Fr Mick was adviser to his confreres in solving questions in Moral Theology and Canon Law. He was then appointed Director of Theology in Kimmage where he served till 1966. Fr Michael was the first director who had already experience of work on the foreign missions and his regime was noted as a period of change in methods of formation. He served on the Promotions team for two years, 1966-68 and then embarked on what was a totally new type of missionary and pastoral work with his active involvement with Concern, a society launched by himself and the Kennedy brothers, Fr Raymond Kennedy and John O'Loughlin in



favour of Biafra then suffering severely from famine. Fr Mick founded the Kimmage Association, he was active in the *Viatores Christi* movement, the African Overseas Club, the Overseas Disabled Association, the Cheshire Homes and International Refugee Trust. His work in administration and publicity for this charitable work saw him actively engaged in fields as far apart as Bangladesh, Yemen, Tanzania and Thailand from 1968 to 1987. With all this activity and the amount of organisation and travel on a world-wide scale involved, he appeared to be possessed of unlimited reserves of energy. He and his brother Fr Kevin were the subject of a BBC documentary in the "This is your life" series because of this outstanding service. In 1987, however, Fr Mick suffered a stroke which confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life as he was being cared for in Marian House, Kimmage. He was seen to bear the cross of illness and inactivity with faith and resignation. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had known him through his work for the poor and marginalised, wrote to console him saying; "In the past you allowed God to use your strength; now allow him to use your weakness." Fr Michael Doheny died 2 April 1992 aged 76 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 2 1992

### **DOHENY Fr Kevin F. 1925-2000**

Born on 3 May 1925 in Ballinakill, Co.Laois, Kevin, following in the footsteps of his brother Michael, did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1939-43, with the intention of joining the Congregation. Professed in 1944 he did his studies at UCD where he qualified for the BA in 1950. He then professed for three years in Trinidad, 1945-48. Ordained in 1953 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to the Owerri district he served one year in Uturu as Master of Novices to St Peter Claver Brothers. He was then transferred to Bishop Shanahan Teacher Training College in Orlu where he served for five years. In 1960 he was appointed Director of Okpala Junior Seminary where he was to serve for ten years while also occupied in relief work during the Biafra war. Obligated to leave Nigeria because of the war he qualified for a Diploma in Social Science on Community Development at Swansea in 1970. In 1972 he was appointed to Ethiopia serving at Addis Ababa in Community Development and Social Work. During the period 1972-1990 Kevin worked all over East Africa for the needy. He helped set up Cheshire Homes in Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He was also involved with prison work in a top security jail in Ethiopia. Later he became involved with prisoners in Iraq before the war there in the early 1990s. He founded Refugee Trust when he returned to Ireland with a view to financing his work for refugees. He continued fundraising throughout the 1990s. He was tireless in his caring for the disadvantaged poor. While living in active retirement in Kimmage he published a book "*Without Hands*" in which he tells the story of his involvement in social and relief work. Towards the end it became obvious that he was suffering from brain tumour, which eventually caused his death. Kevin died in Marian House on 1 July 2000, Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was 75 years of age. Fr Kevin was buried in the Spiritan plot at Dardistown Cemetery. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KNSM* No. 371.



### **DONNELLY, Br Anacleto (Henry) 1852-1887**

Born 13 June 1852 in Derryoughta, Monasterevan, Co Kildare, Henry entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in October 1877 and was professed in 1880. In 1884 he was transferred to Blackrock. Two years later he was affected by a form of rapid



tuberculosis which proved terminal. The only note extant about him is that he was a devout person. Br Anacleto died at Blackrock 12 March 1887 aged 35 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange RBR & BCJ 12 March 1887

### **DOODY, Fr Jerome 1909-1978**



Brother of Fr Michael who died 21 December 1933 (q.v.), Jer was born 1 September 1909 in Monegea, Co. Limerick. Educated at Blackrock, 1924-8, he played with the Blackrock RFC 1st XV while prefecting in St. Mary's, Rathmines. Ordained in 1936 he was appointed to the Kenya mission where he was to spend the next 41 years. While he worked in Nairobi City and the Kiambu area as Diocesan Procurator, Consultor, Dean and District Counsellor, it was at Kagwe Mission that he made his mark as founder and developer. He saw it grow from a dim possibility to be a full parish with convent, secondary school and hospital, together with its own outstations. His principal concern was always with people, young and old; he had an unrivalled knowledge of people, their names, way of life. While at Kagwe he knew the name and the parents of every child in the school. His concern for the people came easy to him as he treated them as his brothers and sisters. He is reported as saying that the inspiration to undertake the work of evangelising the Kikuyu people came from contact with Bishop Joseph Shanahan, who had come to reside in Kenya in 1938. In 1968, as a token of their appreciation of his work among them Fr Jer was elected Elder of the Kikuyu Nation and formally installed in that position, thereby achieving a rare distinction for a white man. During his last years when affected by serious illness, those close to him saw his courage. He would not think of retiring from the work to care for himself. He would just remark: "Tis nothing" and continue with his work. He had one rare reminder of his healthier days when the Blackrock RFC made a tour of Kenya in 1971 and he had the opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with some of his former team mates. While home on holidays, Fr Jerome Doody died unexpectedly 27 August 1978 aged 69 years. He was buried in Rockwell where his brother, Fr Mick, was also buried. BCArch; *INL* 35, Dec 1978; *BCA* 1979, 206.

### **DOODY, Fr Michael 1905-1933**



Born 19 September 1905 in Monagea, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, Mick did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1919-24. Professed in 1925 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, followed by two years as prefect in Rockwell, 1927-29. He continued his studies in the Castle and was ordained in 1932. He was one of those who showed signs of being affected with tuberculosis but, having been so strong and healthy till then, it was hoped that he would shake off the disease as some others had done. Appointed to The Gambia, where he was anxiously awaited by Fr John Meehan, Fr Mick sailed for Africa in November. We take up his story from the account given in the *Blackrock College Annual*, 1934: "Fr Doody left the boat for his future mission completely broken in health and with the signs of death visibly stamped on him. He re-embarked immediately for Ireland, but had to put in at Plymouth where he died next day. So passed to his reward a most saintly and zealous young priest and a charming confrere". A companion writing in the *Missionary Annals* tried to convey the sense of shock and loss felt by all; "Word of the death of Fr Doody, with all its pathetic details, came as a shock and a surprise to all who knew him. A short time ago he seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of energy - he was

the sturdiest, and played most strenuously on the football field; a few years back in Rockwell, he was the stalwart who set the pace for his lively forwards. It is hard to understand how his powerful frame and vigorous constitution gave so short a battle. But his strength really beguiled him into underestimating the seriousness of the symptoms of his malady; he received the heart-breaking news before arriving in The Gambia that he must retrace his steps to Europe. Fr Michael was a good religious; gay and cheerful during recreation, calm and recollected during the times of silence; sympathetic and kind-hearted towards others, and showed the brightest prospects for his future as a missionary." Fr Michael Doody died 21st December 1933 aged 28 years. He was a brother of Fr Jerome, qv., and, lest he should have also contracted the disease, he was sent to East Africa immediately after his ordination where he was to enjoy good health for many years to come. By a happy coincidence both Mick and Jer were to be laid to rest in the Rockwell cemetery. *MA*,1934; *BCA*, 1934,119f.

### **DOOLEY, Fr Patrick 1885-1918**

Born 13 February 1885 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Patrick began his studies at Rockwell but when the Juniorate closed there in 1898, instead of going to Blackrock with the other students, he went to join his uncle, Fr Patrick McDermott CSSp, at the Juniorate in Pittsburgh, USA. He left the college to go to work for two years. He returned, however, and resumed his studies for the priesthood in 1904. Professed in 1908 at Ferndale, he profected for a year at Pittsburgh and was ordained in 1913. Two years later he was transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, to teach in the college but tuberculosis forced him to return the following year to USA. Fr Patrick Dooley spent two years in a sanatorium and died 29 September 1918 aged 39 years. He was buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG XXIX* 258; *SpWW* 256.

### **DOOLEY, Fr Richard 1869-1909**



Born 15 February 1869 in Wellbrook, Freshford, Co. Killkenny, Richard was a student at Blackrock, 1883-89, and acted as prefect for some years there prior to 1890. There were two Richard Dooleys in the Juniorate at the time, both from the Freshford area, and records do not clearly distinguish between them. One of them profected for a while at Mesnières College in Normandy. The Richard who persevered in his vocation was ordained at Chevilly in 1894 and was appointed to Rockwell the following year. He spent three years there teaching Mathematics, Latin and English. A photograph from that period shows him as director of the Sodality, and in group-photo of the community Thomas McDonagh of 1916 fame is to be seen standing behind him with his hand resting on his shoulder. In 1898 Fr Dooley was transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, where, apart from his duties in the classroom, he was Dean of Discipline, a post which involved supervising all games. He also took charge of the preparation of the young boys for their First Communion. In 1902 he was transferred to St Mary's, Port of Spain, where, among other things, he was chaplain and counsellor the students, conducting all three sodalities and spending much of his time in the confessional. Indeed he soon became one of the favourite confessors in the island. He was much in demand for parish ministry. Eventually, in January 1908, he was appointed as pastor of the all black parish of Diego Martin where he soon became very popular with his flock in spite of his demanding programme of reform. In his efforts to renew the religious life of the parish, which left much to be desired in certain respects, he organised a mission with the aid of other

priests. The results were universally applauded. Fr Richard organised a celebration for the choir and the altar boys who had helped during the mission. He took them to the sea side for a picnic, and then to get a better panoramic view it was decided to climb up a hill. On seeing that the area was too dangerous he ordered the children to go back down. In his efforts to marshal them to safety he accidentally lost his footing and fell to his death over the cliff side to the horror of all. He met with his tragic death 25 January 1909 aged 40. The local paper wrote of him: "His winning sympathy, his inexhaustible kindness, his care of the children and the schools of the parish, all seemed to stamp him as one destined by God for a great mission, the spiritual regeneration of the North-Western corner of the island... The young men had rallied round him, the old sodalities put on the ardour of youth. A new spiritual era had opened....". The administrator of the diocese, Fr John Dowling OP, had been a companion of Richard in the National School in Freshford, was soon to become archbishop of the Island of Trinidad. *NB* IV 14ff; *BCA* 1909 124f; *CIC* 1913 60.

### **DORAN, Br David (Michael) 1856-1913**

Born 29 September 1856 in Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, Michael entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1877 and was professed in 1879 taking the name David. Appointed to the Rockwell community he was to serve there as cook for the next fourteen years. In 1893, when he was already 37, he set out for Nigeria being the first Irish member of the Congregation to serve there. His departure for Nigeria was the result of a visit to Ireland by the head of the mission, Fr Joseph Lutz. That year also saw the arrival in Nigeria of Fr F.X. Lichtenberger, who had done his secondary studies at Blackrock. The *État* for 1895 gives Br David as stationed at Onitsha where he taught in the small mission school with 35 students. He continued with his old métier as cook and later took charge of the mission vegetable garden. There were two French Brothers and five Sisters of the St Joseph of Cluny congregation at Onitsha. By 1898 a small boarding department had been added to the school but the numbers were still restricted. Br David still attended to his duties as cook and gardener and had the assistance of two native catechists. The next Irishmen to arrive on the scene in 1902 were two other Tipperary men, Fr Patrick McDermott and Fr Joseph Shanahan, and Br Eusebius Aherne from Co. Waterford. As the years went on the numbers catered for in the school at Onitsha had climbed to 450 but by then Br David's energy to cope had been undermined by life in the tropics. Fr Louis Ward, the priest in charge at Onitsha, wrote in his official report that Br David was well and dedicated to his work in the school, and in his spare time "he looks after hens and ducks, goats, and even cows. He also looks after the garden, providing us with vegetables. He is much appreciated here". Fr Joseph Shanahan in his first letter to the Irish provincial, Dr Edward Crehan, dated 23 May 1908, has this to say about Br David: "Br David, formerly of Rockwell, is feeling very shaky after his sixteen years of West African life. He is in absolute need of a trip home. He is alone with Fr Ward in a station called Ogboli. He is in charge of a school of 450 children with pupil teachers etc. I have nobody to take his place. So all I have got to do is to appeal to your missionary heart. Six years ago, when I went there, there was not a Christian in the place and only 25 urchins in the school. I was followed by Fr McDermott and now Fr Ward and Br David. There are over 300 Christians and as many neophytes, 70 communions every 1st Sunday of the month, 450 children in the school." The real purpose of that letter was to have Br Adelm, Shanahan's uncle, released from his duties in Rockwell to take Br David's place. When Adelm arrived in Nigeria the following year, Br David went home for his long earned rest. He was then 53 years of age and it was felt that he

would not be able to face the tropics again. In the meantime he was stationed at Blackrock and after sometime was put in charge of the college farm in Nutley. One evening, when coming home by tram, he was hit by an oncoming vehicle as he went to cross the road to the college. Br David Doran died in St Michael's hospital a short time after 19 December 1913. Br David was aged 57 years. RBJ; He was buried in Dean's Grange. GenArch; *État*; BG 27 470; IPArchives; BCA 1993 11ff; BCJ 20 December 1913

### **DORR, Fr Declan F.1932-1991**



Born 18 July 1932 in Mohill, Co. Leitrim, Declan came as a boarder to Blackrock in 1945 and in 1950 he decided to enter the Congregation. Professed in 1951 he did his studies in Kimmage and profected in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1953-55. During that period he took the London City and Guilds Diploma in Letterpress Machine Work. Ordained in 1958, he was appointed the following year to Nigeria, serving in the Owerri Diocese. He was assistant to Fr Joe Carter, 1960-64, at Ahiara, and Parish Priest of St Dominic's, Ezinihitte East, from 1964, a parish of 20,000 Catholics. He also was Diocesan Director of the Children of Mary. He developed a close friendship with his Bishop, Dr Joe Whelan, and they were among the last group to be expelled from Nigeria in 1970. In 1971 Declan did a course in Rome in Spirituality, Youth Guidance and Counselling, after which he was appointed Assistant Master of Novices in Kilshane. In December 1974 he arrived in Ghana together with Fr Christy O'Brien and was appointed Parish Priest of Maaso Ofinso, which included a large mission hospital of the Sisters of St Louis, schools and many outstations, some as far away as 36 miles. While totally committed to pastoral work he also looked after a group of young men who were being prepared as aspirants of the Congregation. When the West African Foundation was set up and the novitiate opened at Bwiam in The Gambia, Declan became more involved. Later, when Fr Hugh Davoren of the English Province had completed his period as Master of Novices, Declan moved from Ghana to Bwiam as Novice Master. He was to serve eight years in that post, first in Bwiam and then for two years in Ejisu, outside Kumusi City in Ghana. It was there that Declan died suddenly. He died as he lived, hard at work. The Lord called him 31 May 1991; he was 58 years of age. BCA 1966 p.61; IPNI No 4. 1991

### **DOWLING, Fr James 1880 - 1946**



Born 12 January 1880 in Rathvilly, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny, James was one of several from that county to come to the Juniorate at Blackrock in those years. He spent six years at the College, 1893-99, following his secondary course with Matriculation and 1st Arts in the RUI Examinations. He did five years as a prefect in Rockwell, 1899-1904, together with Thomas McDonagh and Leonard Graf. Dev, who was a lay teacher there at the time, was so close to these prefects that, when the novitiate was opened at Prior Park, Bath, he thought seriously of joining them as a novice. James was professed at Prior Park in 1905, but before being allowed to go to France to do his higher studies he was called on to do a sixth year as prefect - this time at St Mary's, Rathmines. Ordained in Chevilly in 1910 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he had charge of St Edward's primary school at Freetown. He also took an active part in parish work. Always a hard worker he was valued in

particular for his cheerfulness, his sense of humour and his heroic service during the 1918-19 flu. His own health suffered in that ministry and he had to return to Ireland in 1919. As soon as he had regained his energy he was active throughout the country as a very successful missions propagandist, working under the direction of Fr Michael Meagher who had also been forced by ill-health to return from Sierra Leone. He was then attached to St Mary's, Rathmines, for the rest of his years, where, as well as teaching, he had the duties of bursar from 1928. Fr James Dowling died 17 January 1946 aged 65 years. Fr Dowling is buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1945 23f.

**DOWNEY, Fr Michael J. 1921-2001**



Born on 1 November 1921 in Garanboy, Adare, Co. Limerick, Mick did his secondary studies at St Munchins College. After his novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1941. He studied at Kimmage and at UCD where he gained the BA. After one year's prefecting in Rockwell, 1944-45, he did his Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1948.

Appointed to Kenya the following year he served at St Peter Claver's in Nairobi. At the beginning, before he became Parish Priest, he was in charge of the school there. After a full day's work in the school, he went to the large King George VI Hospital in the suburbs of the city to visit the sick. With the help of a devoted group of people from the Legion of Mary he absolved, baptized and blessed patients. He rarely returned home before 10 pm. This was a demanding and exhausting schedule. Following on his stint in Nairobi City he served in Thika and Kalimoni. After thirty years service in Kenya he returned to Ireland where, in 1980, he took up a hospital chaplaincy at St Mary's, Drumcar. The following year he served as hospital chaplain in Daly City, California. He then returned to Parish Ministry in Ireland. Appointed in 1983 to Tallanstown, Dundalk, Co. Louth, he constantly visited the sick in their homes and in the hospitals of Drogheda and Dundalk. He established a good rapport with the people of the parish. He was to serve there for seventeen years. He himself was brought by sickness to the hospital in Drogheda in 2000 and then to Marian House at the beginning of 2001 where he died on 6 March aged 79 years. Many people from the parish came to assist at his funeral mass celebrated by the Primate, Archbishop Seán Brady who had a special *grá* for Fr Mick. Fr Michael was buried in the cemetery at Tallanstown, Dundalk. IPrNI No. 2 2001; *KEASM* No.582

**DOWNEY, Fr Michael J 1861-1936**



Born 8 May 1861 in Cork, Michael came as a student to Rockwell in March 1877 but was transferred to Blackrock in 1879 for Senior Grade. He was a prefect at Blackrock the following year and went to France in 1881 to do his senior studies. As he suffered then and indeed all his life from bronchitis, he found the bitter winds at Chevilly during the winter more than he could survive. He was sent back to Blackrock in 1884 where he prefected till 1889, making up his theological studies on his

own. He returned to Chevilly in 1889 and was ordained the following year. In 1891 Fr Michael was appointed to Blackrock and was to serve faithfully in that community all his life. Though he taught in the secondary school, his memory is more closely linked with the university department in the Castle where he was Dean of Discipline, 1891-1900, and Director, 1900-07. He was much appreciated by the students because of his gentleness, understanding and courtesy. He was affectionately referred to by them as "The Bum". One man who treasured his memory was Dev. He was among the few he

invited to his wedding, and as he awaited a sentence of execution in 1916 he penned a farewell note to Fr Downey. On his release from prison, Fr Downey invited him to dinner at the college. As Dev described the pangs of real hunger suffered because of their short rations, Fr Downey remarked: "Edward, you must have found that very trying." In rare facetious mood Dev replied: "Not at all, Father, after the good training you gave us in the Castle." Dev found that Fr Downey was "not amused." Fr Downey had been called on in 1916 to serve as President of the college. By then he was past his best. Despite the difficulties caused by the Great War and the War of Independence, matters went fairly well during his first few years in charge, but gradually there was a noticeable fall off in studies, sport and extracurricular activities. Theatrical productions ceased, Sports day was dropped etc. Fr Downey was poorly backed up for want of competent staff. It was a time when the contract signed by Fr John T Murphy and Mother Katharine Drexel had drained the Province almost dry by sending twenty candidates to the USA to serve in parishes for the blacks. It was only with the arrival of Fr Bertie Farrell as director of the Juniorate in 1921, followed by Fr John Heelan and Fr Edward Leen in 1922 as Deans in the college, that the tide began to turn. The Provincial, Fr Con O'Shea, had tried to persuade Fr Joseph Byrne to return from the USA in 1920 to take over as President from Fr Downey but the picture had been painted so black that Fr Byrne felt he was not the man to tackle the job. Fr Downey was not replaced till 1925 when Fr Edward Leen was appointed President. Fr Downey was advised to take a year's rest, part of which was spent at Monaco as guest of his former confrere, Fr Max de Waubert de Genlis(qv.). On his return he endeavoured again to take some classes and served as confessor for the students. Fr Michael Downey, who had suffered from indifferent health all his life, died 17 November 1936 aged 75 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA*, 1936, 93f; 1962, 219; *BG*, 38, 496f.

### **DOYLE, Fr Patrick J      1898-1978**



Born 1 February 1898 in Holy Cross, Co. Tipperary, Pat joined the De La Salle Brothers - the Order, incidentally, that Claude Poullart des Places was in contact with shortly before his death with a view to have his young priests serve as chaplains in their teacher training schools. Pat was attached to the De La Salle school in Dunmanway, Co. Cork, when he was wounded by a drunken Black an' Tan. He then went on the run, leading a hedge-schoolmaster's life. In 1923 he met Bishop Joseph Shanahan, then busy about the founding of the Holy Rosary Sisters, and they arranged that he would go to Nigeria in the company of Fr William O'Donnell. He entered the seminary started by Shanahan for native vocations, doing his philosophy course under the direction of Fr O'Donnell in the company of John Anyogu, Charlie O'Donoghue and Blessed Cyprian Tansi (later O.Cist.). Pat was directed in 1926 to return to Ireland to do his novitiate and theology course at Kimmage. Ordained in 1930 he was appointed next year to Nigeria where, because of his training as a teacher, he was assigned to St. Charles Training College, Onitsha. During the six years he spent there he remodelled the plant and erected a beautiful church. When in 1937 the Franciscan Brothers from Mountbellew, Co. Galway, came to Nigeria they were given charge of the Training College and Fr Pat was assigned to new work, namely, to supervise the planning and erecting of new buildings in various places throughout the mission. He took to his new task with enthusiasm and success. Among the monuments to his skill and taste are the Staff House at Okpala, the Training College at Umahia, the hospital complex at Amaicbo and the Spiritan Scholasticate at Awo-mama. Thirty years of this

dedicated work eventually took its toll even of his robust constitution. He returned to Ireland to recuperate but after a rest he resumed duties in the classroom in St. Mary's, Rathmines, for two years. He was then appointed Superior of the community and Brothers' novitiate at Ardbraccan, a post he held for six years. He then retired to Kimmage where the changes in the Congregation and in the church at large caused him much worry and grief in his last years. His early training to a life of strict discipline and his later wholehearted participation in the extending of the church in Africa, made it very difficult for him to accept these changes. Fr Patrick Doyle died 16 August 1978 aged 80 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 34, September 1978.

#### **DRISCOLL, Mr Florence 1879-1900**

Born 30 Nov. 1879 in Whitehall, Carrickcross, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Florence came to the juniorate at Blackrock 24 Feb.1894, where he was a contemporary of both the Daniel Walshs, Jim Burke, etc. He received the soutane 25 March 1898 and was appointed prefect of the senior study the following year. Affected by galloping tuberculosis, it is recorded that "he died 'a holy death having received all the sacraments.'" The date of Florence's death coincided with the arrival of Queen Victoria in Ireland; her cortege passed by the college that day. After the funeral service at the college Florence was buried in the special plot reserved for members of the Congregation in Deansgrange. His death took place 3 April 1900 aged 20 years. *BJR* No.620; *BG XXI* 129.

#### **DUFF, Mr Frank 1889-1980**



Born 7 June 1889 in Dublin Frank Duff died 7 June 1980. An alumnus of Blackrock, 1899-1907, and founder of the Legion of Mary - an association which has proved invaluable on the foreign missions - he was officially affiliated to the Congregation 2 February 1948. *Kimmage Theologate Journal* 2 February 1948 and *BG* March 1948; *BCA* 1981 p.178f.; *ibid.* 1989 pp23ff

#### **DUFFY, Mr Anthony 1936-1960**

Born 2 August 1936 in Drumrath, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan, Anthony was a student at Blackrock, 1949-54. Professed in 1955 he did Philosophy in Kimmage and was appointed to Rockwell as prefect. Though he had been quite robust and athletic all along with an obvious zest for life, worries were being expressed about his health. When he returned to Kimmage to begin Theology it was discovered that he was suffering from leukaemia. His illness required several periods of hospitalisation, but he retained his cheerful disposition to the end. Anthony Duffy died in hospital 25 February 1960 aged 23 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BJJ* No. 1754

#### **DUGGAN, Fr James 1918-1977**



Born 19 January 1918 in Main St, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, Jimmy was a student at Rockwell, 1932-36. Professed at Kilshane in 1937 he went on to take a BA degree in Classics at UCD in 1940. Having completed Philosophy in 1941, he prefected at Blackrock, 1941-43, and was ordained priest in 1947. Appointed in 1948 to Nigeria he worked in the diocese of Owerri. He served at Holy Ghost College, Umuahia, and later at Owerri where he was Supervisor of Schools. The Civil War and

failing health severed his connection with Nigeria in 1967. In 1969 he returned once more to Africa but this time to Sierra Leone. He was attached to St Francis' parish, Bo, until his death. On hearing of his death a friend wrote: 'His understanding of human nature was amazing. I will treasure many lessons learned from observing him in his dealings with Africans and especially the underprivileged. His wry sense of humour was a tonic. In the latter years his acceptance of suffering and his deep faith were remarkable.' On his desk he had a plaque which read - "How precious it is, Lord, to realise that you are thinking about me constantly". Fr Jimmy died in Serabu Hospital (Holy Rosary Sisters), 13 June 1977 aged 59. *État*; *IPNI* 28 (August) 1977.

**DUGGAN, Fr James 1857-1935**



Born 3 December 1857 in Killinaive, Templederry, Co. Tipperary, James was a student at Blackrock, 1878-81, that is just as the Intermediate (secondary) Education and Royal University systems were being launched. James' years at Blackrock were dominated by the intense preparation required for these public and competitive examinations at second and third level. He was called on to act as prefect from 1881 to 1883 and again from 1886 to 1889. Ordained in August 1889 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where he was to serve for the next 31 years. Outside the classroom he was Librarian to the school and first assistant in the community. He served as chaplain to the Reformatory and acted as manager of the Pembroke Intermediate School and Training College. From 1922 till 1931 he served as assistant pastor at St Joseph's parish. Fr James Duggan died 6 September 1935 aged 77 years and was buried in Trinidad. *BCA* 1962 215; *SpWW* 419

**DUIGNAN, Fr Gerard 1910-2001**



Born in Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim, on 23 May 1910, Gerry did his secondary school studies in Blackrock College. Having entered the novitiate in Kimmage Gerry made his First Profession on 19 October 1931. He did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and prefectured in Blackrock College during the years 1933-34. He studied theology at Kimmage and was ordained to the Priesthood on 20th June 1937. After making his Consecration to the Apostolate in July 1938 his first appointment was to the Diocese of Owerri in Nigeria. Fr Gerry ministered in Nigeria for 31 years until the civil war there forced him to return to Ireland in 1969. In 1970 Fr. Gerry was appointed to the USA and served at San Jose Church, Jacksonville, Florida, until he retired to the Mission House at Kimmage in 1975. Due to failing health and old age Fr Gerry transferred to Marian House in early 2000. Having suffered a severe stroke he was taken to Tallaght Hospital where he died on 10 November 2001. Fr Gerry was buried in Dardistown Cemetary.



**DUKE, Fr Seán 1929-1988**



Born 21 September 1929 in Lucan, Co. Dublin, he attended Lucan N.S and Scoil Colmcille, Marlborough St., and completed his studies at Coláiste Mhuire, Parnell Sq. He entered the novitiate in 1946 and after his studies at Kimmage and UCD he prefected for two years at Blackrock, 1952-54. Ordained in 1957 he was appointed the following year to the diocese of Mombasa. He served successively at St. George's High School, Giriama, St. Mary's Seminary, Kwale and St. Mary's High School, Lushangonyi. He returned to Kwale as rector in 1973, and for the last ten years he served as headmaster at Lushangonyi. Seán was totally dedicated to the apostolate of education in East Africa where he spent his entire priestly life. He has been described as a compulsive worker who knew no rest and, though diminutive in stature, his output was king-size. Apart from his pastoral work inside and outside the classroom, his enduring passion was for coaching sports. He was famed throughout Kenya as a sport's administrator and animator. He served as chief time-keeper at most of the important athletic meetings in Kenya, including the All-Africa Games in 1986. It was the only time Seán was ever able to keep, but he did it so well. He was esteemed by all who knew him for his kindness, selflessness, dedication, simplicity and poverty of lifestyle. He set out from Lushangonyi on Sunday 8 May for his round of out-station Masses. Inexplicably his vehicle veered off the road and tumbled some 50 metres. All efforts to save his life were in vain. Fr Seán Duke's death at the age of 58 years was the sixth tragic death of a Spiritan priest in East Africa within the space of two years. *Forum* 58, 1988; *BCA* 1988, 191.

**DUNNE, Br Dunstan (Thomas) 1852-1905**

Born 26 October, 1852 in Monasterevan, Co. Kildare, Thomas entered the novitiate at Rockwell in 1877 and was professed in 1881. Shortly after the opening of St. Mary's, Rathmines, he was sent there as '*portier, chambriste, réfectoirier*'. He was hospitalised and underwent surgery. As he needed a long convalescence he was transferred to Blackrock where he acted as refectorian in the Castle. His illness proved terminal. Fr Ebenrecht announcing his death said: "A man for the good God, a simple and interior soul. Always content with what happened. Whenever someone was criticised in his presence he said: 'Bah; we all have our faults'; and he then changed the conversation." Br Dunstan Dunne died 18 May, 1905 aged 54 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG* XX111, 309.

**DUNNE, Fr James W. 1939-2001**



Born in Dalkey, Co. Dublin, on 24 January 1939, Jimmy did his secondary studies at C.B.S Monkstown. Having decided to enter the Congregation he joined the novitiate at Kilshane where he made his first profession in 1957. He prefected in Rockwell College, 1962-64. He then studied theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1967. The following year he was appointed to Sierra Leone. He worked at Gerihun and Moyamba before opening the Njala University Secondary School. Recalled to Ireland he took up the appointment of Assistant Novice Master in 1975. In 1977 he returned to the West Coast of Africa and worked in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

During this time Jimmy completed his Doctoral Dissertation entitled “Creoles and Catholics in Freetown, 1864-1896”. This dissertation is the history of the Catholic Mission to the Creoles of Freetown, West Africa. In 1992 he was appointed to the West African Foundation at Ejisu, Ghana. In August 2000 was appointed to the position of Irish Provincial Archivist while attached to the Blackrock community. Suffering from a heart condition Fr Jimmy died suddenly 9 December 2001.

Tribute to Fr Dunne from Spiritans of the West African Province:

*...Jimmy, as we affectionately called him, gave the best moments of his life to the beginnings of what is now the West African Province. These moments were spent for us as Director of the pioneering project of the Spiritan House of Theology at Gbarnga in Liberia for the pioneer members of the West African Foundation. He continued as Rector of the Spiritan Institute of Philosophy in Ghana after a brief interlude for doctoral studies. He had before these engagements spent some years in pastoral ministry in Sierra Leone. Jimmy contributed immensely in making missionaries for the Church of West Africa. Spiritans here will forever remember Jimmy. He remains for many of us a mentor. He challenged us to see things in their proper perspectives and to acknowledge the beauty and grace that life offers each day. “The mystery of life”, he said, “is a beauty we can never comprehend”. He opened our horizon and gradually led us to discover that horizons are crucial in the art of interpretation. Jimmy was a deeply spiritual person with a deep sense of respect for everyone he met. We fondly remember some of his inspiring sayings: Prayer is not just saying prayers”, “Everything worthwhile must be suffered into existence”, “you cannot legislate generosity”, “The road to self-discovery is worth taking”. Jimmy, Spiritans of West Africa salute you. We are proud of you. We thank God that he made us pass your way. The Church in West Africa, its priests and vibrant laity embraces you with tons of flowers of gratitude. Through your inspiring guidance, young West African Spiritans have taken their place in the mission of Christ as religious - missionaries sowing and nurturing the seeds of the Word in various corners of the globe. The gentle yet powerful and life-giving witness of your life speaks eloquently and loudly*

### **DUNNE, Fr Michael 1846-1883**

Born 11 March 1846 in Scartaglen, Co. Kerry, Michael did his studies at Blackrock, 1866-9, followed by two years prefecting at Rockwell during which he followed the philosophy course with the Scottish students and the senior scholastics who returned from France because of the Franco-Prussian war. Michael continued his studies in France, 1871-3, but because of ill-health he was stationed at Rockwell for two years, 1873-5. He was already suffering from tuberculosis. Professed in Chevilly in 1876 Fr Michael spent some time at Blackrock and was then appointed to Trinidad in the hopes that the climate there would be more beneficial. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland. He spent some months at Blackrock and Rockwell before being sent this time to the College in Pittsburgh, Pa. Again the state of his health called for his return to Europe. He spent some time at Chevilly and Blackrock. Finally, he went to Rockwell where he died 4 January 1883 aged 37 years. He is buried in Rockwell. *BG XII 689; BCA 1962 171; SpWW 67.*

### **DUNNING, Mr Daniel 1910-1932**



Born 7 1910 in Ballinaculla, Clonown, Co. Roscommon, Daniel did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1923-28, and was professed in Kimmage in 1929. Having done Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, he was then appointed prefect at the college there. After his premature death he was described as follows in the *Blackrock Annual* 1933: "He had the happy knack of combining great friendliness towards the students with complete control over them, so that they scarcely obeyed him as Prefect so much as carried out his wishes as a close friend. To his confrères who knew him intimately he appeared a very cheerful and very serious Religious who went through life seriously but with a smile and did not know what it was to think of his own wants while anything could be done for others. He never thought of himself even when illness came his way, until, willy nilly, he had to obey doctor's advice and cease work. Then a change of climate was deemed necessary for him, and he went to Switzerland to pursue his studies, but God had other designs. He sank rapidly in his new surroundings, and, attended by his brother, Daniel Dunning, died on St John's Day 27 December 1932. He was 22 years of age. The account of his death published in the *Bulletin Général* specifies that Daniel, who had been in excellent health, contracted tuberculosis, as did several in the senior scholasticate at that time. The cure was sleep and rest, but not knowing the nature of his illness in time, he had done harm to his lungs by vigorous exercise undertaken in the hopes of reviving his energy while prefecting. *BCA*, 1933, 72f; *BG*, 36, 360

### **DUNPHY, Mr John Edmond 1890-1913**



Born 8 May 1890 in Cullohill, Rathdowney, Co. Laois, Edmond did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1903-09. When he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis he was sent to Trinidad as a prefect on medical advice in the hopes that a warm climate might help prolong his life. The hoped for cure did not happen for John Edmond: he died in Trinidad 5th October 1913 aged 23 years. *BG* 27, 370; *BJR* 741; *SpWW* 215.

### **DUVAL, Mr Prosper 1841-1869**

Born 5 June 1841 in St-Germain du Corbis, Orne, France, Prosper finished his secondary studies in the juniorate at Langonnet, 1861-62, and began Philosophy the following year. Due to a leg ailment, which had persisted for some years, he had to abandon his studies after six months. Early in 1863 he was sent to Blackrock to assist Jules Botrel as prefect. He was very happy at Blackrock and all were content with his contribution. He is mentioned in despatches by Père Leman as follows in 1865: 'I will release Duval when he is replaced but I do not expect to find his equal in Oliveaux. Duval and Botrel are two excellent young men, very committed, and they have won the esteem of all here.' Prosper returned to France after the school year had ended in 1866. Two letters he wrote to Fr Reffé, Dean of studies, have survived. In one he speaks of the favourable impression created in France by the first set of photos taken in June 1866 of the various activities at the French College, Blackrock. It brought home vividly to those in France what progress had been made in Ireland. The other letter deals with Prosper's own situation. He had no fixed status in the Congregation

and his health was very precarious. He was granted his earnest desire to be allowed to make his private commitment to the Congregation. He was being sent to Trinidad, again as prefect, in the hopes that the climate might help arrest the tuberculosis which was diagnosed. His only fear at this stage was facing the sea journey in his condition. Trinidad did not have the hoped-for effect. Tuberculosis spread throughout his system causing other ailments, but he died happy 13 June 1869, having been allowed to pronounce his vows on his deathbed. He was 28 years of age. He was buried in Trinidad. BCArch; GenArch; *BG VII 336ff*; *SpWW 38*

**DWANE, Fr William 1920-1977**



Born 31 January 1920 in Lisdoonagh, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, Bill did his secondary studies at Mount St Joseph, Roscrea, and entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1938. He studied at Kimmage and UCD securing the BA in 1942, after which he prefected at Rockwell for two years. Ordained in 1946, he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. , 1947-8. Appointed to Sierra Leone, Fr Bill taught at St Edward's, Freetown, 1948-56, and for the next three years he was attached to the Training College at Bo. He was appointed Education Secretary for the Congregation in 1959, residing again in Freetown. In 1966 he was obliged by ill-health to return to Ireland. He served at Willow Park from 1963 to 1976. He is remembered for his unflappable disposition, his dry sense of humour and for the fact that from being the closest shaved member of the staff he sprouted the most spectacular beard ever witnessed in the college. But then Bill always liked to do his own thing. In 1976 he set off for London Ontario where he studied at the Divine Word Centre and served as chaplain at Brescia Ursuline College where he quickly endeared himself to staff and students. Feeling unwell he went to St Joseph's Hospital for a check-up. Fr William Dwane died after a brief illness 28 October 1977 aged 57. *MA*, February 1978; *SpWW 1038*.

**EBENRECHT, Fr Jean Martin 1837-1914**



Born 29 January 1837 in Ammerschwiir, Alsace, 'Mattie' , as he was generally known, was educated at Colmar, in Brittany and in Paris. He excelled at art and read a course in architecture. Instead of being sent to Africa with his classmates, among them Fr Etienne (Edouard) Baur - one of the legendary figures of the missions in East Africa - he was appointed to Blackrock in 1862 as bursar and art teacher. Knowing no English he was taught by lay-professor Peter McDonald, later M.P. He was to remain on as bursar almost till the end of the century and was to pick up many other jobs along the way - art teacher, architect and builder, spiritual director and counsellor, journalist, missions director etc. The college, founded in 1860, soon needed extra buildings, but in the absence of any financial aid from the government or elsewhere, apart from school fees, economy was vital. The services of an architect, contractor and engineer were dispensed with. Fr Ebenrecht designed and supervised the erection of all the buildings and alterations undertaken in the college from 1866 to 1908; these included the original chapel over St. Patrick's Hall, 1866, destroyed by fire in 1984, the present college chapel, 1867-9, the main wing housing the Juniorate, boarders' dining room, study-hall, dormitories etc., 18689-73, the science rooms off Castledawson Avenue, 1903, the demolition of the houses along Williamstown and the extension of Williamstown Castle, 1903-05. He also designed the chapels at Mount Sackville school and was consulted by Archbishop Edward McCabe about

church buildings in the Dublin diocese. His contribution to the life of the school was immense, not least in the care he devoted to the students as 'Prefect of health'. One student is reported as having written home: "There are many Fathers in the college but only one mother!" A student of 1872/3 vintage recalling Ebenrecht some eighty-four years later, said: "We had Fr Mattie for drawing and art. He would regularly leave the art class us after having started us off and go out on the scaffolding supervising the builders; he would return to class always carrying a pliers and wire, making rosary beads, never wasting a moment. We knew he was a bit of a show-off and loved a bit of popularity. But we also knew that he cared for us and we loved him." For many years he took charge of the students' Sodalities, senior and junior. In particular, for over forty years he supervised the First Holy Communion group and put all he had into their preparation and the ceremony which made it all a life-long memory. He also conducted the special devotions namely, the Six Sundays preceding the Feasts of St. Joseph and St. Aloysius and the conferring of the numerous scapulars. He was confessor to various religious communities and gave regular annual retreats. He was also the preferred confessor of most in his own community, and had prepared each member as death approached. One of his principal contributions was his supportive action for the Foreign missions, taking care of the needs of missionaries while at home and sending money and goods to the missions. He was the first to introduce into this country on a large scale the collecting of used stamps in aid of the missions, and with the founding of the *Irish Catholic* in the late 1880s he was a regular contributor about mission matters. When eventually a special group was appointed to cater for giving parish missions and doing promotion work 1896, Fr Ebenrecht was the obvious choice as Director. In 1899 he was named national delegate of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. When Clareville was acquired as a special residence for the Provincial and the Mission Band, Fr Ebenrecht was named superior of the house. Another valued service was his keeping in close contact with past students, keeping their records, organising their functions and seeing to it that they were made feel at home when they visited their alma mater. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of his ordination in 1912 they commissioned for him a handsome bronze relief portrait and a splendid gold chalice. One could keep on and on trying to do justice to Fr Ebenrecht's contributions. He has made that easy as in 1884 he began the college journal which, apart from being the main source of information about the school and community and congregation, has much about Fr Ebenrecht's own personal doings. He liked to put them on record and one has not the heart to deny him that right. A man of child-like simplicity in spite of his many talents; a man totally dedicated to the kingdom of God even if he gives the impression at times of limiting its extent to the congregation and the college which he loved. And though he identified completely with the land of his adoption it could also be said that in his accent, his mannerisms and outlook, he never left his beloved Alsace. One of the last entries made by the ailing Fr Ebenrecht in the 10th volume of his journal was about the outbreak of what was to be known as The Great War. Fr John Martin Ebenrecht died 20 August 1914 aged 77 years and was interred in one of the vaults under the church which he had designed and built. GenArch; BG 5, 402f; L.Healy Ms, 10ff; *Père Leman* 3f *et passim*, and of course, Vols I - X of his Journal and 2 Ms accounts he prepared for use at the time of his Golden Jubilee.

#### **EDWARDS, Br Elzear (James) 1849-1874**

Born 10 August 1849 in Ballyscarvan, Moate, Co. Westmeath, James entered the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock in April 1866. When the novitiate was transferred to

Rockwell he moved to there in 1868 and was professed in 1870. He is described as being a good religious who had impressed all by his spirit of co-operation and dedication to his duties. When he developed tuberculosis, which proved terminal, he accepted his cross in a great spirit of faith, thanking God for his vocation as a religious. Br Elzear Edwards died 9 October 1874 aged 25 years. He was the first professed Brother to die in Rockwell and was buried in the recently-opened cemetery there beside an ancient cemetery. *BG X 360; RBR No.40*

### **EGAN, Fr Andrew 1900-1971**



Born 7 March 1900 in Loughmore, near Templemore, Co. Tipperary, Andy entered Rockwell in 1912 as a boarder and after two years joined the Juniorate. An exhibition winner in the public examinations he was also awarded a special medal for Irish in the Senior Grade, 1917. He professed at Rockwell before entering the novitiate in 1921. After his profession he attended UCD, being among the last group of scholastics to do so for some years. Keen on promoting the Irish language he was one of founders of the *Cuman Gaelach* at UCD and contributed several articles to its publication. Being a skilled typist he was among those chosen by Fr John Kearney to help in preparing for the printer the texts of Archbishop Sheehan's manual on Apologetics and Bishop John T. Murphy's retreat conferences. Having completed his Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, in 1928, Fr Andy was appointed to Rockwell where, apart from teaching Irish, he was Dean of Discipline. In 1934 he was transferred to Blackrock where with Joseph Corless, then prefect, he initiated the college tradition in the production of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. A keen exponent of the art of hurling he lent his support to the game at Blackrock thus helping the senior team to secure the Leinster Cup. He also took charge of the boxing club with notable success. He was Dean of Studies, 1937-39, and Dean of the Castle, 1946-49. During these years and later he was to the fore in the promotion of the Irish language and culture. He was an active member of Cumann na Sagart, Chairman of An Club Leabhar, member of the advisory commission of an Gúm, active in the production of Irish musicals in connection with the Oireachtas, which he helped revive, and was Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Oireachtas for a number of years. His love for all things Gaelic was one of the reasons he won the close friendship and admiration of Eamon and Sinéad de Valera. From 1949 to 1955 he was president of Rockwell and during that period he was elected to the Governing Body of UCD and took an active part in the Gaelic world generally. In 1955 he resumed teaching at Blackrock though he was not then seen at his best in the classroom. His flair and drive for organisation was put at the disposal of the Carmelite Sisters, Blackrock, in aid of their major building scheme. He was also of considerable assistance to the Irish Sisters of Charity in connection with acquiring the site for St Vincent's Hospital and in negotiating the restructuring of the Elm Park golf course. During this period he was elected captain of Elm Park Club, and in summer he did supply work for a parish priest in France. A man of wide interests he held strong views which he expressed forthrightly; so it was not surprising that he aroused opposition at times. He had worked hard and valued achievement all his life but in his last years he had to endure a long and painful illness which left him helpless. His uncomplaining endurance of that cross was really heroic. He died in the Hospice at Harold's Cross on the Feast of St Brigid 1971 aged 70 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA 1771 204ff; RCA 1971 86*

### **EGAN, Fr Dermot 1918-1988**



Born on 27 April 1918 in Fairview, Dublin, he did his secondary studies in Rockwell College. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1938 and profected in Rockwell 1939-42. Ordained priest in 1947 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria, serving in the Owerri district doing pastoral work in various localities. Obligated by the Biafra War to quit Nigeria in 1968 he worked in Gibraltar and Bolton Street respectively. In 1970 he was appointed to Sierra Leone. He served in the Diocese of Kenema in Panguma at St Kitzo's parish, and from 1980 in the bishop's residence while serving also at the cathedral parish as assistant. Having qualified as Able Seaman he supervised the transport of large quantities of goods and machinery from Ireland to Sierra Leone to help develop mission work. In 1994 he retired to Kimmage Manor where he died 31 October 1998 aged 80 years. Fr Dermot is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. IPA; KSWAM No.371

### **EGAN, Br Kieran (Michael) 1834-1905**

Born 13 January 1834 in Straduff (parish of Millane), Ferbane, Co. Offaly, Michael was directed to the French College, Blackrock, by the Franciscan Brothers at Clara with the commendation that he was 'pious, capable and a model of Christian youth'. He was 32 years of age when he began his postulancy in 1866 and he asked for the name Kieran, the patron saint of the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. He made his first vows in 1868 and his perpetual vows in 1871. For the rest of his life he was to take charge of the farm at Rockwell and he was to be known far and wide for his expertise in all matters regarding farming. When hard times hit Rockwell during the agrarian troubles and when the attendance at the school dropped alarmingly, the place depended heavily on the expert conduct of the farm under Kieran's guidance. He made good use of the fairs in the surrounding towns. For a period he had to live outside the community as he took charge of the farm at Moycashel, Co. Westmeath, entrusted for a period to the Congregation in lieu of debts. He never neglected his religious exercises no matter how busy he was. Exposed to all sorts of weather as he travelled to and from fairs, he caught a heavy chill which did not respond to treatment. Once he knew the end was approaching Br Kieran handed over all his responsibilities for worldly affairs and concentrated on preparing for his appointment with the Lord. Death came rather suddenly while the students were on retreat. His funeral was the best sermon they remembered. Br Kieran Egan died 20 September 1905 aged 71 years. He was buried in Rockwell. Br Kieran amused himself composing patriotic ballads which he sent each year to his counterpart in Blackrock, Br Laurence Levey. Br Laurence is reported as having considered them worthy of preserving, but none of them can now be traced. BG XXIII 421f; BBR No. 42.

### **EGAN, Fr Daniel 1874-1922**



Born 15 September 1874 in Ferbane, Co. Offaly, Dan entered the Juniorate at Rockwell in December 1890 just as it was being relaunched after a two years closure. He prefected at Rockwell, 1895-99, is featured in the 1898 Club team with Joseph Shanahan, and is reported as having been highly successful in attending to the extracurricular activities of the students, who held him in high regard. He went to the novitiate in France in 1899 and was ordained priest in 1903. Appointed to Rockwell the following year he was to spend the remainder of his life there as professor and director of the Juniorate, 1904-07. He is described as a man totally dedicated to duty, ready to take on any task no matter how demanding on his time or energy. Always available in the confessional he was a popular choice with the students and the faithful who attended mass in the college chapel. He had a gift for preaching and regularly gave retreats to communities of Sisters. Of a robust constitution he had no health problems till the last year of his life. When it became clear that something serious was amiss, he was sent for hospital treatment in Dublin where he was detained for several months. He suffered from debilitating muscular atrophy which spread to all his limbs. When it was obvious that death was approaching, he expressed the wish to spend his last days in his own community which he had served for so long. A confrere travelled with him but, as his state was too weak to complete the journey, they stopped off at Fr Dan's family home. There he died after a few days on 1 July 1922. He was 48 years of age. As the Civil War, which had broken out some 10 days earlier, made travel hazardous, the funeral service was held at Ferbane and Fr Daniel Egan was buried with his own people instead of at Rockwell. RJR; *BG XXXI* 215f

### **ELLIS, Fr. Gerard Francis 1916-2006**

Gerry was born at Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1916. After he completed his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock College he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on September 5<sup>th</sup> 1936. He prefected for two years in Blackrock College (1936-'38) and then earned a B.A. in philosophy from U.C.D. Gerry studied theology at Kimmage Manor, was ordained to the Priesthood on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1944 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1945. In 1946 Father Gerry was appointed to the **Vicariate of Zanzibar**. He did missionary work at *Lioki* and taught at *Kabaa* until appointed to the Teacher Training School at *Kilimanbogo* in 1954. He was Headmaster of this school until 1959. For the next ten years he did parish and school work at *St. Peter Claver's, Nairobi, Kabaa* and *Tala*. Returning to **Ireland** in 1970 after twenty-four years of service in Africa, he engaged in parish ministry at: *Ballymun* in Dublin, *Bray* in Wicklow, *Cabra West* in Dublin and *Greystones* in Wicklow. In 1993 Father Gerry retired as Parish Chaplain in Greystones but continued to help out in the Deanery as the need arose. Father Gerry bequeathed his body to the Anatomy Department of University College Dublin, for the purpose of the advancement of medical knowledge.



### **ELLIS, Fr Liam Oliver 1933-2000**



Born on 14 November 1933 in Carlow he did his secondary studies in CBS Carlow. Having entered the novitiate at Kilshane Ollie was professed in 1952. He qualified for the BA and the H.Dip. at UCD, and prefectured at St Mary's, Rathmines, for two years before doing his philosophy course at Kimmage. Sent to Rome to do his theology he was ordained priest in 1962 and qualified for the STL the following year. His first appointment, 1963, was to Mauritius where he taught for four years at the Holy Ghost College. During 1967-68 he worked in Orlando Diocese, USA, before being appointed to Kenya. He taught for eight years at St Mary's Secondary School, Nairobi, and became its Headmaster in 1970 - a post he held with distinction for six years. In 1976 at the end of the Chapter, where he had taken an active part, he was elected principal Superior of the Spiritans working in Kenya. His visits to missions were always friendly, encouraging and never critical. He also managed to attend every important function in a school or parish which involved the confreres. When his third term of office was over he went to teach at the Queen of Apostles diocesan seminary in Nairobi. In 1989 he returned to Ireland and after serving for one year at Blackrock College he was appointed to Templeogue College where he worked for three years before taking up an appointment in New Barnet, England in 1993. From October 1998 Fr Ollie served as MID to the Parish of Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, where he was to die suddenly on 11 April 2000. He was 67 years of age. He was known as a modest man, never boastful of his considerable talents. He had a very keen sense of duty and a great deal of self-discipline to do what he knew to be the right thing. Fr Oliver was buried in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin. *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KEASM* No. 783

### **ENGLISH, Fr John J. 1884-1959**



Born 7 May 1884 in Chamberlainstown, Co. Tipperary, John followed his brother William to Rockwell where he joined the Juniorate in 1896. When the Juniorate was discontinued in 1898 in favour of an experimental senior scholasticate, he was transferred to Blackrock where he remained till he had taken his matriculation under the RUI in 1904. John was among the first group to go to the newly opened novitiate at Prior Park, Bath, where he had Fr John T. Murphy as Novice master. Returning to Blackrock after his profession he studied for the BA while prefecting. Having secured the BA and the BSc in 1908 he was called on to do another three years prefecting, this time in Rockwell. In 1911 he went to Chevilly to study for the priesthood and, on being ordained in 1914, he moved with the general body of students to Langonnet for his final year because of the outbreak of the Great War. The students in the Juniorate there were somewhat intrigued by this unexpected invasion of their preserve and, many years after, some of them recalled one of the Irish who had a long neck namely, John English, and another Irishman who used jump naked into the canal for an unapproved dip, this being James Mellett. Fr John's first appointment was to Rockwell where he taught Mathematics and Physics. He was also called on to act as Director of the juniorate, 1917-18. Transferred to Trinidad in 1919, he taught science there until his appointment as President of the college in 1925 - a post he held for the next nine years. He extended and modernised the college, related well to youth - founding the Sea Scouts and encouraging vocations to the priesthood. He also took a public stand on social legislation in the island. On his retirement he was conferred by the British Government with the OBE. He asked to be transferred to

Mauritius but the Provincial, Dr Dan Murphy, asked him to remain on as teacher and to be ready to take over as President of Blackrock as there was a possibility then that Dr McQuaid might be appointed bishop of Kilmore. He was appointed president of Blackrock when Dr J.C. McQuaid's term expired in 1939. To follow Dr McQuaid proved a difficult act for one who had been so long abroad and accustomed to a different style of life. Matters were not helped by the austerity régime he had to introduce because of the shortages created by the war. He never really felt at ease in this post and gradually spent more and more time in the newly acquired farm in Enfield, Co. Kildare. When replaced as President by Fr Michael Kennedy in January 1942, he gladly returned to Trinidad the following year where he felt far more at home at pastoral work to which he devoted the rest of his years. He worked in the parishes of San Juan and Diego Martin but especially at Petit Valley and St Anthony's Church. In 1957 he was forced by his infirmities to retire to Fatima College, and in 1959 he had to return to Ireland for medical treatment. His last months were marked by intense suffering borne with characteristic fortitude and cheerfulness. He was cared for by the Sisters of Mercy at Cashel Hospital, Co. Tipperary, where his niece was a member of the community. He died on 1 October 1959 aged 75 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *CIC* 1960, 43 and 1963 88ff; *IPNI*, Dec. 1959, 33ff; *BCA* 1960 206ff; *SpWW* 690

#### **ENGLISH, Fr William 1878-1910**



Born 2 September 1878 in Chamberlainstown, Co. Tipperary, Bill entered Rockwell in 1892 together with Thomas McDonagh of 1916 fame and Fr Paddy Walsh who was to be his life-long friend. Bill appears in a school photo of prize-winners together with future Bishop Joe Byrne and Larry Graf of later Trinidad connection. Bill prefect at Rockwell, 1896-7, and at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1897-1901. Professed in Orly in 1902 he went to Chevilly to complete his studies for the priesthood. Ordained in 1906 he was appointed again to St Mary's. A keen swimmer, he arranged with Fr Paddy Walsh early in October 1910 that they would go to the Vico for their last swim of the season after he had said the 11 and 12 masses at Arran Quay. He cycled to the Vico and though the sea was rather choppy, he and Fr Walsh swam out to the buoy. On the return trip to the jetty Fr Bill got into difficulties and called for help. Fr Walsh had succeeded in helping him to within grasping distance of the jetty when a huge wave swept him from his grasp, carrying him out to sea. All Fr Walsh could do was give him absolution. The body was recovered some days later jammed between the rocks. The shock of this traumatic experience was to affect Fr Walsh for the rest of his life. Fr William English died 3rd October 1910 aged 32 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. His brother John CSSp was a prefect at Rockwell at the time of the tragedy. *RJR*; *État*; *BG* XII, 787.

#### **ENRIGHT, Fr John B. 1917-1999**



Born on 26 May 1917 in Ballyline, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, John completed his secondary studies at Rockwell 1935. Professed in Kilshane in 1936 he qualified for the BA degree in 1939 and did one year as prefect in Rockwell, 1939-40. Ordained to the priesthood in 1943 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He was sent to Northern Nigeria where he replaced German priests uprooted from their ministry by the Second World War. He worked in education for the next ten years. He was

then transferred back to Owerri where he was Education secretary. In this post he had hundreds of teachers under his management, and in an emerging country there was always the danger of conflict. His own strength and his respect for people carried him through. He also acted as Principal of Holy Ghost College, Owerri, where he was an immediate success with staff and students. He was destined to spend most of his years occupied with education at a time when Catholic education was reaching its greatest expansion under the direction of Fr John Jordan in particular. After being Principal of Mt St Mary's Teacher Training College at Oturpo in the Prefecture of Benue for three years, he was transferred to a similar post at Bishop Shanahan Teacher Training College, Owerri. In 1966 he undertook the duties of Educational Supervisor. Obligated to quit Nigeria because of the civil war he returned to Ireland and was appointed to parish work in the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. He served in Gowla, 1968-74, and in Arigna, 1975-96. The gentleness of his approach made a deep impression on people. This gentleness expressed itself in his care for the sinner, i.e. those whom the world made outcasts, in his healing those who were wounded in body or soul. His gentleness brought him a host of friends. He was looked on as an exceptional host. He was always seen to be a man of peace. Due to a fall in 1996 he was no longer able to climb the steep approach to the church. Strong men offered to carry him up that hill while he was still able to stand at the altar. Eventually he had to retire from his beloved parish ministry and went to live with his family in Co. Kerry. Fr John died in Tralee Hospital on 26 November 1999 aged 82 years. He was buried with his family in Ballylongford, Co. Kerry. *IPN* No. 5 1999; *KNSM* No. 186

#### **EVANS, Fr Hugh 1860-1943**



Born 7 October 1860 in Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, Hugh was a boarder at Blackrock, 1875-78, and then opted to join the Juniorate. Twice he was awarded the General Excellence medal and on the second occasion he was given an additional prize by Père Leman for excellence. He completed his secondary studies in 1880 and prefectured for two years at Blackrock. After two years in the senior scholasticate in France he was called on to go as prefect to Rockwell for another two years. Ordained in 1889 Fr Hugh was appointed the following year to the newly founded school and community at St Mary's, Rathmines, thus becoming a founder member. He taught mostly music and art, these remaining his specialities through life. In 1898 he was appointed once more to Rockwell, this time as bursar. This was the period of the experiment with a senior scholasticate at St Joseph's, and the fact that the community there were poorly provided for was not Fr Evans' fault as he had no brief for that house. The fact that Rockwell made history in producing one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas may be traced to Fr Evans as he was known to have a special predilection for this genre of musical all his life. When the Juniorate was reopened in 1900, Fr Evans was the obvious choice as director. Many from the boarding school joined the Congregation at this period. It would appear, however, that Fr Evans, being disappointed with the standards he was achieving among the aspirants, asked for a change. From 1903 to 1907 he served on the Mission Band, which had its headquarters at Clareville, Blackrock, the provincialate in those days. In 1907 he was called on once again to take on the role of bursar, this time at Blackrock. When Fr T.A. Pembroke had to resign as superior of Rockwell due to ill-health in 1912, Fr Evans was called on to replace him. In 1916, when Fr John T. Murphy ceased to be superior of Kimmage on being appointed bishop in Mauritius, it was felt that the time had come to appoint Fr Dan Walsh as director of the Senior Scholasticate and Fr Evans was called on to

replace him as Master of novices. He was also appointed superior of the whole community. It is the Fr Evans of this period, 1916-33, that most people were to remember because of his formative influence not merely on the novices and the senior scholastics who referred to him as “Daddy Evans”, but also on the province as a whole: his input in council meetings and above all his cultured and humane approach to life were influential. He strove to foster an atmosphere of refinement in taste and behaviour and a love for what was beautiful. He did much to improve the grounds and buildings in Kimmage, adding a new elegant wing in 1929. Not all were enamoured of his style of formation, especially in his later years. It was felt that a more stringent and Spartan training was required to prepare people for life on the missions. When the new novitiate was started at Kilshane in 1933, it was seen to be an opportune time to appoint a new master of novices. The different approach in formation that followed led to this first generation of Kilshane novices being known to their older confrères as “the Harriers” when some of their numbers pressed their senior confreres for more conformity to the rule. Fr Evans was appointed superior of Kilshane - a post he retained till his final stepping down in 1938. He spent his last years in St Mary's, Rathmines, where he had begun life as a priest in 1890. After a full life in the service of the Lord in the Congregation Fr Hugh Evans died 23rd December 1943 aged 83 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. It could be said that his death was the end of an era in the Irish province which he had served so well. *BCA* 1942, 30, 1944, 37f; 1962, 203f

#### **FAHEY, Fr Denis 1883-1954**



Born 1883 in Kilmore, Golden, Co. Tipperary, Denis attended the local National School at Knockavilla before transferring to nearby Rockwell as a boarder in 1895. He was a promising student and secured several Exhibitions as he was pressed to his limits by Dr Crehan. Among those who were students at the time were Thomas Mc Donagh, Michael Browne, future cardinal, Padraic O'Conaire, Leonard Graf and Edward Leen. It was not all study for Denis: we see him featured in a photo of the college play, *Richard II*. In 1900, then aged 17, he decided to opt for the Congregation and was sent directly to the novitiate at Grignon near Paris. The following year he was placed at St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect. In 1903 he was transferred to Blackrock, again as prefect while at the same time studying at the Castle for his degree at the Royal University. He took his BA in Civil and Constitutional History, Political Economy and General Jurisprudence. He had no difficulty in taking 1st place and 1st Class Honours but he had some difficulty in maintaining discipline in the junior study. As he needed time for his own studies he called on the smallest boy, Paddy O'Connor, of future CSSp fame, to mount the rostrum. One scowl from him was enough to cause any would-be-trouble-maker to wilt. Again it was not all study and discipline. Denis features on the 1st Castle Club Team and he had the honour of playing at Lansdowne Road. That left its mark on him: he said he always felt a pain in his shin as he passed the place in later years intent on pastoral engagements of a different nature. At the end of his university course he burned his textbooks because of the false philosophy he had discovered in them. He went on to study scholastic philosophy at Prior Park and when it closed he moved to France. He was sent to do his theology at the Gregorian University in Rome where he gained the Doctorate in Theology and he also secured a Doctorate in Philosophy at the Academy of St Thomas Aquinas. Ordained in 1910 in Rome, he returned to Ireland in 1912 and was appointed Director of Scholastics and professor of

Philosophy in the recently established scholasticate at Kimmage Manor. Apart from an interval during the first World War, 1916-19, when he was ill in Switzerland and acted as chaplain to British soldiers interned at Müren in the Bernese Oberland near Lucerne, he remained professor of philosophy till his death. The philosophy he taught was distinctly Thomistic; he tolerated not a whisper of anything else. He defended Thomistic philosophy so well against attacks from a member of another religious society that he was invited to sing the High Mass in the Dominican community in Tallaght on the feast of St Thomas! Thomistic philosophy was for him not a mere matter of intellectual exercise: he saw it permeating all reality from contemplative prayer, through the mechanics of high finance, constitutional law, artificial manures - the whole social order. You name it and he could write a book on the relation between that subject and the 'hierarchical order of being' as seen through the principles of Thomism. Of course all these matters were seen as part of the supernatural order and the Kingship of Christ. One of the great joys in Fr Fahey's life was the institution of the Feast of Christ the King in 1926. One had only to listen to him singing the praises of that Kingdom in the special preface for the Mass for the Feast to realise how his whole heart was bound up in this view of the world order. The problem for others was that his own views on how and where that order of the Kingship of Christ was realised were taken by him as being the only version of the truth; to disagree with his very sincerely held vision of order was to risk being totally written off. And that could apply to his former idols like Jacques Maritain as well as people nearer home. His views on Masonic machinations throughout history since the French Revolution and the designs of world domination by the Zionists led to his being widely known and quoted, for example by 'Lord Haw-Haw' (Wm Joyce) on the German radio, and by Fr Coughlan of radio fame in USA. His books continued to have a certain fascination for some people and they have been re-issued. These people hold that he was a prophet when protesting against the abuse of the earth's resources under pressure from financial organisations. He has been accused by some of fomenting anti-Semitism, of having influenced Dr J.C. McQuaid to be over conservative and restrictive, of having influenced de Valera's drafting of the 1937 Constitution along 'sectarian' lines etc. But Fr Fahey could never have been accused of any personal animosity or ill-will. He lived and fought for the truth as he saw it. As to his life-style it was written: "For over fifty years he had led a religious life that was not merely blameless but most edifying and severely ascetic. He rose before 6a.m., took a cold bath irrespective of time and weather, and spent two hours in the Oratory devoted to prayer, Holy Mass and thanksgiving. His breakfast consisted of some bread, milk, butter and cheese. In fact all his meals consisted mainly of that menu. The rest of his day was devoted to his professional duties, literary work and the ministry. His recreation was mainly in saying his office while walking and in cycling to where his ministry called him." He was a man in whom there was absolutely no guile, and there were those who revered him as a saint. Fr Denis Fahey died in hospital 21 January 1954 aged 70 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1954 102f; *IPNI* 1954, No. 29 13ff.

**FALLON, Fr Michael J. 1925-1991**



Born 11 December 1925 in Curryfarry, Ballinamore Bridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Micilín did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1939-44, and was professed in Kilshane in 1945. He prefectured at Blackrock for two years, 1946-48, and began Theology in 1949. Ordained in 1952 he was appointed to Nigeria where he laboured as a missionary in Agbani, Igbo-Ukwu and Adazi - all areas where there was a wide network of schools to be supervised as part of the missionary's normal work. Came the Biafra war, Micilín was expelled with the other missionaries and he returned to Ireland in 1970. The following year he volunteered for service in Zambia. Forced by ill-health to return home, he joined the Promotions team in fund-raising for the Missions. A coronary bypass proved successful in restoring his health for a period and he spent himself in the service of others, especially the sick as a part of his service in the Promotions team. He was a man of no guile and found it difficult to understand when others proved insincere. The most gentle of persons he never used an uncharitable comment. When appointed to a parish in the neighbourhood of Knock shrine he looked forward to a new lease of life in congenial pastoral ministry but the Lord had other plans for him. He called Fr Michael Fallon home while he was peacefully asleep for the first night in his new home in the parish of Barnacarroll 28 July 1991. He was 65 years of age. He was buried in the family cemetery. BCArch; *IPNL* No. 5 October 1991

**FARRELL, Br Gabriel (Francis) 1905-1985 84**



Born 13 Aug. 1905 in Dublin, Francis was professed in 1923 in Kimmage Manor where he had entered the Brothers' novitiate at the age of sixteen. Br Gabriel's first appointment was to the staff of the *Missionary Annals* at St Mary's, Rathmines. In 1926, when St Mary's reopened as a school, he was posted to Sierra Leone where he worked at Mobe-Sherbo as headmaster of primary schools as well as choirmaster and organist. In 1939 he was transferred to Bonthe, and from 1942 to 1954 he worked at Bo. He was assistant to the Education Secretary from 1955 to 1962 when he was also bursar to C.T.C, Bo. He contributed much to primary education and scouting in Sierra Leone; he was always obliging and helpful, always in good humour and at home in any company. In 1970, after forty four years work in Sierra Leone, he returned to Ireland where he helped for a period in the Annals Office before retiring to the Mission House. After a long illness, being cared for in Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Br Gabriel Farrell died 5 Feb. 1985 aged 79 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNL* 60 May 1985

**FARRELL, Fr Francis J. 1909-1983**



Born 1 October 1909 in Derrygowna, Newtowncashel, Co. Longford, Frank was a student at Blackrock, 1923-28. Professed in Kimmage in 1929, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and prefectured at Blackrock, 1931-33. In 1933 he moved with the Theologians from the Castle to Kimmage and was ordained in 1936. The following year Fr Frank was appointed to The Gambia, where he was principal of St Augustine's Secondary school until 1953. When replaced by Fr Michael

Frawley from Nigeria he took over as Administrator of Banjul Cathedral. He was parish priest in Kanifing and Vicar-General in the diocese until 1972. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland where he was engaged in pastoral work at Turlough Hill and Manor Kilbride for two years. In 1974 he joined the Ardraccan community, and in 1976 he felt well enough to return to The Gambia. There he was among the people he had known and served for almost half a century and he helped out pastorally as best he could. In recognition for his services to pastoral and educational works in the country the Government of the Republic of The Gambia awarded him the Order of Officer of the Republic of The Gambia. It was the first time this award was made to a non-national. Ill-health again forced him to leave for Ireland where he died some months later 23rd November 1983 aged 74 years. In the homily at the funeral mass, Bishop Michael Cleary spoke of Fr Francis Farrell as "a big, strong man both physically and spiritually, a good teacher, a good administrator, and a great priest. He was a man of wisdom and sound common-sense, whose advice was a valuable support to his confreres." He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNL* No. 55, Dec.1983; *BCA*,1984 165f.

### **FARRELL, Fr Herbert 1891-1973**



Born March 1891 in Herbert Cottage, Booterstown Strand, Co. Dublin, Bertie attended Synge St CBS, and in 1902-08 he was a student at St Mary's, Rathmines. In 1908 he played on the school's senior team trained by Fr John O'Reilly. The following year he decided to join the Congregation, being the first student from St Mary's to do so. He went to France in 1909 to do his novitiate and senior studies. From 1911 to 1914 he prefectured at Blackrock. Because of the war the senior scholasticate in France was transferred to Langonnet and it was there Bertie was to do his Theology. During his years in France he became remarkably fluent in French, oral and written. In 1917 he was appointed professor of moral theology in the new senior scholasticate at Kimmage. Closely associated during these years with some of the leaders of the Republican movement, he was of considerable assistance because of his facility in French and competence in shorthand and typing. He kept in close contact with the Republican side after the Treaty and arranged that de Valera's documents were concealed in a safe place at Blackrock till he was released from prison. Appointed director of the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1921 he was to prove one of the most successful directors in the history of the province. He also became widely known and respected for his expertise in psychology, his writings on liturgy and his charisma as preacher and lecturer. The many students who profited from his direction in the Juniorate were to retain the happiest memories of their association with him, and they were generous in their praise of his contribution to all aspects of the life of the school. He was very independent in his manner of behaviour, in particular in the matter of incurring expense for what he considered necessary for the Juniorate. This did not always please his superiors. He was rather summarily relieved of his post in 1931, shortly after Dr J.C.McQuaid was appointed president, and transferred to Rockwell. In 1933 he was assigned to East Africa, where he served in Tanzania's Kilemanjaro vicariate at Kilomeni and at the junior seminary for five years. Returning to Ireland he was pressed into service in preaching retreats and in promotional work for the next ten years. It was during this period that he was seen at his best, combining all his skills as a youth guide, as expert in psycho-therapy, and as an eloquent and inspiring speaker about the missions. His addresses to secondary school students during these years led to an unprecedented increase in vocations, and his retreats for

non-Catholics, organised under the auspices of the Legion of Mary, were equally successful. His charism for treating mental illness through the medium of psychotherapy did not meet with the approval of the medical profession and was frowned on in certain ecclesiastical circles. In 1948 he went to Kenya where he became Educational Secretary of the Zanzibar vicariate till 1954. He was then seconded to Duquesne University where he served as instructor for three years during which time he contributed articles on psychology to the Pastoral and Homiletic Review. In 1957 he was appointed to the new Canaan retreat house. Increasing deafness and other painful ailments forced him to retire from active work. He spent the last thirteen years of his long and fruitful life at Kimmage where he died 2 January 1973 aged 81. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr Herbert Farrell was an uncle of Frs Myles and Desmond Kenny. *BCA* 1973 257ff; *SpWW* 931.

### **Farrell, Father John 1924-2003**

John was born at Honeypark Lodge, Monkstown, Dublin on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1924. After his secondary school studies at St. Mary's, Rathmines, he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1944. In 1947 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. He prefectured at St. Mary's College for the years 1947-'49. John was ordained to the Priesthood in 29<sup>th</sup> June 1952. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1953. In 1953 Father John's first appointment was to **Trinidad** and for two years he taught at *St. Mary's College, Port of Spain*. He returned to **Ireland** in 1955 and was appointed to *Blackrock College*. During the years 1955-'56 he was at *Willow Park*. He transferred to the College in 1957 and continued teaching a full days class until 1989. Fr. John's main teaching subject was French but over the years he also took classes in English, Irish, Latin, German and Spanish. When he retired from full-time teaching at the age of sixty-five in accordance with Government Regulations he continued on for another five years teaching a half-day's classes. Father John was an excellent teacher. He was entirely dedicated and achieved some very notable results. Countless students and staff members held him in very high esteem.

Since 1956 Father John was very involved in the *Saint Vincent de Paul Society* both at the local and the national level. Since his full retirement from teaching in 1993 Father John spent the last nine years in *parish ministry* and *hospital chaplaincy*. To this work he brought his incredible dedication and tremendous enthusiasm. In June 2002 Father John celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination. He was the homilist on the day and the Gospel Reading told the story of the Beatitudes. Fr John said in his homily "*the Beatitudes are the Christian attitudes – the way that we live out love in our lives – love that drives out fear*".

Fr. John died 1<sup>st</sup> March 2003 in Saint Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin. He is buried in the community plot in Shanganagh

### **FARRELL, Br William**

William, a native of Tullow, Co. Kildare, joined the Congregation in Notre Dame du Gard, being the first Irishman to join the brotherhood. Little is recorded of him. Père Leman refers to him by the nickname given him by the French at ND du Gard, namely Gauche or 'Ciotóg.' When he opted for the priesthood after some years he entered the senior seminary at Evreux and is reported as having served for a period in Mauritius. ND, IX, p.483



**FARRELLY, Fr Robert P. 1902-1982**



Born 22 February 1902 in Pimlico, Dublin, Bob was educated by the Christian Brothers at Synge St. He entered the Novitiate at Kimmage in 1921 and profected at Rockwell, 1928-9. He was remembered from the scholasticate days for his good singing voice and as being very solid, practical, and deeply devout. Because he was somewhat slow at the studies he is recalled as having had to endure what was considered to be unpleasant pressure from some members of the staff. His father died just a few weeks before Bob was ordained in 1931. His first Mass was the occasion of an unprecedented display of popular devotion on the part of the parishioners in the inner city. He was recognised already as a priest after their own hearts. He was destined to serve, however, far from the inner city: for fifty years he devoted his full time and energy to the people of Kenya where he ministered at Mombasa. Because of the war, Fr Bob was not to see Ireland from 1932 to 1945; and because of his devotion to his flock he was not known to absent himself for very long from Mombassa in the years ahead. He was Director of the Mission at Mombasa for many years and was to serve as Vicar General when the vicariate was given the status of a diocese. He was to see many changes in the religious and political life of Kenya during the 50 historic years he lived there and he played his own vital if unsung role in those developments. In later years he served as assistant pastor at Mwate Mission. A few days after suffering a stroke, he died at Mombasa 4 May 1982 aged 80 years. *IPNI* 51, 1982.

**FENNELLY, Fr Bernard 1888-1971**



Born 2 March 1888 in Kilmoyler, Doon, Co. Limerick, Barney attended the Christian Brothers' school before going to Rockwell as a boarder. He entered the juniorate after two years in 1903 where he was a contemporary of James Leen, later Archbishop, and Dr Dan Murphy, future provincial, Fr Jim Mellett and Fr 'Red' Mick O'Connor. He did his novitiate in France where he was professed 1908, and returned to Blackrock as prefect. He features in the large photograph of the provincial retreat group given in French 1911 by Père René du Plessis, as he and Eugene O'Connell, prefects, were the readers and sacristans during the retreat. Barney did his University at UCD before returning to France for Theology. The students had to remove from Chevilly to Langonnet in 1914 because of the war. Ordained in 1916 Fr Barney was among the last of the Irish to be ordained in France. The following year he was appointed to the new Theologate in Ireland which was to operate at Kimmage, St Mary's, and later in the Castle and Willow Park, Blackrock. Fr Fennelly, better known as 'The Bar', together with the "Doc" Murphy, Fr Denis Fahey and the Director, Fr John Kearney, were to be for many years the pillars of the Irish senior scholasticate. Fr Fennelly taught mostly Canon Law and Sacred Scripture, but with his wide familiarity with all branches of theology he could be called on to fill almost any gap at short notice. Without having done any special course in Canon Law he became a recognised authority in that discipline and was a *peritus* of Vatican 11. Being a humble man he was always the first to draw attention to the qualifications and achievements of his colleagues and to supply their deficiencies from his own painfully acquired scholarship. He was unflinching too in giving spiritual advice and encouragement to many who turned to him for help. In this connection it is worth mentioning that his former student, Archbishop J.C.McQuaid, valued his close

friendship and chose him as his confessor over the years. More than one generation of religious novices both at home and overseas grew up on Fr Fennelly's manuals, *The Catechism of the Vows* and *Follow Me*, and it must be put on record that he spent much of his time editing and publishing the works of his former confreres, Frs Edward Leen and John. Kearney. Always self-effacing, his greatest achievements were what he made it possible for others to do, both in Ireland and on the missions. He was incapable of deliberately causing pain to anyone by word or deed but it cannot be omitted that at times some students did not find it easy to adapt to his teaching methods. He was cast in the mould of people known to be "characters" because of his expressions, his mannerisms and ways of acting. Anecdotes abound about him, even since his student days and the re-telling of them at reunions at home and far away helped foster a family tradition. His contemporaries in Rockwell recalled the occasion when they had to call upon him in spite of his lack of football expertise to make up the XV as they played Garryowen. When Rockwell were badly beaten Jim Mellett commented "What did you expect from fourteen men and a pair of boots" - a reference to Barney's outsize footwear! Slips of the tongue by the 'Bar' in the heat of his lectures were recalled by a younger generation, such as: "Men and women of both sexes," and "In ninety-nine cases out of ten." But, as he lectured on teaching methods for catechetics, he may have the last laugh if the slips were deliberate in order to get his students remember some point. These are only the trivia attached to the memory of a great and loveable character who graced the scene of the senior scholasticate for longer than most could remember. His final years were marked with the sign of the cross of ill-health, in particular the cross that weighed so heavily on a voracious reader: he was totally bereft of his sight for years. He was also bemused by the revolutionary changes which had happened in the areas of ecclesiastical studies so well charted and cherished by him. He was the end of an era and one can say about himself: *Ni bheidh a leithéid arís ann*. Fr Bernard Fennelly answered the Lord's call 24 October 1971 aged 83 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *RCA*, 1972, 80f.

**FENNESSY, Fr Thomas Augustine                      1903-1981**



Born 8 December 1903 in Westgate, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Austin was educated at Rockwell, 1920-22. He profected at Blackrock for a year before entering the novitiate. Professed in Kimmage, 1924, he profected again at Rockwell and Blackrock while studying for the H.Dip.Ed. Ordained priest 1933 he was appointed to St. Mary's College, Trinidad. Teaching was clearly not his *métier*, so he was happy when in 1948 he was appointed pastor of St. Charles, Tunapuna. This was a difficult mission and Fr Austin spent himself during the next ten years caring for the poor and the sick. At one stage he set up a small private high school in his own house to cater for boys who could not afford to get into one of the established colleges. The people looked on him as truly a man of God. When his strength had diminished he was transferred to the smaller parish of New Grant in 1970. His retirement years were spent at St. Mary's. While on a holiday with his people in Clonmel Fr Austin Fennessy was taken ill and died after a brief illness 27 August 1981 aged 77 years. He was buried in the Rockwell cemetery. *IPNI* 48, Oct 1981; *SpWW* 1104

### **FERREIRA, Br Protasio 1878-1962**

Born 26 December 1878 in the diocese of Oporto, Portugal, Br Protasio was professed in 1904. He trained as a carpenter and practised that trade all his long life. He taught in the Technical School conducted by the Congregation in Cintra up till the dispersion caused by the 1910 Revolution. For a period he was attached to the staff at the Brothers' novitiate in France. In 1912 he and other Brothers came to Ireland where their skills as tradesmen were very much appreciated. Protasio was stationed at Rockwell where he was put in charge of the carpenter's shop. He soon went about setting up a saw mill to deal with the timber available on the college property. Machinery was acquired at bargain prices in a sale of surplus war materials in Dublin. Among the joinery tasks undertaken in the college were the book cases in the students' library. The great flu of 1918 severely affected Rockwell community and school. Among the first victims was the nurse employed to care for the students in the infirmary. After her death a Sister from a nearby convent took over, but she also fell sick. Her place was then taken by Bros Malachy and Protasio. They in turn caught the flu. When Protasio was sufficiently recovered he returned home to Portugal at Easter 1919. He remained on in Portugal, spending his last years in the large community in Fraiao where he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his profession in 1962. Br Protasio Ferreira died 4 December 1962 aged 83 years. *État; BG, 29, 860f, 865*

### **FINN, Fr Walter J. 1899-1972**

Born 10 March 1899 in Maryborough (Portlaoise), Co. Laois, where his father, a member of the police, was then stationed, Wally was reared in Clonbur, Co. Galway. He learned to love all things Irish as he grew up in an area where Irish was still a living language and where the memory of his granduncle, Fr Walter Conway, a leader in the Irish revival and other local movements, was still fresh. He was introduced to the Congregation by Dr Jim Murphy, then director of the Juniorate



at Blackrock, as his brother was sergeant near Clonbur. During his student years at Blackrock, 1913-17, Wally or Wat as he was also known, proved one of the best forwards the school had known, and he won his place on two winning SCT teams. He prefect for two years in Rockwell, 1917-19, before going to the novitiate in Kimmage. Then followed three years at St Mary's, Rathmines, while he studied for his BA at UCD, where he took an active part in the *Cumann Gaelach* and had articles in Irish published in their magazine. After securing his degree he was called on to do another year as prefect, this time at Blackrock. He was an automatic choice for a place on the Blackrock Club 1sts and it was accepted that he deserved to be chosen for the Irish trials but the rules for clerical students at the time did not allow for that. He was allowed to play for the club during the cup season even while he was doing Theology in the Castle. Ordained in 1927 Fr Wally was appointed the following year to Blackrock. His first post of responsibility was as Dean of the day students and he was immediately very active in organising extracurricular activities for them. The following year he was called on to replace the ailing Fr John Heelan as Dean of the boarding school. Again he was very active in organising and encouraging excellence in all forms of sport. He was soon recognised as a splendid rugby trainer with an emphasis on open play and above all 'fair play'. It was mainly due to his coaching that the Club team won the Leinster Cup for the first time in 1937. He encouraged hurling and athletics with remarkable success in these spheres at school level. He was responsible for a memorable stage production of Patrick Pearse's play *Iosagán* where

he was helped by Sinéad, Bean de Valera, and he was the main organiser of the college pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year, 1934. That year he was called on to replace the redoubtable Fr Jim Burke as bursar. Then began a very fruitful term of co-operation with the President, Dr J.C. McQuaid, during which the college property was bought outright from the Pembroke estate owners, and many valuable works of art were acquired, including stained glass windows by Evie Hone, Michael Healy and Hubert McGolderick. In 1940 he succeeded Dr McQuaid as Dean of the Castle but when a call came for chaplains for the British forces in active combat, Fr Finn volunteered and saw action in various campaigns. From 1943 he served with the 8th Army in North Africa, Greece and Italy. He took his pastoral duties very seriously and his contribution was much appreciated. From being rather austere, a teetotaller and rather shy, he socialised with the soldiers as a necessary and fruitful aspect of his ministry. After he had returned to civil life, he kept in close contact with such ex-combatants' activities as the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. In the interests of truth it must be admitted that the socialising aspect of life did tend to predominate as the years went on, but wherever he was present he strove to ensure that propriety was observed in the level of jokes told in public speeches. Though it must have demanded a great effort he returned to the classroom where he was an excellent teacher of English. His literary contributions to the college annual in the form of obituaries etc. were models of their sort and his articles on Rugby in one of the leading dailies under the pseudonym, 'Alecadoo' were widely read. He had planned to write a popular history of the college in preparation for the centenary in 1960, but by then his powers of application for such work had waned. In his last years his physical powers also declined, and for one who was such a powerful athlete this must have been the severest of crosses. A man of taste and talent, a combination of shyness and brashness, a redhead who had a violent temper, albeit rarely seen in later years, he was very tolerant of other peoples eccentricities and went out of his way to help those he saw struggling in life. Fr Walter Finn died 31 December 1972 aged 73 years and was buried in Kimmage. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal BCA*, 1973, 247f; 254ff

#### **FINNEGAN, Fr Michael 1896-1975**



Born in Dunmore, Co. Galway, 18 September 1896, Mick entered Rockwell as a boarder in 1911 and joined the Juniorate the following year. Professed at Kimmage Manor, 1916, he took the BA degree at UCD in 1919. Having done three years as a prefect at Blackrock, 1919-22, he was ordained in 1925 having done Theology at St Mary's, Rathmines and in the Castle, Blackrock. Fr Mick's first appointment in 1926 was to the Vicariate of Zanzibar where he worked till 1947 serving at Nairobi, Bura, Mombasa, Zanzibar and Kalimoni. He was Pro-vicar and Vicar Delegate, 1932-45, and from 1937 to 1947 was Religious Superior in Kenya. During World War II he served in the Nyeri Vicariate whose Italian Consolata missionaries had been interned as enemy aliens. When in Ireland, 1935-6, he was called on to help in the Promotion work throughout the country. In 1947 he was called on unexpectedly to replace Dr. Dan Murphy as provincial superior. He decided to resign shortly after taking up office and was posted to Trinidad where he worked in St. Mary's College and Fatima College till his death. About two years before his death he had to have both legs amputated, an ordeal he accepted with great fortitude and continued his work in assisting at keeping the accounts of the community and school. Fr Michael Finnegan died 23 August 1975 aged 79 years. He was a brother of Fr Patrick J. who died 28

December 1938. q.v. and a first cousin of Fr Bob Stanley. *CSSp NL*, Trinidad. Sept. 1975; *SpWW*, 995; *IPNI* 18, Dec. 1975.

#### **FINNEGAN, Fr Patrick J. 1902-1938**



Born 18 May 1902 in Dunmore, Co. Galway, Paddy did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1917-21. Professed in 1922 he did Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines, and prefectured for one year at Blackrock He did Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained in 1930. Appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, Fr Paddy taught there for seven years. A man with an infectious good humour and a splendid athlete in his student days, he had never known any serious illness. When disquieting symptoms manifested themselves in Trinidad it was deemed necessary for him to return to Europe for treatment. He was sent to Montana, Switzerland, where he received treatment for TB of the kidneys. As he was in severe pain the senior scholastics assisted in turn at his bedside. He succumbed 28 December 1938 aged 36 years. Fr Patrick Finnegan was a brother of Fr Michael CSSp and a first cousin of Fr Robert Stanley CSSp. *RCA*, 1939, 61; *SpWW* 455

#### **FINUCANE, Fr James M 1904-1970**



Born 27 September 1904 Tarmon, Knock, Ennis, Co. Clare, Jimmy was a student at Rockwell, 1918-1922, and played on the Rockwell hurling team which won the Schools' All Ireland competition. Professed in 1923 he began Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines, and moved with all the other senior scholastics to the Castle, Blackrock, in 1924. Attendance at the university was suspended during those years and a number, including Jimmy Finucane and his life-long friend, V.J. Dinan, were asked to begin Theology without having done prefecting in order to increase the number for ordination at that time. Ordained in 1929 Fr Jimmy was appointed the following year to Blackrock where after a few months he was called on to act as Dean of the Day school. He later recalled an incident at that time involving Bishop Shanahan the in retirement at Blackrock "Could you give me a few shillings, Father? Asked Shanahan. "I was standing below there at the tram stop, waiting to go into town, when a poor man came along. I put my hand in my pocket - and found I had only a pound note. So I gave it to him. Now I'm stuck. A shilling will do. It's too far to go back to the college. Thank heavens you arrived. A Good Samaritan is what I need." Fr Finucane later commented that the chance encounter with the bishop had taught him more about practical charity than all the many lectures he had go in his priestly life. In 1934 he succeeded Fr Walter Finn as Dean of discipline and, though he had little experience of playing rugby, he proved an excellent trainer of the SCT. In 1940 he succeeded Fr Finn once again as bursar, a post he held for the next seven years, arguably the most difficult years for a bursar because of the problems caused by the Emergency. After two years of relative disengagement he was called on to serve as Dean of the Castle, a post he held from 1949 to 1955. He was, in addition, for fourteen years Secretary to the College Union and was unofficial representative of the college at the Blackrock RFC. During all those years he was in very close contact with the students, past as well as present, on a pastoral level as he had a special charisma for getting through to the real personal problems of those with whom he was in contact. And he was always ready to help, often in an unobtrusive fashion. He could be very firm, even severe at times, in his reprimands, but he was seen to be

invariably fair and ready to admit his mistakes. In 1955 he was appointed President of Rockwell in succession to Fr Andrew Egan, and it was in the service of that community that he was to spend the rest of his life. One of his most notable contributions to the college was his success in eliminating the substantial debt which was such a worry. And in spite of very stringent financial restrictions imposed by the Mother House under the direction of Fr Griffin certain necessary improvements were introduced especially in the kitchen and catering areas. A Catering School was added to the College greatly improving its image and its work. Fr Finucane also proved very approachable to students past and present as well as to the parents. The number of students, which had dropped to 220, rose to 527. At the end of his six years term of office, he was given a year's absence and was reappointed for what was to be a further period of six years, mainly with a view to his being in charge during the ceremonies connected with the Centenary of the college in 1964. The recreation grounds were extensively remodelled and a tarmac surface added. The outstanding success of the centenary celebrations was due to the excellent team effort of those Fr Finucane appointed to prepare for and supervise the various events. The National University conferred on Fr Finucane himself the degree of LLD *honoris causa*. Over and above the material changes for the better that he introduced he was remembered for the excellent spirit of good relations between all categories that he fostered over the years making Rockwell a more closely knit family. As Fr James completed his second term as President it was noticed that his health seemed to deteriorate rapidly. He died 27 December 1970 aged 66 years and was buried in Rockwell. *BCA*, 1971, 203f; *RCA* 1969 p.57, 1971 85f.

**FITZBARRY, Mr. Robert 1849-1870**

Born 10 June 1849 in Castlemartyr, Middleton, Cork, Robert spent two years (1866-68) in the Juniorate at Blackrock. As he showed signs of being affected with tuberculosis, Père Leman suggested that he go as prefect - teacher of English, in fact - to Martinique where the warm climate was thought to be less injurious. When, however, he showed no signs of recovering he was brought home. He returned to his family in Cork where he died 31 August 1870 aged 31 years. He was buried in Cork. *BJR* No. 78; *BG* VII, 557.

**FITZGERALD, Br William 1926-1942**

Born January 1926 in Carrigane, Carrigtwohill, William entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kilshane 13 November 1942. He took ill and died a most edifying death. Fr Thomas Gough witnessed the Brother's profession on his death bed 27 November 1942. Br William Fitzgerald died 30th November 1942. He was buried in the family cemetery.

**FITZGERALD, Fr Edward 1909-1993**



Born 25 November 1909 in Brabazon Square, Dublin, Ned completed his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1926-28. Professed in Kimmage, 1929, he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1929-31, followed by prefecting in Rockwell, 1931-33. He returned to the Castle to begin Theology and, when the novices vacated Kimmage in the autumn of 1933, the theology students moved in in their place. Ordained in 1936 Fr Ned was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He worked in

Bura mission in the Taita Hills. There he learned Kiswahili, a language he spoke fluently. from 1937 to 1942. From 1942 to 1947 he worked in Kabaa. He was then asked to serve on the Promotions Team in Kimmage for two years, returning to East Africa again in 1950. He served for a year at Pemba, and from 1951 to 1956 in St Mary's College, Nairobi. He took an active part in directing music and used his noted skill as a photographer to chronicle the events of the school. Returning to Ireland he served as chaplain in St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire where he served till 1983. Having been closely associated in Kenya with the Legion Envoy, Edel Quinn, he was pleasantly surprised that the apartment set aside for him while chaplain had been used by Edel before going to East Africa. Fr Ned had many fine qualities which endeared him to those who knew him well. He was very meticulous in his work, but above all he was a good priest and religious, always proud of the Congregation. He was gentle and kind, with a good sense of humour. He was very witty and at community gatherings he could always be relied on for a song or two. He was an excellent mimic, especially of his former professors in Kimmage. Fr Kearney, the 'Bar', the 'Doc' Murphy and Br Agathon really never died while Ned was there to impersonate them. He was seen to go down hill fast after the death of his life-long friend, Fr Bill Higgins. Having suffered from a tumour on the brain, Fr Edward Fitzgerald died 27 March 1993 in Marian House, Kimmage Manor, aged 83 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 2 1993

**FITZGERALD, Fr Mortimer 1882-1918**



Born 3 July 1882 in Dromig, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Murty did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1894-1901, and prefected at the college there, 1901-06. He did his novitiate in France being professed in 1907. Ordained in 1912 he was appointed to Sierra Leone the following year. Stationed at Bonthe it was noticed after sometime that his behaviour gave cause for anxiety. Fr Shields called this to the attention of Bishop

John O'Gorman and though very short in personnel it was decided that Fr Murty would be best cared for at home. On his arrival in Ireland Fr Murty Fitzgerald was placed in St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, where he died of "cerebral tuberculosis" 26 December 1918 aged 32 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BJR* No.623; *BG*, 29, 264.

**FITZGIBBON, Fr David 1859-1928**



Born 12 February 1859 in Fortgeorge, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, David did his secondary studies at Rockwell. He then emigrated to America in search of a living. At the age of twenty-one he entered the Juniorate at Pittsburgh to join the Congregation. Having done his senior studies in France he was ordained in 1887 and was appointed the following year to the college in Pittsburgh. In 1889 he became Director of St Joseph's

House for Homeless Boys in Philadelphia where he spent fourteen years, leaving it in a flourishing condition. In 1903 he set about developing the mission for black people at St Benedict the Moor in Pittsburgh and at St Peter Claver's in Philadelphia. He helped for two years at the new college, St Alexander's, in Canada, and in 1906 he returned to the USA to help develop the newly opened community at Ferndale, Conn. He acted as director at Cornwells (Bensalem) for a year and then in 1909 he resumed his work at St Joseph's till 1914. He served for a period as pastor at Chippewa Falls before retiring to Cornwells. He is described as being a fervent religious who proved

an inspiration to all. Fr David Fitzgibbon died after a long illness 1 October 1928 aged 67 years and is buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG*, 33, 883ff; *SpWW* 347f.

#### **FITZHARRIS, Fr Liam 1921-1984**



Born 14 January 1921 in Hope Street in Ringsend, Dublin, Liam did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1937-42, and made his first profession in Kilshane in 1941. He professed with the 'Burse' from 1942 to 1944 and obtained a BA in Philosophy in 1946. Having begun Theology in Kimmage in 1946 he was ordained priest in 1949. Sent to Kenya in 1950 Fr Liam first worked at Giriama on the coast. Transferred to Machakos District, he transformed Mbitini mission, building a new church and Fathers' residence, and establishing flourishing outstations. Afterwards, when in charge at Kabaa, he founded the Higher Certificate Section in the school, which enabled the students to qualify for entry into the university. Later on at Tala he doubled the size of the school and developed the out-schools. In 1972 he was transferred to California where he was engaged in parish ministry. Because of illness he returned to Ireland in 1982. He was staying with his sister Alice in Hope Avenue, East Wall, and assisting the clergy in Ringsend parish when he died as a result of a hit and run accident 1 June 1984. He was 63 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1984, No. 58 September.

#### **FITZPATRICK, Br Brendan (Michael) 1841-1882**

Born 29 September 1841 in Aughavan, Co. Laois, Michael came to Blackrock as an *agrégé*, June 1869. After a few months he asked to be received into the Brothers' novitiate and was professed in 1872. The records for 1879 list him as 'refectorian', that is, he was in charge of arrangements for the students' dining room. Having suffered for a number of years from lingering consumption, Br Brendan Fitzpatrick died 21 December 1882 aged 41 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange BBR No.77; *BG*, XII, 655.

#### **FITZPATRICK, Fr John A. 1915-1981**



Born 12 November 1915 Jack came to Blackrock in 1930 with an address in Sale, Cheshire. On two separate occasions, 1931 and 1932, he won scholarships in the Intermediate Certificate, and in the Leaving Certificate he qualified for a Dublin County Council Scholarship. Professed in 1933 he served as prefect in Rockwell, and after securing the BSc. in 1938 he took the BA in Philosophy with 1st Cl. Honours. Because of the war no one went to the Continent for their theological studies; so Jack did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1945. Appointed to Nigeria Fr Jack taught at Immaculate Conception College, Enugu, and later was appointed Principal of Christ the King College in Onitsha where he served till 1967. Jack loved to puff clouds of smoke from his pipe, pour scorn on what he considered offences against common sense even in the highest levels - all of which he rounded off with a good loud laugh. On having to quit Nigeria because of the Biafra war he taught for four years in a nuns' school in Herefordshire, England, before taking up a chaplaincy and teaching post in Bolton Street Technical College. He taught Religious Instruction with a high degree of understanding of the students and was successful in



dealing with their intellectual problems. He came one evening to Blackrock with the Kimmage community for a social evening and was seen to be in his usual high spirits with his high pitched voice making itself heard over all the others at times as was his wont. It was with shock that people learned of his unexpected death the following day. Fr John Fitzpatrick died 3 December 1981, aged 66 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1982,147; *IPNI* No. 49, Dec '81.

**FITZPATRICK, Fr John J. 1884-1945**

Born June 15 1884 in Aughagower, Co Mayo, John did his secondary studies at Westport CBS and in London. Having opted for the priesthood he did part of his senior studies at All Hallows, Dublin, 1904-08, and then went to the USA where he joined the Congregation. Professed at Ferndale in 1910 he profected for one year at Duquesne as it was about to be accorded university status, and then he continued his studies at Ferndale. Ordained in 1913 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's College, Trinidad. In 1918 he returned ill to the USA and though he had to contend with continuous ill-health for the rest of his life he served at a number of communities where he was remembered with affection "for his gentleness, his priestly goodness, his Irish eloquence and learning." Fr John J. Fitzpatrick died at St John's Hospital at Tulsa, Okla, 2 September 1945 aged 61 years. *SpWW* 539.



**FITZPATRICK, Fr William C. 1921-2000**

Born on 1 June 1921 in Inchicore, Dublin, Willie worked for six years as an engineer fitter before deciding in 1943 to join the Congregation. He spent a year in Rockwell brushing up his secondary studies and then entered the novitiate at Kilshane. Professed in 1945 he did his philosophy and theology studies in Kimmage Manor. Ordained in 1950 he was appointed the following year to the Owerri District in Nigeria. His first ministry was in Uzoagbu and then early in 1952 he was assigned to Obowo in the future diocese of Umuahia. From late 1952 till 1958 he taught metal work at St Joseph's Technical School at Ahiara in the Owerri diocese. There he used all his previous training in CIE workshops and was sustained by his enthusiasm, his imagination, his courage and his trust in God in order to develop a Trade School to give young boys the opportunity of education and employment. He had much to encounter in terms of language, culture, finances and local politics. When the civil war broke out he went to Ezinihitte, Onaji and Mbutu until resistance to the victorious federal troops collapsed. In January 1970 he was transferred to The Gambia. He taught there for five years and spent an additional five years in pastoral ministry. Returning to Ireland in 1980 he engaged in replacement pastoral duties for three years and then was sent to do pastoral work in England in the Sheffield area for three weeks. He was to remain for 17 years! His simple presence was much appreciated especially by the house-bound and those in the Northern General Hospital. As he did fruitful pastoral work he was very much at home and was very attached to the people. The need for serious surgery necessitated his return to Ireland and to retirement in Marian House where it was obvious that he had left the worries of active ministry aside and found new freedom, peace and happiness as he prepared to meet the Lord. Fr Willie died on 19 September 2000 aged 80 years. He was buried in Deansgrange Cemetery. *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KSNM* No. 280



### **FLANAGAN, Fr Cornelius 1928-1996**



Born on 28 November 1928 in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, Con received his secondary education at the local school, St Ita's. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1947. He studied at Kimmage and UCD for the BA and then profected for three years in Trinidad. Ordained in 1956 he was appointed to Nigeria where he served in the Owerri region. By 1967 he was in charge of St Paul's parish at Isu near Orlu where there were some 10,000 Catholics and over 1,000 catechumens. Obligated to quit Nigeria after the Biafra war he served for a year in the Buffalo Diocese in the USA. He did pastoral work in England the following year and was then appointed to Zambia where he worked till 1984. Returned to Ireland he served in parish work in the Down and Conor Diocese till his sudden death in Coleraine, Co. Derry, 25 January 1996. At the funeral Mass, the Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Conor, Most Rev. Anthony Farquhar, paid a generous tribute to Fr Con saying; "...At a time when it is desperately needed, he gave us all a wonderful example of the peaceful calm that comes from one who is totally dedicated to the priesthood." IPArch; *IPNI* No. 1 1996

### **FLANAGAN, Fr Michael 1902-1965**



Born 10 August 1902 in Shanaway, Milltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, Mike studied at Blackrock, 1919-21. Professed in Kimmage, 1922, he went to St Mary's, Rathmines, to begin his university course at UCD. At the end of his 1st Arts it was decided by the provincial, Fr Joseph Byrne, that attendance at the university should cease as from then because of the lack of funds. Mike was transferred to Rockwell where he profected for three years, 1923-6. He finished his senior studies at the Castle, Blackrock, where the senior scholasticate was located as from 1924. Ordained in 1931, Fr Mike was appointed to Nigeria the following year. There his work was to be chiefly concerned with CKC and St Charles Training College, both at Onitsha. The latter, opened in 1933, was the first secondary college in the mission of S. Nigeria. He was on the staff of one or other of these colleges during almost the whole time he was in Nigeria. He was Principal of St Charles in 1937 when it was handed over to the Franciscan Brothers from Mountbellew, Co. Galway. In the following year he was acting Principal of Christ the King College, and he remained in charge until he returned to Ireland. He was active and vigorous, and insisted on high standards, not only in studies and athletics but especially in conduct and character, and in the ten years or so of his work there the school more than doubled its numbers and proved itself valuable contribution to education in Southern Nigeria. His name continued to be honoured by the people of Onitsha, and when the Silver Jubilee of the college was kept in 1958, he was highly spoken of in the commemorative addresses. Later, an avenue was named after him to perpetuate his memory. Suffering from blood-pressure he retired from Nigeria in 1948 and was appointed the following year to the teaching staff at Blackrock. His condition grew gradually worse in spite of medical care during the remainder of his life. He taught classes in the college until 1957, and was Director of the Juniorate from 1952 to 1957. It was not the happiest time for the students in the Juniorate, nor for those in Fr Flanagan's classes. In his efforts to attain the same standard of work achieved in Nigeria, while lacking his former energy, he had recourse to tactics that caused some resentment. The students in the Juniorate suffered also from this approach. He was obliged by his state of health

to retire in 1957 and he suffered much from increasing illness over the years till the Lord called him 18 December 1965 aged 63 years. He is buried in Kimmage. Fr Flanagan was closely related to "Doc" Jim Murphy and to Fr Laurence Murren. *BCA*, 1966, 29f.

### **FLANAGAN, Fr Thomas 1920-1996**



Born on 20 November 1920 in Ballaghadereen, Co. Roscommon, Tom joined the Congregation in 1941 being professed in Kilshane in 1942. Having done Philosophy in Kimmage he professed in Blackrock, 1944-46. When preparations were being made to open the preparatory school in St Michael's, Tom spent the summer holidays painting the classrooms. He enlivened the senior scholasticate with his expertise as a ventriloquist. One concert in particular is recalled because Fr Bernard Fennelly looked forward to the advertised performance little suspecting that the 'doll' was to show remarkable familiarity with all Fr Fennelly's own mannerisms and expressions, much to the hilarity of the audience. Tom's penchant for practical jokes may best be illustrated by an incident at Blackrock during the Irish course held for the Senior scholastics there during the summer. Knowing that Br Ailbe would be reading night prayer, including the necrology and some special trimmings, for the assembled community, Tom 'borrowed' his notebook on one occasion and kept repeating the details throughout the day in Br Ailbe's distinctive accent much to the bewilderment of the scholastics. Came night prayer, Br Ailbe proceeded to read out the same details so faithfully imitated by Tom. The scholastics broke out into hilarious laughter much to the bewilderment this time of the president Fr Michael Kennedy and the Blackrock community! Returned to Kimmage in 1946 Tom did Theology and was ordained in 1949. Appointed to Nigeria Fr Tom served in Owerri Diocese where he worked at Ezinihitte from 1952, first as assistant and in 1961 as pastor at St Dominic's in Ezinihitte-West. It was a large parish taking care of over 16,000 Catholics and catechumens. It was said of him; "Tom was full of zeal and enthusiasm and he was fiercely loyal to his people. He prayed with them, healed and encouraged them, he laughed with them, he shared their pain, joys and sorrows. All wings of Catholic Action in the world flourished in Tom's parish, particularly the Legion of Mary and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. The centre of their lives was the First Friday liturgy and their liturgy was never boring but full of joy and vitality..." Obligated to quit Nigeria in 1968 because of the Biafra war he returned to Ireland. From 1968 to 1971 he served as chaplain to Roslyn Park Sisters' community and school in Sandymount. For the next three years he worked in Greenhills, Swords and Meath Street and in all places he was loved by the people for his down to earth approach to religious life and for his sense of humour. In 1974 he was appointed to Ringsend parish where one of his great challenges was in teaching religion in the Vocational school. In 1978 he retired to Kimmage but continued to do relief work in various chaplaincies and parishes. In particular, he helped out at Knock Shrine in the ministry of healing and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Just as he was an expert in mending clocks and watches he spent much of his spare time in bringing a healing ministry to so many people. His company was felt as a tonic. Fr Tom suffered from ill health for some years but death came rather suddenly 24 December 1996. At his own request Fr Tom Flanagan was buried in the family cemetery in Ballaghadereen, Co. Roscommon. *IPArch*; *IPObituaries* January 1997.

**FLAVIN, Fr John Jos. 1907-1970**



Born 17 June 1907 in St Ursula's Terrace, St John's, Waterford, John studied at Blackrock, 1925-27, and was professed in Kimmage, 1928. He did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and prefectured at the college, 1930-32. Ordained in 1935 Fr John was appointed the following year to Kenya, where, except for a brief period when he served at Rockwell, 1945-6, he was to work for the rest of his life. He spent his first year in the African parish of St Peter Claver, Nairobi, learning Swahili, the language used by most tribes in East Africa. He became master of a fluent racy colloquial Swahili which served him excellently for all purposes. In his efforts to be close to his people he was at pains to speak like his hearers. He was appointed to a farming area in the highlands, Kalimoni, where he found thousands working in extensive sisal plantations. He started organising schools for them, travelling from one wide farm to another. He won approval from both the workers and the managers. Eventually he set up 17 schools at strategic points. He also provided a hospital which was staffed by the Sisters of the Precious Blood. It is thought that Mr Tom Mboyo attended one of these schools. He worked very hard and had to travel long distances with poor means of transport. Once, when forced to drive a car without brakes, he had a confrere sit on the bonnet to warn people to steer clear. Later he was posted to the more low-lying station of Giriama, nearer the coast. There he had still to look after an area of 110 square miles, which he eventually divided into five districts. After this period of relative rest, he returned to Kalimoni, and then to Kilima Mbogo. In the latter place there was a Teacher Training School with some 700 men on the rolls. Fr Flavin's work as confessor and spiritual director was highly appreciated by the directors and the students. Later he was chaplain at the novitiate of the African Sisters at Mangu - the Sisters of the Assumption founded by Archbishop J.J. McCarthy. His last appointment was to the Goan parish of Eastleigh. He gave particular attention to a large "shanty-town" where he identified very well with the people. They loved him because, as a confrere remarked, "He had time for everyone". And he had to deal with everyone - the querulous, the complaining, the timid and the frightened, the destitute, the lazy and the schemer. And then there were the confreres who liked to drop in, and they also found an open door with time for a chat and the friendly welcome. The Lord welcomed Fr John Flavin home from his labours 28 November 1970 aged 63 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1971, 202.

**FLECK, Fr Joseph 1870-1943**

Born on 5 April 1870 in Waltenheim, Alsace, he was called on in 1894 to interrupt his studies and to go to Rockwell as prefect where he taught French. Returned to France he was ordained in 1897 and did his novitiate in Grignon, Orly. Appointed to Sierra Leone he served in Freetown and later in Moyamba. In 1905 he transferred to the USA and taught at Holy Spirit College in Pittsburgh until 1911. Appointed to East Africa he served at Bagamoyo and later at Nairobi. His health, which caused him to move around, at last found a compatible region in Reunion where from 1921 till his death in 1943 he was engaged in parish ministry. Fr Fleck died on 29 December 1943. He was buried in Reunion. *Koren SWAM* p.126f; and *Koren SWWW* p.186

**FLEMING, Br Malachy 1887-1959**



Born 1887 13 June in Ballinaspittal, Kinsale, Co. Cork, John spent two years with the Presentation Brothers, Cork, before entering did his novitiate at Prior Park in 1907. He later moved to Castlehead, being professed in 1909. When Kimmage was opened in 1911, he joined the community there. In 1917 he was appointed to Rockwell where he was to spend the next forty years. He was a victim of the 1918 flu which hit Rockwell very severely. When the nurse died and her replacement fell seriously ill, Br Malachy and Portuguese Br Protasio stepped into the breach. Both suffered severely, Br Malachy in particular being struck down with double pneumonia which left its ill-effects for life. But this did nothing to dampen his zest for a full day's work once he was back on his feet. He was totally committed to the routine of religious life. In class he proved a valued teacher and he also looked after the book shop where his dignified courtesy, his kindness and his spiritual influence were exercised. Later he acted as secretary to seven successive bursars, and he has left his memorial in many tomes of copperplate penmanship fastidious in their neatness. The boys saw little of him during those years but many parents would remember how his perfect writing could make even quarterly accounts a joy to the eye. In his earlier years at the college he loved to take some of the students for a 'hunt', with an ash plant in his hand and Mike Ryan's dogs hot on the scent. He remained an enthusiastic follower of his native Cork in Gaelic games. His sombre voice at community prayers and his austere appearance belied the gaiety of his spirit which endeared him to his community. He died after a brief illness 22 January 1959 aged 71 years and was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1959 53; *BG*, XXIX, 865f.

**FLEMING, Fr Peter 1930-2006**

Born on 1930 in Dublin. Coming to Toronto in 1959, he served as teacher, Vice Principal and Principal of Neil McNeil Catholic Secondary School. He retired from teaching in 1991 but continued with Chaplaincy work with the Toronto Catholic School Board. In June 1994, he served at the St. Joseph's Parish in West HHI and became Pastor in 2001, He retired in the summer of 2005, He was the founder and director of the Irish Choral Society, Fr Peter died at Scarborough General Hospital on Friday, May 5, 2006. Interred in Holy Cross Cemetery

**FLOOD, Br Benignus (Philip) 1900-1990**



Born 26 November 1909 in Killesandra, Co. Cavan, Philip retained throughout his life an unashamed attachment to and a pride in the town and its surroundings. He had to leave it to go to the USA in search of a livelihood, but after a short while he returned to Ireland and entered the new novitiate at Kilshane where he was professed in 1935 taking the name Benignus. The rest of his life, apart from two years at Rockwell, 1942-44, and a briefer spell at Blackrock, was spent in the service of Kimmage. It was said at his funeral that, though he was never placed over much, he was very faithful in the performance of the small things he was given to do. His first appointment was as receptionist: he answered the hall door bell and the telephone. So for many he was the voice and the face of Kimmage. One could always be sure that he would be at his post. After some years it was decided that he should drive the community car, and as

there was only one at the time, there were many demands on his time. He would be called on to drive any person to any place at any time, and he could be relied on to comply cheerfully. He was obliging and a cheerful giver. But he could be sharp when crossed and devastating in his few words. This characteristic may well have shortened somewhat his stay at one community. In a clash of opinions involving the vice-superior he was told, "I am in charge." The stinging retort was: "You may be in charge but you will never sit on the throne." After some years, poor health made it necessary for him to give up driving, but he continued to serve as best he could. He was virtually bed-ridden for the last few years and, though he lost the ability to communicate, he must have suffered much during those last years. Br Benignus Flood died 8 December 1990 aged 80 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 8, 1990

**FLYNN, Br Edward (Denis) 1844-1872**

Born 6 June 1844 in Affane, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, Denis entered the Congregation at Blackrock in 1864 and went to the central novitiate in Chevilly in 1866. Professed in 1867 he was appointed to Blackrock but a few months later he was called on to set out for The Gambia from where an urgent call had come for a replacement for Br Alban Crean, who had died after a short period there as helper to Br Florentin Mathews. English-speaking Brothers were invaluable for the mission schools. Comments about Br Edward in despatches were entirely favourable, so it was a shock to all when he succumbed to an attack of yellow fever during an epidemic which had left many deaths in its wake, including two Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who conducted the mission school for girls. The large funeral cortège showed how much Br Edward's contribution to the community over his five years there had been appreciated. The Governor, Sir Thomas J. Callaghan of Midleton, Co. Cork, attended in person and had eight policemen detailed to marshal the cortège. Br Edward Flynn died 21 October 1872 aged 28 years. The mission schools were closed for a period, awaiting further staff and when eventually Br Juvenal Heaven arrived from Ireland he was given a warm welcome by veteran Br Florentin and the students. *BBR* No.24; *BG* IX 241 & 897; *GenArch*.

**FLYNN, Fr Charles 1910-1990**



Born 10 May 1910 in Cashelmore, Enniskean, Co. Cork, Charlie did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1926-30, and was professed in Kimmage, 1931. Having done prefecting at Rockwell, he began Theology at Kimmage in 1935 and was ordained in 1938. Appointed the following year to Sierra Leone, he was to serve there for thirty years, leaving only when he was forced to do so by ill health. Charlie's missionary life centred around the missions of Gerihun and Bo, twelve miles apart, in the centre of Mende land. He worked for twenty years in Bo where he was the heart of the Christian community he did so much to foster. A lasting symbol of his ministry is the great church which he designed and had built in the middle of Bo. It is said that when the Paramount Chief was slow to concede this central area to him for the church, Charlie secretly placed a 'Miraculous Medal' on the spot and that the Chief came round to granting his request. The people of the town were glad to contribute to the work of building this church dedicated to Mary Immaculate. Charlie was responsible also for maintaining a strong sense of community and sharing among his Spiritan confreres. When obliged by ill health to quit his missionary work at Bo in the early 70s, he continued that ministry in the USA where he appealed for, and sent help

to, the Archdiocese of Freetown and Bo. Serious ill health brought him back to Kimmage, and the caring affection of Marian House where after two years Fr Charles Flynn answered the Lord's call 14 May 1990 aged 80 years. He was buried in Kimmage. RJR; *IPNI* No.5 1990

**FLYNN, Fr James 1891-1964**



Born 13 April 1891 in Kilmeady, Co. Limerick, James came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1905. After Senior Grade, 1909, he spent a further year in study and then prefected in the college for four years, 1910-14. Professed in Kimmage Manor in 1915 he completed his university course at UCD, taking BA in 1917. The rest of his studies were done in Kimmage, and he was ordained priest at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1920. The following year he was assigned to the mission of Zanzibar-Kenya, where he worked in the stations of Mangu, Kalimoni, Holy Family, Nairobi, and Makupa, and was in charge of the mission on the Island of Zanzibar. During the war he was in charge of a station in the mission of the Consolata Fathers, Nyeri, Kenya. He did not take very enthusiastically to Edel Quinn's efforts to introduce the Legion of Mary into his parish of the Holy Family. His spiritual outlook throughout his life remained very steadfast, even if somewhat over conservative, and it was his constant aid in the set-backs and trials of his own ill-health and the missionary life he strove to live to his utmost. His colleagues bore testimony to the devotion based on faith which he practised in the work of his ministry. In 1952 he retired from Africa and was appointed Assistant at the St Peter Claver Church, Philadelphia. Then, when the Canadian development was undertaken by the Irish Holy Ghost Fathers working in the English-speaking parts of Canada, he was transferred to the parish of Guelph, Ontario 1960. In 1961 he retired finally to the Holy Ghost Novitiate House, Kilshane, where he died after a very brief illness 31 March 1964 aged 72 years. He was buried in Rockwell. BCArch; *BCA* 1964, 72; Desmond Forristal, *Edel Quinn*, p.100.

**FLYNN, Fr Michael Joseph 1926-1995**



Born 18 September 1926 in Camross, Co. Laois, Michael grew up in Tipperary Town and did his secondary studies at the Abbey CBS followed by one year at Rockwell. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1944 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and at UCD where he won his BA in 1948. Then followed two years prefectoring in Rockwell. Ordained priest in 1953 he was appointed the following year to The Gambia where he was successively at St Augustine's College 1954-55, Basse Mission '55-59, Fulabantang Mission '59-'63; he was again at St Augustine's '65-66, Education Secretary and lecturer at Yundum Teacher Training College '66-68; Lamin Technical School '69-70, Cathedral parish priest '70-71. In the years '71-73 he took an MA degree in mathematics in Fairfield University, USA. Returning to St Augustine's he was appointed Religious superior in The Gambia. Following a period in France perfecting his French, he was in Banjul '80-84. Having spent a year making mission appeals in the USA he became assistant pastor in St Raphael's Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut while still continuing his appeals for The Gambia. Fr Michael took ill while celebrating mass New Year's Day 1995 and died shortly afterwards aged 68 years. His remains were taken home to Ireland for burial at Rockwell. IPArch

### **FLYNN, Fr Patrick J 1924-1998**



Born on 5 April 1924 in Crossanstown, Killucan, Co. Westmeath, Patrick did his secondary studies in St Mary's CBC, Mullingar. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1944. He perfected at Blackrock, 1945-48 and was ordained priest in 1951. Appointed the following year to Nigeria he served in Owerri district at St Mary's, Port Harcourt, and later in Ikeduru as chaplain to the Uzoagba Girls Secondary School. He was in charge of the Ohoadia parish in the Diocese of Port Harcourt when he was obliged to quit Nigeria in 1969 due to the Biafra War. He served for one year in the USA before volunteering for service in Zambia when there was a request from Bishop Corboy for personnel to help out in his mission. Fifteen ex Nigeria missionaries were then posted to Zambia. The original plan to work in Lusaka was changed and it was decided instead to team up with the Capuchins and the Jesuits in Livingstone area. Patrick took up his new appointment in Sesheke Parish, Livingstone, Zambia, where he ministered from 1972 to 1976. Conditions were very demanding as the people they ministered to were extremely poor. On suffering a heart attack Patrick returned to Ireland where the Bishop of Meath Dr McCormack, warmly welcomed him as a pastor in the diocese. Patrick was appointed to the Diocese of Meath in 1977 where he worked in various parishes and ministries until he retired to Kimmage Manor in 1997. As his health continued to decline he moved to Marian House in 1997 where he died 1 January 1998 aged 74 years. Fr Patrick is buried in Coralstown, Co. Westmeath. IPArch; KSNM No. 305

### **Flynn, Father Bernard Anthony 1929-2003**

Bernard was born in Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1929. After his secondary school studies at Blackrock Juniorate (1944-'49) he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1950. He studied Philosophy in Kimmage Manor and then perfected in Fatima College, Trinidad for three years (1952-'55). Barney studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1958. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1959. In 1960 Father Barney's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** where he was assigned to the *Kenema Diocese*. Barney worked at *Pendembu and Yengema* where he was involved in parish work and school administration. In 1968 Barney was asked to return to **Ireland** to work on *Propaganda*. In 1977 he was appointed as *Bursar of the Kimmage Scholasticate*. In 1980 he joined the *Promotions Team*. In 1983 Father Barney returned to parish work. He was appointed to *St. Agnes' in Crumlin* with responsibility for the *Kimmage Manor Chapel*. After seven years of dedicated work a letter to Father Barney from the Provincialate reads: "Your work and, above all, your ability to link easily and kindly with the parishioners, has been inestimable in preparing for the erection of the *Kimmage Parish, which is a very important moment in the life of the Province*".

In 1990 he was transferred to the *Holy Spirit Parish in Greenhills*. In 1995 after a coronary bypass operation Father Barney was forced to reduce his work considerably. He took up the post of Chaplain at *St. Loman's Hospital*, Palmerstown and in 1998 transferred to the *National Rehabilitation Hospital*, Dun Laoghaire. He died 15<sup>th</sup> May 2003 in the chaplain's residence at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.

Barney is buried at Clonmacnoise.



### **FOGARTY, Br Agathon (John) 1876-1966**



Born 14 March 1876 in Galmoy, Co. Kilkenny, John was a student in the juniorate at Blackrock, 1894-6. Returned home, he entered All Hallows but left almost immediately, and in 1898 he applied to join the Brothers at Rockwell taking the name Agathon in memory of the saintly Br Agathon Ohmann (+1896) whom he had known at Blackrock. He was professed at Chevilly 19 March 1902 together with four other Irishmen: Br Gerald Heffernan, Osmond Healy, Eusebius Aherne and Othrain Casey, all of whom were to give sterling service in the Congregation at home and on the foreign missions. Br Agathon, together with Br Osmond, set out for Sierra Leone in 1902 - 'nought two' as he so often repeated in later years when he was regaling his listeners with recollections of the old days in Sierra Leone, where he 'endured the heat'. The Mission was then in the charge of Fr James Browne, who had entered the Congregation at Blanchardstown in 1859, before Père Leman had decided to move to Blackrock. Two other Irish Brothers already in Sierra Leone in 1902 were Brs Alban Gilroy and Regis Butler; the latter had come to Sierra Leone from Trinidad at the request of Fr Browne, his former superior. Br Agathon was posted to the newly-opened mission of Ascensiontown, near Freetown, where a parish and school were served by the Holy Ghost Fathers and the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. Agathon taught in the boys' school and had charge of the community garden. He spent 22 years there, returning home ill in 1923. On recovering from an operation he was appointed to Rockwell in 1924, and worked there with great devotion and fidelity for the remainder of his long life. He had charge of the cellar and was timekeeper (a very punctual one) and, until age prevented him, he was up at cock-crow ready to serve the early Masses. He rang the bells, dispensed the altar wine, looked after the Brothers' refectory, sold the toothpaste, boot laces and razor-blades, swept the avenue, served Masses, made and mended Rosary beads, cycled in and out to the Bank in Cashel, with his outrageously obvious wages bag. Students remembered him as always either striding vigorously about wearing outsized heavy boots, or sitting quietly with pliers and wire, working at his hobby of repairing rosary beads. He was by no means a great conversationalist, but he had the knack of hitting the bull's eye with succinct statements that have passed into the repertoire of those who recall the 'characters' of the Congregation. He was tried, as good people so often are, by spiritual worries which at times upset him greatly. The end came quietly. The taper he had lit at his religious profession sixty-four years earlier in Chevilly had burned itself out and there was nothing left to do but to go to God. Br Agathon Fogarty died 13 Feb 1966 aged 89 years. He was buried in Rockwell *BCA* 1966 31f; *RCA* 1966 5f.

### **FOGARTY, Fr Thomas 1856-1910**



Born 16 May 1856 in Ballyuskill, Attanagh, Co. Kilkenny, Tom studied at Blackrock, 1870-76, and profected there for two years. He went to France in 1878 and was ordained in 1882. Appointed to Rockwell, 1883, Fr Tom succeeded Fr Patrick McDermott as director of the Juniorate. In 1887 he was called on to set out for southern Africa where he was appointed Vice-Prefect Apostolic of Cimbabasië in succession to Fr Charles Duparquet. It had been hoped that this mission would provide a special territory where the Irish could work together. Unfortunately, these hopes were not to be realised, partly because of the area chosen by Fr Duparquet and the sustained hostility of the Protestant pastors, who had been already entrenched in Mafeking. Because of the lack of progress and the consequent malaise suffered by the confreres, Fr Fogarty had to recommend that the mission be abandoned. He returned to Ireland, 1889 and, after a short period at Blackrock, he returned to Rockwell. But not for long. He emerged as the obvious choice for the post of superior of the new college, St Mary's, to be opened at Rathmines, 1890. The one reservation expressed about him was his competence in dealing with financial affairs, and it was in that area that St Mary's was to be in trouble in the years ahead. In 1900 Fr Tom was appointed to the Mission Band while residing in the newly acquired provincialate house at Clareville. He was more at home and more successful in this pastoral ministry in the pulpit and the confessional. In 1907, however, he was called on to replace Dr Edward Crehan as superior at Blackrock. It was a time of change at Blackrock because of the establishment of the National University, which put paid to the university college which had been operating in the Castle since 1881. Fr Fogarty made little impact in the college and, because of recurring ill-health, he resigned from that post in April 1910. In spite of a complete rest and special medical care Fr Thomas returned to Clareville where he died 15 November 1910 aged 54 years. Because of his popularity with clergy and laity during his years of service in the Dublin diocese his funeral was one of the largest witnessed at Blackrock. He was buried in Dean's Grange *BCA* 1962,183; *BG*, 1910, 753.

### **FOLEY, Fr Cornelius 1926-1994**



Born 10 July 1926 in Sunday's Well, Cork, Con received his secondary education in the CBS North Monastery in Cork. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1944, a year that began with a record number of 82 novices. Professed in 1945 he took the B.Sc. degree at UCD, 1945-46, and profected in Rockwell, 1948-50. He went on to do his H.Dip.Ed. and a B.A. in Philosophy. Sent to Fribourg in 1952 he qualified with a B.D. and S.T.L. Ordained in 1955 his first appointment was to St Francis's College, Pugu, Tanzania. In 1965 he was transferred to Kabaa in Kenya. One who knew him there said of him: "He was a quiet man, a man of very few words, a very obliging confrere. He always gave the impression that he was perfectly contented and was never heard to complain. He thanked God that he was a priest and a teacher". Con returned to Kimmage in 1971 and served as chaplain to the Hospice at Harold's Cross where his commitment and his punctuality were admired and appreciated. He took ill rather suddenly and passed peacefully to the Lord January 24 1994 aged 67 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.1 February 1994

**FOLEY, Fr Gerard 1910-1985**



Born 22 September 1910 in Belfast where his father was serving in the police force, Gerry later moved with the family to near Killarney. He did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1924-29. Professed in Kimmage in 1930 he did philosophy for his degree at UCD, graduating in 1933. He prefectured at Rockwell, 1933/4, and the following year at St Mary's, Rathmines, as he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. While at St Mary's he took an active part in games and played for the Club XV. Ordained in 1938 he set out that same year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served as Bursar at St Mary's College, Nairobi, while at the same time filling other functions. He was chaplain to the Loreto Convent, Valley Road, three miles from St Mary's, where he said mass at 6.30am. On his return journey he picked up the school children whose parents could not take them to school themselves and he drove them home after games in the evening. His duties as Guest Master at St Mary's were performed with kindness and personal attention even when this left him on occasion with little time for rest. He taught a full days class and as there were 150 boarders at the school then it was quite a job in itself to procure food supplies during the war years and immediately after. His health, which had given reason for concern towards the end of his years in the scholasticate and was one of the considerations in having him appointed to East Africa, began to give cause for worry again after eleven years of this punishing schedule. He returned to Ireland in 1950 and it was decided that there was no possibility of his being able to return to the missions in the foreseeable future. In 1951 he was attached to St Michael's school, Ailesbury Rd, where he taught for some years. Later he was transferred to Blackrock College where he taught Christian doctrine for a period. His health began to deteriorate, requiring periodic hospitalisation. His nervous condition made him live more and more the life of a recluse in the community though in his better moments he was seen to be a charming confrère. Eventually Fr Gerard Foley moved to Kimmage Manor where he died 23 September 1985 aged 74 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 61 1985.

**FOLEY, Fr John Stanislaus 1878-1927**



Born 8 September 1878 in Dunkerrin, Co. Offaly, John moved with the family to Goosehill, Kilkenny, after his father's death. He attended school in Kilkenny until 1892 when he entered the Juniorate at Blackrock. He was noted for his gaiety and spontaneity, characteristics which remained with him throughout his life. He was a good singer and soon found his place in the school orchestra. As a senior student and prefect, 1898-99, he played with the Club Team, winning a Leinster medal. In 1900 he was transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, as a prefect and he proved such a success in the classroom and at games that they held on to him for five years, making six years in all as prefect. In 1905 he went to Prior Park to do his novitiate and after profession went to France for his senior studies. Ordained in 1910 he was appointed the following year to the juniorate at Castlehead, Lanc., to replace Fr Michael Kelly who was appointed the first master of novices at the new novitiate in Kimmage. That was a hard act to follow but Fr John rose to the challenge and all there were sorry to part with him when he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar in 1917. That was to prove a bigger challenge as several priests had to be withdrawn from parish work to serve as chaplains during the war. John threw himself wholeheartedly into all the jobs that came his way, his principal base being Holy Family

parish in Nairobi. When he had to leave Africa in 1924 because of ill-health, Bishop Neville spoke in the highest terms about his contribution to the mission. Appointed to Blackrock he gave again of his best in class, as prefect in charge or liturgy and as unofficial assistant to the director of scholastics, Fr Bertie Farrell. During this period he was seen clearly to be a man of prayer as well as a man of action. But it was obvious also that he was unwell, that he suffered very much from the cold even when in his enthusiasm he tried to assist at school matches in wintry weather. In 1927 it was diagnosed that he was in a serious condition because of diabetes. He was rushed to hospital but it soon became obvious that his case was terminal. He suffered intensely during his last days but with total resignation and conscious to the end. Fr John Foley died 25 September 1927 aged 49 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. PS One of the last things from the pen of Fr Ferdinand Senger, who was soon to return seriously ill to Germany, was the very eloquent *Notice* he composed about Fr Foley for publication in the *Bulletin Général* Vol. XXXIII 454ff.; BCArch

### **FOLEY, Fr Michael James 1895-1962**



Born 8 December 1895 in Ballyuskill, Attanagh, Co. Kilkenny, Mick was a student at Blackrock, 1909-16, during the directorships of Fr John Stafford and "Doc" Murphy. Professed in Kimmage, 1917, he did Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines, being among the first group to do so after the closure of the secondary school. He prefected at Rockwell for a year and then was sent to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he did a further three years - 1920-23. Ordained in 1927 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was stationed at Emekuku in Owerri province. It was a large parish, with very many out-stations, served for most of the time by only two priests. His next appointment was to Ahiala where there was to be the same shortage of priests. All available priests were deployed on arrival to other areas in the rapidly developing mission. In 1937 he was sent to Adazi to form a new station at Urualla. He helped to found the Sisters of the Most Pure Heart of Mary there. It was at Adazi he was also seen at his best. Fresh arrivals were sent to him as curates to be trained. He always treated them as partners, giving them a grounding in the mission system while respecting their initiative. And he never blamed them when things went wrong. His was a loyal heart, and his assistant was 'the best curate in the world'. Children loved him because he was a child with them and he used smile when old pagans greeted him with 'Amorning Folly'. He spent twenty-seven years on the Nigerian mission, intensely devoted to his parishioners, painstaking in instruction, untiring in administering the sacraments, accessible to all, pagan or Christian, who sought his counsel, uniformly candid, cheerful and unaffected. He said that from the first child he baptised in emergency four days after his arrival in Emekuku, and called by him Margaret after his own mother, nothing went wrong on him in Africa. He returned to Ireland in ill-health, and was appointed to the Brothers' novitiate in Ardracran, Navan, where he was confessor and spiritual father. Finally, when the doctors pronounced him incurable, he asked to be allowed to die in Kimmage, and he met the end with the untroubled fortitude he had shown for a lifetime. Fr Michael Foley passed to the Lord 30 October 1962 aged 66 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1963 26; *SpWW* 720

**FOX, Fr Thomas M. 1905-1986**



Born 20 September 1905 in Mullavornia, Ballymahon, Co. Longford, Tom did his secondary studies at St Mel's College. He entered the novitiate in Kimmage in 1923 and after his profession he moved with the whole senior scholasticate to the Castle, Blackrock, where he was to do all his studies for the priesthood. Attendance at the university had been suspended in those years by the Provincial, Fr Joseph Byrne, and, in order to have priests ready as soon as possible to answer to the urgent calls from the various missions, several went through without the extra training provided by prefecting. Fr Tom was one of these. Ordained in 1929 Fr Tom set off for Nigeria the following year in the company of Bishop Shanahan and future Archbishop Thomas Brosnahan. That was to be the last time Shanahan was to set sail for Nigeria, apart, that is, from his visit in 1935-6 for the consecration of the cathedral at Onitsha. And when Bishop Shanahan's remains were transferred from Nairobi to Nigeria, it was Fr Tom Fox who was entrusted with that mission. On arriving in Nigeria in 1931, Fr Tom was stationed first at Adazi where he worked with Fr Con Liddane and Fr John Anyogu, the first native Nigerian to be ordained from a mission conducted by the Congregation. In the *État* for 1934 we see Fr Tom listed as director of the new senior seminary located at Eke; there were only three students at the time, one of them being Blessed Cyprian Tansey, OCSO. By 1939 we see Fr Tom is director of the mission at Enugu with Fr Jordan as assistant. Fr Fox had to retire from the mission-field at a relatively early age due to ill-health. He was stationed at Blackrock in 1957, where he assumed the function of bursar for St Michael's School. He later moved to live at St Michael's and it was there that he was to spend the rest of his life as bursar, 1957-1970, and for the next eight years he served as chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital. Fr Fox's first introduction to hospital chaplaincy work was his totally devoted care given day and night to his confrere, Fr Pat Henry, during the distressful period when he was dying of cancer. Fr Thomas Fox died 30 November 1986 aged 81 years. IPArch F 66; IPr *Obituaries* 1986.

**FRAWLEY, Fr Michael J. 1914-1971**



Born 1 September 1914 in Killkee, Co. Clare, Mick was a student at Rockwell until 1932 when he transferred to Blackrock for his final year. He was among the first group to do their novitiate in Kilshane, being professed in 1934. He studied at Kimmage and at UCD taking the BA in 1937 and the H.Dip.Ed in 1938 during his term as prefect in St Mary's, Rathmines. Ordained in 1941 Fr Mick was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he served for two years as Dean of discipline. In 1944 he was called on unexpectedly to teach Dogmatic Theology and Ethics at Kimmage. He received a tongue in cheek letter from a confrere congratulating him on succeeding 'to the joint chairs of the two most eminent professors in the Irish province' namely, Dr Edward Leen and 'Doc' Murphy. Fr Mick himself admitted that his main problem was to be a page ahead of his students in both disciplines. In 1945 he was appointed to Nigeria where he was to serve with a few breaks till the Biafra War in 1969. During his first holiday in Ireland he taught for almost a year at Blackrock where one saw how closely he related to young people. He always had a great sense of humour and delighted in playing practical jokes on confreres known to be very set in their ways. Confreres were amused to hear his

Second Year students imitating to perfection the 'Doc' Murphy whom they had never heard or seen. Returned to Nigeria, Fr Mick was appointed Headmaster of Stella Maris College in Port Harcourt. The following year he was called on to go to The Gambia to take charge of St Augustine's College. Returning to Nigeria he served for periods at Amaigbo and as Principal of Bishop Shanahan College at Orlu. Later, he was appointed Director at Ikeduru, 1961-68. Appointed Religious superior in 1968 he took up residence in Ihiara. Interned with the other confreres because of the Biafran War, Fr Mick was remembered for his success in keeping morale high as he sang each night in his beautiful tenor voice - his party piece being 'Liverpool Lou.' Always ready to rise to a new challenge, he volunteered after the Biafra war to go to Malawi where he worked in the archdiocese of Blantyre. Appointed to Masonjola parish he worked with Fr Denis Gavin, celebrating Mass at 6 am before setting out to work. On October 2 1971 Fr Denis found him dead in bed with no sign of struggle or pain. Fr Michael Frawley was 57 years when the Lord called him. *IPNI* No. I 1971 Nov.; *BCA* 1972, 207f; *RCA*, 80

### **FRAWLEY, Fr Michael F. 1925-1999**



Born on 16 February 1925 in Wolfhill, Mountrath, Co. Laois, Michael did his secondary studies in CBS, Baldoyle, Dublin, 1938-40, and Patrician College, Ballyfin, Co. Laois, 1940-43. Having opted to join the Congregation he was professed in Kilshane in 1944. After having qualified for the BA degree at UCD in 1947 he was assigned to Trinidad as prefect. He served for three years in St Mary's, Port of Spain. Returned to Ireland in 1950 he did Theology in Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the priesthood in 1953. In 1954 on having completed his pastoral year he was appointed to Nigeria. Assigned to Owerri District he served at St Peter Claver's Junior Seminary in Okpala, teaching 230 students while also taking pastoral care of a congregation of 4,000 living in the area. Later he taught at St Charles' Secondary School in Enyiogugu. Having to leave Nigeria in 1967 because of the civil war he returned to Ireland and was appointed to parish work in the Diocese of Waterford. He served in the parishes of St John's New Street, 1968-72, and in Carrickbeg, Carrick-on-Suir, 1973-77. Fr Michael then moved to the parish of Kilrossanty and Fewes where he was appointed parish priest in 1986. He took seriously ill in 1999 and died on 6 December 1999 aged 74 years. In the funeral homily the Bishop of Waterford, Dr William Lee, said: "When the name of Fr Michael Frawley is mentioned the same word keeps cropping up - that he was a gentleman. I, personally remember him as a courteous and, of course, kind man - those qualities that God has with us and the qualities that we should have with Him and with each other. He believed, so strongly, in being kind to people, his parishioners, and he bore witness to that lovely quality in any person and particularly in any priest, the quality of one who cares. Fr Michael was, dare I say it, a spiritual man and typical of the best of Irish priesthood. He was what one might call in this part of Ireland, a 'quiet' man. He never sought the limelight; he never sought recognition in any way. He was, as well, a very well read man, but he never paraded his knowledge. Indeed it was a sheer joy to sit down with him and talk to him about what he had been reading recently about theology or about different aspects of the Church...". In accordance with his own wishes Fr Michael was buried 'amongst the people who meant so much to him' in the parish cemetery in Kilrossanty. *KNSM* No. 355; Bishop Lee's Homily, MS.

### **FRAWLEY, Fr Patrick 1853-1889**



Born 16 January 1853 in Mahoonagh, Limerick, he wanted to be a priest from his earliest years but had to opt for a job in Limerick City to help his family. He was encouraged in his vocation by Fr Carberry OP, who had given a retreat to the students at Blackrock and was later to be appointed bishop of Hamilton. Patrick entered the Juniorate at Rockwell, 6 February 1875. He went to Langonnet to do Philosophy in 1878 and returned to Rockwell in 1881. Ordained in France in 1883, he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. One of his duties was to act as chaplain to the military. The notes sent to Paris about him describe him as an excellent catechist - 'another Fr Coyle'. (Fr T. Coyle had been the best Sierra Leone had seen to that date). Illness, however, forced Fr Frawley to return to Ireland where he still fretted about his mission, working ceaselessly collecting funds. He was given permission through the good offices of Fr Ebenrecht to preach at Gardiner St. Church. Though still far from well he returned to his mission and worked to the end. The superior, Père Edouard Blanchet, wrote about him after his death: "The mission has suffered a great loss in the death of Fr Frawley. That good priest was possessed of all the qualities for doing good. May the good God who gave him to us send us a good Irishman in his place. These Irishmen are very good missionaries. May the Lord send us others like Bracken, Coyle and Frawley, and Sierra Leone will soon be converted to the faith" (3 Aug. '89). Fr Patrick Frawley died 2 August 1889 aged 36 years. *BG XV*, 491.

### **FRITSCH, Br Theodor (Michel) 1841-1921**



Born 15 February 1841 in Lampertheim, Alsace, Michael entered the Congregation in 1857 at St-Ilan, Brittany, where the Brothers' novitiate was located for a period after the transfer from Notre Dame du Gard. The following year Langonnet Abbey in Brittany was acquired and one of the many communities set up there under the direction of Fr Frederick Le Vavasseur was the central house of formation for the Brothers. The director of this department in 1858-9, was Père Jules Leman, soon to be sent to Ireland to found the Province there. On deciding to open a college at Blackrock the first man Leman asked for was Br Theodore, then but recently professed. He knew his sterling quality and had seen him mastering several trades in the workshops supervised by M. Eugene, a brother of the Superior General, and by Br Eugene Devena, who was one day to take charge of the interior decoration of the new chapel at Blackrock. Br Theodor taught art and French at the new French College, Blackrock, and when Fr Theodor Schiffmacher supervised the erection of the first building at the college, Br Theodor took charge of the plastering, especially the ceiling to which he affixed a cornice modelled on the elaborate one in the main parlour. That cornice held firm for almost a century. Br Theodor's main contribution was in the classroom. At one period he was allowed by Père Leman to deputise for M.L'Abbé Schiir, former Spiritan, who taught French classes in a little school run by some lady near the college. Père Leman hoped this might become a prep-school for the college in time. He almost lost the services of Br Theodore when the authorities in Paris learned about that unorthodox arrangement. He actually had to part with Br Theodore in 1862 in favour of the orphanage taken over at St Vincent's, Glasnevin, where Theodore was to be general factotum as he assisted the Director, Fr Joseph Koeberlé. When that work was abandoned the following year, 1863, Br Theodor was called on to set off for Trinidad where he was

to be a founder member of the new college being opened there, St Mary's. For many years he was to play an important role in St Mary's as bursar and prefect. He also served as organist. He recalled his efforts in restoring order when the boys changed the words of the Gloria being taught by the very tall Fr Edward Conygham: they persisted in singing, "Conygham, *tu solus altissimus*." One of the superiors with whom Theodor worked was Fr James Browne whom he had known as a student in the first year at Blackrock College. In 1897 Br Theodor moved to St Martial's, Haiti, and in 1906 he was transferred to the junior seminary at St Mary's, Fort-de-France, Martinique. During the 63 years service he gave in the Antilles he was to visit Europe only on three occasions. He was very happy wherever he was sent to work and from what was written in his praise everyone was very happy with the man and his work. Br Theodor Fritch died in retirement at Morne-Rouge, Martinique, 30 November 1921 aged 80 years. *BG XXX*, 559ff; *Leman*, 146ff; *SpWW* 285

### **FULLEN, Fr Joseph                      1916-1999**



Born 8 December 1916 in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, Joe followed in the footsteps of his brothers Fred and Paddy in going to Blackrock College, 1929-35, with the intention of joining the Congregation. Though small in stature (hence often referred to as "wee Joe") he proved an excellent scrumhalf, winning cup medals at junior and senior levels. A good singer, he took part in the first Gilbert and Sullivan Opera produced in 1934 by Fr Andy Egan and prefect Joe Corless. Professed in 1936 he did one year at UCD and then was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, as prefect. He served there for five years because of the difficulty in travelling home during the war. He resumed studies at UCD gaining the BA in 1944. Ordained in 1947 he was appointed the following year to Zanzibar Vicariate, but before taking up his post did one year teaching at Blackrock while qualifying for the H.Dip.Ed. Arrived in Kenya he did parish work for one year and was then appointed to St Mary's School, Nairobi where he taught until 1957 when he was re-appointed to Blackrock. There he was to serve for the rest of his life, teaching mainly Religion, French and History. He proved an excellent teacher and was very popular with his students. To improve his fluency in French he followed a summer course in the *Institut Catholique* in Paris where he gained '*premier au monde*' among the foreign students. Later he was to be interviewed on French television in the run-up to the Ireland-France match in Dublin. He took an active part in extracurricular activities in the College - conducting a Legion of Mary Praesidium, acting as coach to the Under-14 rugby team and as manager of the Golf team, which under his direction won the All Ireland Schools League. Even after retiring from the classroom he remained close to school activities, especially in supervising the check-in where he made daily contact with the sons and grandsons of his former pupils. Popular with the students and staff he was pleased to be addressed as '*Père*' Fullen. In the last few months he was cared for in Marian House where he died on 23 November 1999. He was the last of the Fullen family to join the Congregation: his uncle Patrick, his brothers, Fred and Paddy and his first cousin Fr Johnny O'Neill. His naiveté, which made him very approachable by students and grown-ups, is perhaps best hit off by a comment by one of the devoted Fullen sisters; "Our three brothers might be compared to three eggs: Fred was hard-boiled, Paddy medium, and Joe rather soft-boiled!" Fr Joe is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No. 5 1999



### **FULLEN, Fr Frederick 1907-1995**



Born 23 September 1907 in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, a nephew of Fr Patrick, Fred entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1921 together with his first cousin John O'Neill. They were to be followed later by Fred's younger brothers Paddy and Joe. Fred was a member of the together with 1925 Schools Senior Rugby team which won the Leinster trophy for the 25<sup>th</sup> time. That several of the students from the juniorate featured on that and other victorious school teams was symptomatic of the spirit infused into the juniorate by its dynamic director Fr Bertie Farrell. Professed in Kimmage in 1926 Fred was back again in Blackrock as prefect 1927-30 and was an automatic choice for his place on the Blackrock Club Team. Ordained in 1934 he served for a number of years on the Promotions team and was close to Bishop Shanahan who was always ready to appear on their platforms supporting them with his inspiring addresses to their "fellow-missionaries." Appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1940 he served as Dean of Discipline, helped Dr Joe Whelan in the training of teams and attended UCD to complete his degree course and secure the H.Dip. In 1945 he succeeded Fr James Dowling as bursar, a post he held till appointed to Nigeria where he teamed up again with Dr Whelan by then Bishop of Owerri. Fr Fred served as Principal of two Training Colleges in succession - Umuahia and Azaraegbelu. He stayed on during the Biafra war without a break and was among those imprisoned with Bishop Whelan being deported in January 1970. He went on a lecture tour of South Africa and Kenya where his brother Paddy was serving. Fr Fred then was appointed to the USA where he was involved in Pastoral ministry till at the age of 84 he retired to Kimmage where he died 27 August 1995 aged 87 years. BCArch; *St Mary's College*, Wm Maher, p.207; *SpNM* No. 264

### **FULLEN, Fr Patrick 1911-1999**



Born 11 August 1911 in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, and following in the footsteps of his brother Fred and his first cousin Johnny O'Neill he went to Blackrock College, 1924-1929, to do his secondary studies and to join the Congregation. Professed in Kimmage in 1930 he prefected at St Mary's College, Trinidad, 1932-35. Ordained priest in 1938 he was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar where he was to serve till 1991, apart from a year as assistant master of novices in Kilshane, 1949-50. He spent almost 50 years in parish ministry in Nairobi, Mangu and Lioku. He immediately set out to master the language of the peoples among whom he was working. Swahili became a second language for him. Later he became proficient in both Kikama and Kikuyu. During his years with the Wakambe people he published a catechism in Kikamba. He taught for a period in St Mary's and acted as chaplain to the city prison which became his parish. During the Mau-Mau emergency he assisted at countless executions. This was a very demanding task but he looked on such pastoral work as an essential part of the exercise of his priesthood. In 1956 the government awarded him a MBE for his services. He was seen to be very particular in the way he prepared people for the sacraments. He had a wonderful facility in getting to know peoples' names. The visitation of the sick in their homes was always an important part of his apostolate. He had great devotion to Our Lady and was closely associated with the Legion of Mary during all his years in Kenya. He was called on to assist Edel Quinn, the famed Legion Envoy, during the last days of her life and was with her when she died. He was seen to read *L'Osservatore Romano* assiduously in

order to keep in contact with the mind and teaching of the Chief Pastor. He cheerfully admitted that he was not very good at practical things. He depended on others in such matters and people were always ready to help him. From 1960 he did pastoral work at Our Lady of Visitation in Nairobi until he became pastor at Mangu in 1967, and from 1970 to 1976 he was again pastor at Our Lady of the Visitation. His last appointment was to Lioku. He suffered a stroke as he was writing a baptismal certificate for one of his parishioners. On returning to Ireland in 1991 he retired to Kimmage where his apostolate was in bearing the cross of suffering. In the last period he was cared for in Marian House where he died on 4 July 1999 aged 88 years. Fr Paddy was a brother of Frs Fred and Joe and a nephew of Fr Patrick Fullen who died in 1929 and who also served in Kenya as a member of the English Province. Paddy is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No.3 1999; *KEASM* No. 459

**FULLEN, Fr Patrick            1878-1929**



Born 17 March 1878 in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, Patrick was to be followed into the Congregation by four nephews, the three Frs Fullen and Fr John O'Neill. Patrick himself, however, took a very round about journey in entering the Congregation. First, he tried the Passionists in England but found their régime too demanding on his rather weak constitution. Next he entered the Conventual Friars Minor in Immensee, Switzerland. His health proved a problem once more, but they agreed to retain him as secretary while he studied philosophy and theology in the hopes that eventually he might decide to join them. At the end of his second year's theology he became convinced that he was not in the place God wanted him to be. He emigrated to America, still believing that God was calling him to the priesthood. A pastor in Pittsburgh directed him to the Congregation. On entering the community at Pittsburgh in 1903, he was appointed prefect in the college for a year. After his novitiate in Cornwells, Philadelphia, he prefectured for another year at Pittsburgh, and then was sent back to Switzerland to continue his theology course at Fribourg. The following year he was transferred to Chevilly where he completed his course and was ordained in 1908. Returning to America he served at a number of parishes, including St Mark's, Harlem, which was committed to the Congregation in 1913 as part of Mother Katharine Drexel's project of having separate pastoral centres for blacks. Having given good service in work confided to the Congregation in the USA, he was transferred to the English province in 1923, where he served at the Juniorate in Castlehead and the extension at Bebington. Eventually, he was given his wish to work on the foreign missions; he was appointed to the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro being stationed at Tanga. He worked hard there, perhaps too hard for his physical resources. Forced to return home Fr Patrick arrived in Dublin in very poor shape and died soon after on 4 December 1929 aged 51 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. By that time his four nephews were at various stages on the road to the priesthood. *BG* 34 612f; *SpWW* 360.

## GALLAGHER, Fr Peter 1917-1989



Born 30 March 1917 in Knockastolar, Bunbeg, Co. Donegal, Peadar did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1933-37. He was a native speaker of Irish and whenever he felt depressed by life in Blackrock all he had to do was read a few pages of the Kerry Gaeltacht classic "*Jimín*" and he was in his normal mood, ready to laugh at the ridiculousness of so much in life. Peadar proved a good footballer and would certainly have won his place on the SCT had he not been a few days over age. Professed in 1938, he professed at Blackrock, 1939-40. He loved to laugh at the fact that, though having come from the Gaeltacht, he had managed to coach the first cricket team in Blackrock to win a Leinster Cup - the 1941 Junior Cricket team. It must be admitted though that the veteran Fr Peter Meagher gave him some helpful tips. He proved a very efficient member of the Blackrock RFC 1sts as a prefect. He was in charge of the Day students and, though his distinct Donegal accent and his seeming difficulty at times in expressing himself in English may have presented problems for him, there was no situation that Peadar could not master. He was actually very popular among the students as he was to be wherever he went in life. Having qualified for the BA in 1943 he began Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1946. The following year Fr Peadar was appointed to Nigeria and the records show us that, contrary to what might have been expected, he spent his years in Nigeria in charge of Training Colleges for teachers - first at Umuahia under the expert tutelage of veteran teacher Fr Pat Doyle. There were 190 students attending that college. Next he was director of the Training College at Azaraegbelu in the Emekuku district where he had Fr Willy McKenna as assistant. Later he was in charge of Regina Coeli Training College at Ogoni, Owerri, where he had 117 students and 16 teachers to cater for. He had the assistance there of Frs Angus Frazor and Patrick McDonald. And in the best tradition of Lejeune and Shanahan Peadar could often be found down at the river digging sand and making the bricks required for the buildings. One is not surprised to learn that Peadar won his place on the Priests' rugby XV captained by Bishop Joe Whelan, who made rugby and ecclesiastical history when they took on an Army XV and beat them. In 1968 we find Peadar as director of Stella Maris Secondary School at Port Harcourt where there were 450 students and 23 teachers. He was also Vicar General of the diocese. It must then have been a heart break for Peadar when he was obliged to quit his beloved Nigeria in the aftermath of the Biafra war. But he was not the man to quit the mission field. He was soon back at work, beginning all over again in a different situation in Kenya. There we find him at work among the Kikuyu people in the Holy Cross Church, Thigio, in the Limuru district. This Mission was founded by the widows of those who had laid down their lives for freedom. Apart from his pastoral work he took a great interest in rearing hens. And he enjoyed showing off his flocks to visitors - among them a classmate from Blackrock days, Dr Donie Meagher, who together with his wife came to stay with Peadar in his mission. They loved the company of Peadar whose breezy sense of humour chased all clouds away. It was with regret that the news broke that he was coming home in 1989, suffering from terminal cancer. Peadar has been variously described by those closest to him as "a man without guile," a man of faith", a "mutheru muru" i.e. "a very holy man". Fr Peadar Gallagher passed from this life to a better on Féile Mhuire gan Smál 8 December 1989 aged 72 years and was buried in Kimmage. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam fial uasal. IPNI No.1 1990*

### **GALT, Fr Ivan 1918-1981**



Born 12 September 1918 in St Lucia Ivan did his secondary studies at St Mary's College, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1936 he was professed and went on to Kimmage where from 1937 to 1945 he studied philosophy and attended UCD qualifying for the BSc, MSc and Hdip.Ed. He studied theology in Fribourg and was ordained in July 1947. Assigned to St Mary's College, Port of Spain, in 1948, he was to serve on the teaching staff there till his death. Fr Ivan Galt died 1 April 1981 aged 62 years and was buried in Trinidad. IPArch Port of Spain diocesan archives.

### **Galvin, Father Patrick Joseph 1943-2003**

Paddy was born in Castlefrench, Ballinamore Bridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1943. After his secondary school studies at St. Mary's, Ballygar (1956-'59) and Blackrock Juniorate (1959-'61) he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1962. He studied Philosophy in Kimmage Manor and then prefect in Fatima College, Trinidad for two years (1964-'66). Paddy studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 6th July 1969. In 1970 Father Paddy's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** and he was assigned to the *Kenema Diocese*. Paddy was assigned to *Koidu* where he was involved in parish work and school administration. On making the appointment it was said, "he would be excellent in a difficult mission". In 1980 Paddy returned to Ireland and did a sabbatical year at the Carlow Liturgy Centre. In 1982 Paddy was appointed to the **Long Island Regional Community**. He took up parish ministry in St. Boniface Church in *Florida*. In addition to parish work Paddy studied for a Masters Degree in Psychology at St. Thomas University, Miami. Paddy returned to Ireland in 1988 and took up an appointment in the *Justice and Peace Ministry at Ardbraccan*. He was particularly involved in *Group Dynamic Work with Counselling and Spiritual Direction*.

In 1991 Paddy became *Director of "An Tobar"*. After he finished his term he joined the Community at *Libernan House* on Kimmage Road West. There he worked as a counsellor in family life and therapy. During this time he was involved in fieldwork with the *Newlands Counselling Centre*. In 1995 Paddy was appointed *Superior of the Spiritan House Community* on the North Circular Road. In 1997 he had some illness resulting in surgery but he recovered very well. During 1998 Paddy was *Spiritual Director at the House of Studies*, Kimmage and in 1999 was appointed as *Assistant Priest at Kimmage Manor Parish*. People in the parish often remarked on his ability to empathise with the suffering person. He was known for his great enthusiasm for *Lectio Divina*.

Due to the deterioration of his health Father Paddy could no longer stay on in the parish and was admitted to Marian House in the latter part of 2002, where he died 6<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

### **Gannon, Father John 1920-2005**

John was born at Shrowland, Athy, Co. Kildare, on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1920. After his secondary school studies at Knockbeg he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 1939. After Philosophy Studies in Kimmage Manor he perfected in Blackrock College during 1941-'43. John was conferred with a B.A. from U.C.D. in 1944. He studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the

Priesthood on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1946 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1947. In 1948 Father John's first appointment was to **Kenya** where his first post was teaching and then Headmaster at *St. George School, Waa*. He was Education Secretary for Mombasa 1950-'52. He also served at pastoral work in *Giriama*. In 1952 he took over as Education Secretary in the Archdiocese of Nairobi. He held this position till 1966. Thereafter he served consecutively in *Lioki, Gatitu, Mangu, Thiogo and Ngarariga*. He became fluent at Kikuyu and wrote a number of catechetical books in this language. From 1970 until 1972 John served as *Provincial Councillor for Mission* and was *Superior of the Kimmage Community*. In 1973 he became leader of the Irish Spiritans who undertook the new mission in **Ethiopia**. He established very close co-operation with the then Orthodox Archbishop, Abuna Selama. John remained in Ethiopia until 1982 during which time he was Vicar General of the Bishop of Jimma and President of CMRS. Returning to Ireland in 1982 he became Community Leader in **Ardbraccan** at the time when An Tobar was being established. In 1988 he moved to Kimmage Manor as **Mission Procurator**. He built up the procure from scratch and made it into an outstanding service to the Province. John retired from active work in 1996 and began to devote his time to writing his memoirs "Missionary Rambles" – a very interesting and very entertaining account. John transferred from Mission to Marian House in 2004. He died 18<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in Mount Carmel Hospital.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

#### **GARIN, Fr Pierre 1877-1915**



Born 6 May 1877 in Bourgheroulde, Eure, France, Pierre and his brother Jules came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1893. Jules was professed in 1898 and served as prefect in St-Pierre, where he survived the volcanic eruption, and at Basse-Terre; he then left the Congregation. Pierre was professed in 1900 and ordained in 1903. After his consecration to the apostolate in 1903 Fr Pierre was appointed to French Guinea. He served at Tumbo, Conakry, where Fr Stoffel, formerly of Rockwell, was Director. In the 1908 *État* he is given as being in an outstation of Boffa, and in 1910 he is given as Director at Bok,. Returning to France before the outbreak of World War I Fr Pierre Garin died rather suddenly at Chevilly 2 October 1915 aged 38 years. BJR No.609; GenArch; *État*

#### **GASCHY, Br Elimien (Antoine) 1874-1960**



Born 7 March 1874 in Lomkten Stade, Le Vesnet, in the diocese of Strasbourg, Antoine was one of several bearing that surname to join the Congregation. (Cf. Fr Louis M, who did his studies in Ireland.) Br Elimien was professed at Chevilly in 1893. It was there that he was trained as chef and the excellence of his cooking led to calls for his services from several communities. He worked for some years at Chevilly before moving to nearby Grignon (1893/4) and then to Orgeville. In 1898 he began his long service in Ireland, first at Rockwell for two years, then in the newly founded community of Clareville beside Blackrock where he was on loan for two years to get the new Provincialate off to a good start. Rockwell claimed him back in 1902 and he was to give sterling service to many generations of students until he was called on in 1933 to move the few miles to Kilshane in order to ensure a good kitchen

service for the new novitiate house being opened there. It was in Kilshane that he was to spend the rest of his long life and many generations of novices have happy memories of his tasty dishes and, let it be said, of his testy temper when they trespassed on his domain. Br Elimien died 20 June 1960 aged 86 years and was laid to rest in the community cemetery. When Kilshane was sold his remains were transferred to Rockwell where in fact they rightly belonged as Br Elimien had spent the thirty-five most active years of his life there. *État*; IPArch

**GASCHY, Fr Louis M. 1888-1965**



Born 15 March 1888 in Elsenheim, Alsace, Louis came from a family which gave several members to the Congregation. He was educated at the apostolic school conducted by the Congregation at Seysinnet, near Grenoble, till 1904 when the school was obliged to quit France. It moved across the border to Susa in Italy. Fr Joseph Shanahan, a former pupil of this school when it was located at Beauvais, visited Susa in 1906 en route to Rome. That autumn Louis Gaschy and Louis Kunzler were transferred to Blackrock to continue their studies. From 1910 to 1913 he prefected at St. Mary's, Trinidad, and on his return to France he found himself shortlisted for military service during the war. For some reason he was not called up and he remained at home caring for his aged parents. In 1920 he was free to continue his studies and after ordination he was posted to Bagomoyo mission where his two brothers were already working. Later he spent periods in Fribourg, Neufgrange and Cellule. During the German occupation he was appointed as pastor in Algeria where he ministered till incapacitated by a stroke. He returned to France and died at Colmar 17 August 1965 aged 77 years. Louis may well have been the last of the French students to do part of their secondary studies in Ireland. BCArch; *BCA* 1966, 26.

**GAVIN, Fr Alphonse D. 1871-1949**



Born 2 August 1871 in Limerick Alphonse emigrated to the USA and in 1886 he entered the Juniorate of the Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA. On completing his secondary studies he prefected at the college there and did his Philosophy. He then transferred to Cornwells for Theology and made his profession in 1898. Ordained priest at Philadelphia in 1899 Fr Alphonse's first assignment was to Pittsburgh where he taught till 1903. He then did pastoral work at St Peter Claver's, Philadelphia, at Notre Dame, Chippewa Falls and at Harlem, N.Y. He taught for six years at Cornwells before being appointed pastor of St Ann's, Millvale, where he built a new church. Ill-health was to restrict his activity as from then, but even when he had to retire to Ferndale in 1938 he continued to help when able in neighbouring parishes. While he was in his vigour he was a successful teacher, a much sought-after preacher and an energetic and zealous pastor. His confreres appreciated his thoughtfulness, his good humour and his intense interest in all pertaining to the Congregation. Fr Alphonse Gavin died 2 February 1949 aged 76 years. *SpWW*, 575

### **GIBBONS, Fr Michael Gerard 1917-2000**



Born on 11 August 1917 in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, he later moved with the family to Belfast. Gerry did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1929-36. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1937. He studied philosophy in Kimmage and UCD, 1937-38, followed by three years prefecting with the Bursar or Promotions Team. He then resumed his university studies qualifying for the BA in 1943. Ordained priest in 1946 he was appointed the following year to the Promotions Team in Kimmage where he worked until 1974. He was then appointed bursar at the Mission House where he served until 1980. He then served as bursar in Willow Park School for one year and was chaplain to St Joseph's community in Tivoli Rd, Dun Laoghaire. In 1982 he took up the post of Bursar at the Provincialate House where he served till 1994 when he retired in ill health to Kimmage Manor. Fr Gerry died on 22 September 2000 aged 83 years. During the years he worked on the Promotions Team his ministry touched the lives of so many people throughout the country, by letters appeals and correspondence. His letters and addresses had always a strong spiritual content and message and because of his gentle manner he was loved by all. In his quiet way he did so much to foster good relations throughout the wider Spiritan family of mission supporters and, though never having worked on the foreign missions, there was no doubting his contribution to the missionary apostolate in the tradition of St Thérèse of Lisieux. Fr Gerry was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. *IprArch; IPNI. No. 2. 2000*

### **GILDEA, Fr John 1928-1996**



Born 4 August 1928 in Hamiltonsbawn, Co. Armagh, Jack did his secondary studies in St Patrick's College, Armagh, before entering the Congregation in 1946. After his profession he secured the BA at UCD in 1950 and then prefectured for one year at Blackrock at the end of which he qualified for the H.DipEd. Ordained priest in 1954 Fr Jack was appointed the following year to Nigeria, serving in Onitsha. He served in the secondary school in Mbaise and later in the Spiritan Juniorate in Ihiala. Obligated to quit Nigeria in the aftermath of the Biafra war, he studied Religious Education at Mount Oliver Catechetical Centre, Dundalk, 1970-72. Deeply committed to the understanding of the development of theology in the wake of the Vatican Council he participated in a further course of catechetics in Corpus Christi Institute, London. He subsequently worked in the area of Human Relations-training and Counselling at the Richmond Fellowship in London, first as a student and then as a member of the staff. There he displayed his special gift in one-to-one conversation and sharp observation of people in groups - how they get on and how they don't and ways of helping them. After some years he was invited to use his talents for the good of the Church in Ireland and the rest of his life was spent in doing precisely that. In 1983 he began his work in Ireland directly as a pastoral function of his priesthood, both group and personal work with priests, clerical students, sisters and brothers and lay people involved in pastoral and theological work and study. He did that in the Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor, in All Hallows, in Miltown Institute, in Loreto House in Carysfort. He founded the Irish Association of Pastoral Formation in which he was actively engaged up till the time of his untimely death after but a

very brief illness. Fr John Gildea died 18 December 1996 aged 68 years. IPArch; IP *Obituaries*, January 1997

**GILMORE, Fr James Joseph 1891-1970**



Born 9 January 1891 in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Joe had spent three years as teacher in the Augustinians' school in New Ross before coming to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1915 to study for the matriculation. He was professed in Kimmage in 1917 and attended the university from St Mary's, Rathmines, taking the BA in 1920. Ordained at St Mary's in 1923 by Bishop Shanahan Fr Joe was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro, East Africa. On the last leg of his journey to Kilema he was met by a team of mission carriers who were set on travelling very early in the morning to escape the heat of the sun later, but Fr Joe, not knowing a word of their language, insisted on following Mayo time, much to his regret during the scorching twenty mile trek. Half his luggage had also been mislaid in London. Bishop Henry Gogarty placed him in the growing mission of Uru where he became a director and teacher in the diocesan school of catechists. By 1930 he had some 150 young men in that school and, when it was transferred to Kibosho to become St Patrick's Teachers Training School, he went with it as Director. In 1932 he went home for a rest and was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines. The following year he was asked by the superior, Fr Peter Walsh - his fellow-countyman - to found the Junior School. He began by going back to school himself: he sat for the H.Dip.Ed and briefed himself thoroughly on what was required to improve the quality of the education and the condition of the premises. Young teachers at that time recalled how he communicated his enthusiasm to them and provided them with helpful guidelines. He stocked and supervised the school libraries. He promoted the arts - especially music, drama and painting - and he was quite an accomplished artist himself with the brush. In 1952 he was an obvious, if unwilling, choice for the presidency after Fr Walsh's long incumbency. He continued to improve the organisation of the school and carried on the St Mary's Extension Plan, including the provision of a new school chapel. Together with Fr Terry O'Brien, who succeeded him as Dean of the Junior School, he set up the Parents' Association to help defray the expenses incurred in the restructuring of the school. Afflicted by a stroke in 1956 he decided to resign the presidency the following year. One of the abiding effects of his illness was an impaired memory. This led to some embarrassing and humorous incidents that, because of Fr Joe's jovial and loveable disposition, have passed into the spiritan repertoire of *fioretti* to be retold at reunions. For example: Fr Joe volunteered to represent the community at a special funeral service. On being asked late that evening how things went, he replied: "Oh the jumping was magnificent." He had followed the crowds to the Horse Show by mistake! Fr Joseph Gilmore died 30 March 1970 aged 79 and was buried in Kimmage. It was said of Fr Joe: "He was a holy man who loved his daily mass and office; a quiet man with a twinkle in his eye and a ready chuckle on his lips." BCArch; BCA 1970 229f; *StM.A.* 1970 47; *SpEAM* 300



### **GILMORE, Fr Michael W 1910-2000**



Born on 2 July 1910 in Carrodger, Newtowncashel, Co. Longford, he did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1924-29. Entering the novitiate at Kimmage, he was professed in 1930. He professed at Blackrock, 1932-33, and was among the first group of Theologians who moved from the Castle, Blackrock, to Kimmage after the novices had been transferred to Kilshane. Ordained priest in 1936 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. His first assignment was to Emekuku where he served till 1942 when he was called on to act as Chaplain to the British Army during the Second World War. He was to serve in Sierra Leone, London, Middle East, Nigeria and Ghana. Returned to missionary work in Nigeria he was assigned to the Diocese of Owerri and posted to the new parish of Enyiogu as pastor. Suffering from ill health he returned to Ireland and served for a year in the Brothers' Novitiate in Kimmage. The following year he taught in Willow Park Preparatory School. In 1960 he was appointed chaplain to the Holy Rosary Sisters Convent in Killeshandra, Co Cavan, where his duties involved regular lectures to the Sisters in formation. He built up a wonderful relationship with the Sisters and they in turn appreciated his total commitment to them. He also helped out in taking religion classes in a local Vocational school, and he was a member of a closely linked group of Bridge players. In 1986 he retired to Kimmage Manor where in spite of his 76 years he was to enjoy good health and continue his studies of the spiritual life. Fr Mick died on 9 January 2,000 aged 89 years. He was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Co. Dublin. *IPN* No.1 2000; *KNSM* No. 142

### **GILROY, Br Alban (John) 1871-1946**



Born 21 February 1871 in Mucinagh, Garrison, Co. Fermanagh, John came to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1891. He entered business for a few years on leaving school but in 1896 he came back again to Blackrock, this time to enter the Brothers. Early in 1898 he went to the central novitiate at Chevilly where he was professed in 1899. Within a short time he left for Sierra Leone and though he did not appear to be endowed with a particularly strong constitution, which that mission demanded for survival in those days, survive he did for well over thirty years. From the opening years of the century till 1932 he worked with constancy and courage in Sierra Leone. His energy was given chiefly to educational institutions and movements. He was for long Headmaster of St Anthony's School, Ascensiontown, and was particularly successful as an organiser and a commissioned officer of the Boy Scouts. He had begun his career under Fr James Browne and he was to enjoy a life-long, close friendship with his successor Bishop John O'Gorman. The bishop besides being a first class theologian was also a delightful companion and a witty conversationalist. The mark of this friendship was on Br Alban. He was a tireless raconteur and had a placid, good-humoured disposition which nothing seemed able to upset. After two years in retirement, 1932-34, at Blackrock he attempted a return to Sierra Leone under Bishop Wilson, but the old energy had been exhausted and he was forced to return home. His last years were spent at Blackrock where, like retired Bishops Shanahan and Neville, he made a useful contribution to the cause of the missions by aiding the Promotion's team. An accident obliged him eventually to remain in his room. He endeared himself to all his confrères by his unaffected

resignation in suffering, by his sincere charity and by a strongly-marked charm that was quite individual. Br Alban Gilroy died 24 September 1946 aged 74 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1974 29f; *BBR* No. 207.

### **GILSENAN, Fr Peter      1912-1968**



Born 31 August 1912 in Knocktemple, Virginia, Co. Cavan, Pete studied at Carlow College, 1930-32, before entering the novitiate at Kimmage where he was among the last group of novices to make their profession there. Pete profected in Rockwell, 1934-35, and started Theology in Kimmage the following year. Ordained in 1938 Fr Pete was appointed to Nigeria, 1939. His first appointment was to Uli, where he had as helper and adviser the veteran Fr Joe Delaney. He was to remain on at Uli for the whole of his term in Nigeria - thirty years, in fact. It was written of him: "He fitted naturally into the African setting. He had in him the ingredients of the great missionary. He had the sturdy faith of his native Cavan, a magnificent humour that was never soured by the uncharitable, and a deep human compassion. Someone said of him that he never had an enemy. That is an understatement. To have known him was enough to be his friend. His funeral must have been one of the largest seen in Kimmage. It certainly was the most representative. His Biafran co-workers, priests, Brothers and Sisters from all missionary societies as well as lay missionaries were there to say a last farewell to a dear friend. Fr Pete had not to endure the shock and sorrow of having to quit Nigeria because of the Biafra war. He had been forced by illness to return to Ireland, June 1967. The illness proved terminal. Fr Peter Gilsean died 9 November 1968 aged 56 years and was buried in Kimmage. During the Biafra war the tower of St Gregory's Church at Uli, built by Fr Peter, served as the only guide for the 'mercy-planes' which used the improvised air-strip nearby. *IPArch*; G 19; *MA* Jan 1969

### **GILTINAN, Fr James Francis Joseph      1905-2002**



Born in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, on 28 November 1905, Jim did his secondary school studies in Blackrock College, 1919-1924. Athletic and of powerful build, he was a member of the schools senior rugby team. Having entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor he made his First Profession on 24 August 1925. After one year studying philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he profected in St Mary's College, Rathmines, 1926-7 and in Blackrock, 1927-8. He then continued his philosophy and theology at the Castle, Blackrock, where the senior seminary was then located, and was ordained to the Priesthood on 5th June 1932 in Clonliffe College. Fr Jim made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 11 July 1933 in Blackrock College. His first appointment was to the Vicariate of Southern Nigeria. Fr Jim ministered in Nigeria for 8 years serving at Eke and Emekuku. In 1941 he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar and was posted at the parish of Limuru 20 miles from Nairobi. During the Second World War when the Italian missionaries were interned, Jim was one of the three confreres sent to replace them in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) (1943-'44) Near the end of 1944 Fr Jim returned to Kenya and was appointed to Giriama but after one year transferred to the Kitui District and opened up the parishes of Mutane and Ikanga. In 1957 he was appointed teacher at the secondary school at Kabaa where he served for 11 years. In 1968 Fr Jim took a working sabbatical in the parish of St Vincent on the Harrow Road in London. In his autobiography he speaks of visiting 50

homes in one weekend. In 1971 he returned to Ireland and did Burse work until October when he went to Anchorage in Alaska. "In January 1972 I left, climate and changed conditions too much at my age". Fr. Jim continued his ministry in London until he returned to Kenya in 1973. This time he was appointed to the Machakos Diocese and helped build up parishes at Thatha and Kithioka. From 1977 he worked in a semi-retired capacity at Kallmoni and Kiteta, In 1980 Fr. Jim retired to the Mission House at Kimmage Manor. For the next 20 years he lived a very active retirement. Bouts of ill health brought him to Marian House in September 2001 where he died on 4 February 2002 in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year. He was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin.

### **GLEESON, Br Congal (Timothy) 1842-1899**

Born 15 June 1842 in Moycarkey, Galberstown, Co. Tipperary, Timothy entered the Congregation at Rockwell in 1867 and came to Blackrock the following year to begin his novitiate. Later he transferred to the novitiate in France where he was professed 1870. He was in Blackrock from 1872 to 1881 when he was transferred to the USA. It would appear that Fr Strub, the German superior, had not a high opinion of Irish Brothers, probably because they may not have been sufficiently skilled in a *métier*. Congal returned to Rockwell in 1883 and the following year he was transferred to Paris. Except for two years spent at Blackrock, 1897-8, and some time in Langonnet, he spent the rest of his years in Paris and Chevilly in housekeeping duties and as a bookbinder. From a casual perusal of letters preserved in his dossier in the General Archives he seems to have had his share of problems with places and people along the route. He died unexpectedly in the Mother House of a heart attack 19 April 1899 aged 57 years. BBR No.68; BG XX 135ff; SpWW 135; BBR 69.

### **GLEESON, Br Martin, (Thady) 1923-1988**



Born 24 June 1923 in Lisquinlan, Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, Thady worked on the family farm until he entered the Congregation at Kilshane where he was professed in 1951 taking the name Martin in religion. Br Martin served as cook at Kilshane for the next four years; then he was appointed to Nigeria. His first post was in Imiringi, one of the creeks on the Niger Delta and in the diocese of Port Harcourt. He assisted Fr Jim Masterson in the running of a secondary school. It was a very difficult assignment in an area which was barely accessible at any time of the year. Later he joined the community of the Spiritan novitiate, Awo Oamma, but was obliged to leave Nigeria after the Biafra war. He suffered from a serious back complaint and had to undergo major surgery. On recovery he went to the Senior Scholasticate in Rome for a period as cook and returned to Ireland in 1971 being stationed at Blackrock. In 1977 he was recalled to Kimmage to care for the sick and the aged, and he remained on there for the remainder of his life. In all his ministries at home and abroad, Martin gave of his time and labour generously in the service of others. Once convinced that a course was right he put his head down and pressed forward. Whether mowing a lawn, driving a car, selling raffle tickets for Marian House or helping the sick, or even giving a haircut to a confrère, his determination, his enthusiasm, his dedication was total. He was very sensitive and easily hurt so that his physical sufferings were compounded by a mental anguish not easily resolved. He had a true devotion to Our Lady and was very active in promoting the Rosary Crusade. Lough Derg figured largely in his life during the season. He had

to suffer much in his final months from the onset of cancer, but his faith in God was both simple and strong. Br Martin Gleeson died 8 December 1988 - the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - aged 65 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI Obituaries* 1988.

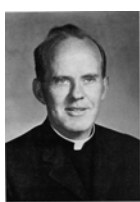
### **GLEESON, Fr Joseph 1855-1891**



Born 10 May 1855 in Garryard, Silvermines, Co. Tipperary, Joseph studied at Blackrock (The French College then), 1871-77, and profected there 1877-80, that is during the first years of the introduction of the public examination system. He did his philosophy course during those years with Père Leman as his principal tutor. During the summer he visited some of the schools in his locality in search of vocations. One young man who was influenced by him to

apply for acceptance in the congregation was 22 years old Patrick Walsh, future Br Adelm, uncle of Bishop Shanahan. qv. Ordained in Chevilly in 1884, Fr Joseph was appointed the following year to The Gambia. On the boat from Liverpool he wrote to the Superior General, Fr Emonet, expressing his great joy on being sent to Africa even though he had not asked specially for that. He was appointed chaplain to the local hospital and prison and soon was given special charge of schools. In a letter to Paris he speaks of his delight to be involved in pastoral work among "the abandoned". Of his first catechism lessons he wrote: 'Three came for the first lesson, six for the next, then 12 and next 15. If this continues all will be coming soon'. His principal charge was making a success of the Catholic schools which were then under attack. He compiled a digest of the official reports demonstrating the excellent quality of the education provided in the Catholic schools and he had this report printed in Dublin for distribution on the mission. Even Protestant parents backed up his claims. He went to Dakar to do his annual retreat. When preparing to return to his mission he took suddenly ill, running a temperature of 41 Celsius never recorded previously, and no known remedy proved of any avail. Fr Joseph Gleeson died 17 October 1891 aged 36 years. By his bedside was his fellow-student at Blackrock, Fr Edward Guth CSSp. BCArch; BG 16, 281; BCA 1962,187.

### **GODFREY, Fr Jerome 1923-1999**



Born on 1 January 1923 in Tralee, Co. Kerry, he did his secondary studies in C.B.S. in Tralee. He worked for a period at Pharmacy before opting to join the Congregation instead for a missionary career. Professed in 1944 he did his studies in Kimmage Manor where he always added to the life of the seminary. He was a good sportsman, had a keen sense of humour and was seen to be a rock of common sense. Ordained in 1950 he was appointed the following year to Zanzibar vicariate. Ill health, however, required extensive surgery and at one period fears were felt for his survival. While recuperating he was first stationed at St Michael's, Ailesbury Rd, where he served for a year. Transferred to Willow Park he taught there for three years and got very much involved in extracurricular activities. Apprenticed to Fr Stanley ('Stanno') he soon picked up the art of dealing with young lads on and off the playing field. In 1956 his services were called for at the College where he was to serve successively as Dean of the Boarding School (1956-63) as Bursar (1963-71) and as President (1971-77). He proved an astute coach of the senior rugby team, greatly respected by the players, and did much to revive a high standard of athletics. He encouraged participation by all in

some form of sport. To that end he introduced Cross Country Running, and initiated the Leinster Leagues for others than those who featured on cup teams. He was seen to encourage the highest standards of behaviour on and off the field. He organised several very successful school tours on the Continent. As Bursar and as President he was very much involved in the planning of some major extensions to the plant in the College and in Willow Park. On ceasing to be President, when a well-earned and much needed rest might be expected, he was called on to transfer to St Mary's College, Rathmines. This required a supreme effort as he was beginning a new career at the coalface at a time when his energies were somewhat depleted due to chronic ill health, which was not suspected even by those close to him. Yet he embraced his new duties, getting to know and encourage both the students and the Rugby Football Club members. Finally, in 1988 when he had reached the age of 65, he was free to take a sabbatical from school life. He devoted it to parish work in the Diocese of Hallam, England, where he was very happy to be involved in the ministry. In 1989 his services were called for again at Blackrock. Appointed to Willow Park once more he identified completely with the life of the school and with the parents as he assumed the duties of Bursar. It was seen that his health was gradually deteriorating, requiring frequent hospitalisation. He struggled to the last to be at his post and keep his spirits high. The Lord called him home on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1999. It was said of him "He was essentially a people's person. The wisdom he had was not the wisdom picked up from text books; it was more likely to come from the pages of his favourite paper *The Kerryman* than from *The Journals of the British Educational Management and Administration Society*". His was a wisdom born of experience. Words that were used to describe him: "good-humoured, self-effacing; courageous; astute; generous; efficient, foreseeing; kind; wise." Known to generations of boys as "Goddoo" he was seventy-three years young when the Lord called him to himself on 11 February 1999. Fr Jerome is buried in Shanganagh Cemetery, Dublin. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. *IPN* No.2, 1999; *BCA* 1999 pp 344ff;

#### **GODEFROID, Fr Jean-Marie 1931-1962**



Born in Rue Franklin in Brussels, Belgium, in 1931, Jean - Marie did his secondary studies at Gentinnes. He came to Ireland with his junior brother Bernard and his sister to learn English. Jean-Marie and Bernard were boarders at Blackrock and as Jean had decided to join the Congregation he transferred to Kimmage to do Philosophy, 1951-52. Returning to Belgium he was professed in 1953 and having studied theology in Louvain he was ordained in 1960. Assigned to the Belgian Congo in 1961 he went on a holiday trip with the family calling in to various Spiritan houses en route. Came Autumn he set off for Congolo where he was appointed to St John Berchmans College. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962 he was among the 22 missionaries who were massacred by a band of Katanga soldiers. Fr Jean-Marie Godefroid was 30 years of age. *BCArch*.

#### **GOEPFERT, Fr Prosper Mary 1842-1914**



Born 3 April 1842 in Obermorchwiir, near Colmar, Alsace, Prosper entered the senior scholasticate 1862 at rue Lhomond, Paris, going to Chevilly when the scholasticate was located there as from 1864. He was ordained by the Papal Nuncio to France in 1866 and was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he was to serve for 22 years, at first

teaching Latin, Greek and French while trying to master English. Fr Prosper was to serve as director of the juniorate, 1867-1880, and as superior, 1880-89. He is best remembered today for his life of Fr Libermann, the first to appear in English. It was in fact mainly a translation of the life by Pitra and as that was not acknowledged, there was the threat of a lawsuit by the publishers of the French original. As Goepfert's grasp on English idiom was imperfect, Archbishop Thomas Croke of Cashel volunteered to emend the text. Fr Goepfert also published the first English religious magazine by the Congregation - *The Messenger of St Joseph*. It too relied a lot on the original French magazine of the same name being produced at Beauvais by Fr Limbour who was destined to replace him as superior in Rockwell when the community and school were in a state of recession. Numbers had dropped in the school and finances were in a precarious state, due it would seem, in part at least, to Fr Goepfert's lack of taste for administration and his penchant for socialising in the local community. He certainly had built up a good rapport with the farmers and clergy in the locality, but it was felt by most that he should be replaced by a man who could get the ship on course once more. Fr Goepfert eventually transferred to the USA where he took on pastoral work and occasionally wrote to the press in defence of the Catholic church. Once more his penchant for social relations made him a favourite with bishops wherever he worked. Illness gradually affected him with total paralysis. Fr Prosper Goepfert was cared for with great devotedness by Fr Martin Hehir at Pittsburgh, where he died 11 October 1914 aged 72 years. *NB*, vol. 5, 360ff; *SpWW* 223

#### **GOETTNER, Fr John 1854-1885**



Born 1 March 1854 in Neuwied, Rhineland, Asbach, Coblenz, John was one of the group of German junior aspirants to the Congregation who had to pursue their secondary studies in Ireland when Bismarck suppressed the Congregation in Germany. John was a student at the French College, Blackrock, 1872-74, and prefect there, 1874-77. He was a contemporary of Emile Allgeyer, future bishop, and like him he was appointed to Trinidad in 1880 having been ordained priest at Chevilly the previous year. Fr John's stay in Trinidad was cut short by illness: he returned gravely ill to France, May 1885, suffering from tuberculosis. Fr John Goettner died 20 July 1885 aged 31 years. He was described as: "a fervent and dedicated religious". *BG XIII* 795; *BCA* 1962 193; *Rath* 19; *SpWW* 75.

#### **GOGARTY, Bishop Henry A 1884-1931**



Born 9 September 1884 in Cavan town, Henry came early on to live in Cahir, Co. Tipperary. He entered Rockwell as a boarder in 1897 and three years later, when the Juniorate was reopened, he opted to join the Congregation. He had completed Middle Grade at the time. He was one of those who became enthusiastic about learning Irish under the influence of Fr Johnny Byrne. Dev recalled that he got his first lessons in Irish from Henry who was as yet but a student. His director in the Juniorate wrote about him in his official report: "Very devoted to his studies, very pious, one might even say a saint." He prefect at Rockwell, 1905-07, and then went to France to do his novitiate and his senior studies. Ordained in 1913, he volunteered as chaplain to the Irish in the British Army. He was appointed instead to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. Stationed at Nairobi he worked as chaplain to the

hospital where there were already many victims of the war. He was given the status of Military Chaplain with the rank of captain by the British authorities. Free to go where he wished in his ministry, he gave special attention to the Kikuyus whom he soon learned to admire. He had an open heart for all, Protestant as well as Catholic, native African as well as whites, and this was recognised by all. Taken ill in 1918 he was invalided home by the military command. On arriving in Ireland he soon joined the Promotions team, giving lectures on the missions in East Africa and using the slides made for that purpose by Fr Jim Burke. He also worked on what proved a very readable book entitled *In the Land of the Kikuyus*, giving vivid picture of African life as he experienced it. When he returned to Kenya again his way was paid by the British authorities. Named Apostolic Administrator of the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro in succession to Père Soul, he arrived on the scene of his labours on a motorcycle. This symbolised a new era in missionary methods. It also signalled that Fr Gogarty wanted to get things done and done quickly. He had plans galore and enthusiasm to inspire others, but he was soon to realise that he lacked men, money and stamina. He returned the motorcycle to its owner and made his tours of the mission on an ordinary push bicycle. He saw what needed to be done and he gave clear directions. Eventually, when he ran out of funds and energy, he decided to return to Europe in search of both. In the meantime news came from Rome that he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Kilimanjaro. He chose to be ordained bishop in Blackrock College chapel in 1924 principally because he was totally lacking in the necessary funds and had to ask the Bursar, Fr Jim Burke, to foot all bills until he could go on a questing tour of the USA. But first he had to go to a sanatorium in Montana, Switzerland, to recuperate and avail of medical care. After a few months he travelled to Holland to persuade the Sisters of the Precious Blood to return once more to East Africa, now that the war was over. He then headed for an extended tour of the USA in search of funds. He also worked on a new book on his mission entitled, *Kilimanjaro, an East African Vicariate*. All the time he kept in close contact with developments in his mission and transmitted the funds for immediate use. This took a severe toll on his fragile health and he had to return to Montana from November 1925 till the following May. His two major objectives were soon to be realised - the starting of St James' Senior Seminary and the launching of St Patrick's Teachers' Training School for the preparation of catechists. He was fortunate to have at hand Fr Joseph Gilmore who was well qualified to make a success of the latter. The colonial government was intent on developing education in the area and the Papal Envoy, Mgr Hinsley, urged the ecclesiastical authorities to give special attention to establishing a network of good schools. Bishop Gogarty was, of course, already in favour of this approach. When there was doubt as to where the funds would come from, he always put his trust in Providence coming to their aid provided they did their best. He founded a new society for native Sisters to come to the aid of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. He sent out a stream of letters begging for funds. There was so much to be done yet, but he lacked the necessary reserves of health. One of the last functions he presided over was the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of veteran missionary, Fr Gommenginger, who was full of energy and voice whereas the bishop was so worn from tuberculosis that he could scarcely make himself heard. He planned to return to Europe to recuperate, to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin and then to return in renewed health. When he arrived in Rome, Pope Pius XI was so shocked at his emaciated appearance that he ordered him to go immediately to hospital. Bishop Gogarty made his way to the sanatorium in Montana where he was to pass to his reward 8 December 1931 aged 47 years. *BG*, 35, 638ff; *RCA*, 1932, 41f.

### **GOMBLER, Br Hartmut (John) 1899-1972**

Born 21 June 1925 in Langenfeld, Germany, John was professed at Knechtsteden in 1925. Fr Harnett, in his effort to build up the Irish province, requested the German provincial to second to the Irish province for a period some skilled Brothers from Knechtsteden. Brothers Sturmius and Hartmut were assigned to Ireland in 1926, Sturmius being appointed to Blackrock and Hartmut to Rockwell. Sturmius took to Ireland from the first moment; Hartmut never settled down. He was a skilled smith, a very hard worker, seemed never to relax as he ran from one place of work to another. Naturally he caught the attention of the students; some were fascinated by his work and the articulated sledgehammer that he had constructed; others delighted in teasing him. Hartmut, having failed to fit in with the Irish situation, asked to be allowed to return to his native land. He was an expert in shoeing horses and constructed a variety of footgear to cope with the orthopaedic requirements of the various animals brought to him. The walls of his smithy were lined with a collection of horses' foot-gear. When he felt death approaching he summoned his confessor and told him why he had sent for him. The confessor began with some words of encouragement but he was cut short and told to get on with his job as there was no time to waste! So he died as he had lived, answering the Lord's summons 5 March 1972. He was aged 73 years. *Rath*, 688.

### **GOODMAN, Fr James 1863-1935**



Born 5 December 1863 in Avoca, Co. Wicklow, James did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1877-82. He took part in the first public examinations conducted by the Intermediate Education Board, winning a scholarship in Junior Grade, 1879, and in Senior Grade, 1882. He was a prefect at Blackrock for a year and then went to France, 1883, to begin his senior studies. After two years he was called on to go to Trinidad as prefect, and he was to remain there for five years, returning to France in 1891. Ordained in 1893, he was appointed again to Trinidad the following year. He is reported as having been a good teacher while there. We find him on the teaching staff at Pittsburgh in 1895-6. He then moved to Langonnet where he is listed as mathematics teacher. Two years later he is given as being teaching in the college at Mesnières-en-Bray, and he later moved to the newly opened juniorate in Belgium. By 1911 he is among those listed as being in retirement at Langonnet. It would appear that he had become progressively unstable and suffered from loss of memory to such a degree that he would even forget whether he had already eaten his meals or not. After many years in Langonnet it was felt that he needed hospitalisation, so he was brought back to Ireland and placed in the St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Fr James Goodman died there 1st November 1935 aged 72 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *État; BCA* 1962, 212.

### **GORMAN, Fr C. Edmund 1924-1969**



Born 25 January 1924 in Creagh, Laghey, Co. Donegal, Edmund did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1938-43, and was professed 1944. After Philosophy in Kimmage he prefected at Blackrock, 1946-8, and was ordained in 1951. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, Fr Edmund worked in Onitsha at Agpu-Ajalli. Badly burned as a result of an accidental fire in 1955 he spent several months in hospital in Nigeria and in Ireland. Appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, 1956, he attended UCD



where he qualified for the BA, 1962, and the H.Dip.Ed, 1963. After the unexpected death of Fr Turlough O'Brien he took on the duties of bursar in 1965. Admitted to hospital in 1969 with pneumonia it was discovered that he was suffering from leukaemia. He received treatment at St Luke's Hospital and was taken on a pilgrimage to Lourdes without visible change. Fr Edmund Gorman died peacefully in hospital 11 October 1969 aged 45 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1970 222;

### **GORMAN, Fr Thomas Edward 1919-1987**



Born 8 December 1919, Ned entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1939 as a result of an interview at St Nathy's College, Ballaghderreen, with Fr Bertie Farrell, who was then touring the schools of Ireland with remarkable success. One recalls Ned during his student years as a tireless and efficient manual worker and the centre of good humour and banter. Having done Philosophy at Kimmage he was called on in 1942 to undertake the hazardous voyage to Trinidad during the war to replace the prefects by then serving overtime. There were fears about his health then and later, but Ned managed to survive to the end of his term. Ordained in 1948 Fr Ned was appointed to Nigeria the following year being among the first group to travel by air. His zeal and dedication were obvious to all in his missionary work in Owerri. Most of his years on the mission in Nigeria, 1946-67, were spent in Mbuta-Okohia, where he spent himself building up the Church spiritually and erecting schools and churches. His mission house was open to confreres and parishioners, and all experienced his sincere hospitality and deep generosity. After the Biafra war Fr Ned went to the USA where he served at St Olaf's, Minneapolis. All his resources were taxed to the limit when he became Senior Chaplain at Seaton Hospital, Daly City, CA. In addition he was appointed Provincial Delegate in July 1978. He showed his culinary talents by preparing splendid evening meals for the confreres on Thursday - their weekly day off duty. Fr Ned suffered a slight stroke in 1985, necessitating his return home to Ireland. When he recovered somewhat, he resumed priestly duties with typical dedication and zeal - this time nearer home in Kiltyclogher. The touching candlelight procession of local mourners at his funeral and the arrival of Mons. Francis Fleming from St Olaf's, Minneapolis, were tangible signs of the appreciation for Fr Ned wherever he had been sent to work. Fr Edward Gorman died 11 March 1987 aged 68 years. He was buried in the family cemetery, Court Abbey, Mullinabreena. *IPNI* March and June 1987.

### **GOSSON, Fr James 1912-1988**



Born 3 January 1912 in Skerries, Co. Dublin, Jimmy came to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1924 and five years later he was one of the three boarders who entered the novitiate at Kimmage, the others being Timothy O'Driscoll and Finbar O'Sullivan. Professed in 1930 he studied philosophy at UCD while residing in the Castle. At the time he was not in good health and did one year as prefect at Blackrock. He began Theology in Kimmage 1934 and was ordained in 1937. The following year Fr Jimmy was appointed to Blackrock College, where he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. and edited the *Blackrock College Annual*. In September 1939 he was named editor of the *Missionary Annals* and in December 1940 he was appointed to Sierra Leone where he was to serve for the next 27 years. He began in the Teacher Training College in Bo but a year later was transferred to Freetown to teach in St Edward's Secondary School

and to take charge of a local parish. In 1946 he was appointed principal of the Teacher Training College in Bo, and in 1949, while still living in Bo, he was named Education Secretary and Supervisor of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Freetown and Bo. In 1952-53 he was also Vicar-capitular of the Diocese of Freetown and Bo and Apostolic Administrator of the prefecture of Makeni. He was diocesan consultor from 1952 to 1967 and in his last eight years, he was pastor of St Paul's, Kenema. Ill-health forced him to withdraw from the tropics. He went to work in Canada in 1968. For some time he was associate pastor at St Rita's, Woodstock, and then went to Toronto to undertake regular promotion work. He was very successful at this. He also took on the duties of provincial bursar and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus and served as their chaplain. Fr Jim was always a man of prayer and religious regularity, distinguished by a certain reserve in manner he was known to be a man of great sincerity. Though forced by ill-health to absent himself from his mission in Sierra Leone, he showed how close its interests were to him by arranging that the substantial gifts he received in 1987 on the occasion of the golden jubilee of his priesthood were passed on to Kenema. Fr James Gosson died 29 December 1988 aged 76 years. *News Briefs*, Transc; *IPNI 1989 Obituaries*; *BCA 1989 244f*

### **GOUGH, Fr Thomas                    1906-1976**



Born 18 June 1906 in Moate, Co. Westmeath, Tom was a student at Blackrock, 1919-1924. He won honours in junior, middle and senior grades in the public examinations and was a member of the Blackrock senior athletic team which competed with success in the 1924 All-Ireland Sports held in Croke Park. He was one of three boarders who went to the novitiate that year from Blackrock, the others being Harry O'Sullivan and Vincent O'Rourke. Professed at Kimmage in 1925 he did his B.A. with 1<sup>st</sup> Cl. Honours and was prefect at Blackrock, 1929-31, when Dr Edward Leen was President and Dr J.C. McQuaid Principal. While doing Theology in the Castle, Blackrock, he was given charge of editing the *Missionary Annals* by his director Fr John Kearney. Ordained in 1934 Fr Tom's first appointment was to Rockwell where he taught for a year. He was then chosen to succeed Fr (later Archbishop) J.J. McCarthy as Master of novices. After a brief period of training in France he took on his new post in 1936 becoming also superior of the house in 1940 when Fr James White was put in charge of the new farm in Kill, Co. Kildare. During his period as Master of novices (1936-48), 399 novices made their first profession. In 1948 he was appointed Director of Theology in Kimmage - a post he held till 1959 as well as being superior of the house from 1948 to 1952. During his term as Director 340 students were ordained to the priesthood. These were the years when numbers in the novitiate and in the scholasticate were at their highest. In both houses discipline was strict and the way of life austere. Conformity was the ideal to be aimed at and individuality was frowned upon. When in later years a disaffected confrere took him to task about the repressive approach under his régime, he replied simply: "That was the system then and I endeavoured to operate it as best I knew." All were agreed that Fr Gough, in spite of a certain outward coldness and strictness, was a very kind and gentle man. His influence extended beyond the Congregation: many priests and religious owed much to his pastoral care. In 1959 he was sent to Rome to do a two years course in pastoral theology at the Lateran University and he taught that subject in Kimmage, 1961-63. He was then called on to be Spiritual Director of the Holy Ghost Fathers International Scholasticate in Rome. The Vatican Council was in session at that time and Fr Gough strove to make himself familiar with the new

orientations in church teaching and practice. In 1970 he was transferred back to Kimmage as Spiritual Director. Then after a further three years in senior formation, he was happy to grasp the opportunity of going on the foreign missions. At the age of 64 he joined the staff of the junior seminary at Ruaraka, Nairobi, Kenya, and despite his age and some deafness, he set about learning the main language used by the students, Swahili, and the more difficult language encountered as chaplain to Nazareth hospital, Kikuyu. This was typical of the total dedication to his work and vocation that had been his hall-mark throughout his life. His health deteriorated rapidly and on one occasion when it was thought that he passed away he came to and with his winning smile commented: 'Flight delayed.' Fr Tom Gough died in Nairobi 13 February 1976 aged 69 years. *BCA* 1976 175f; *IPNI* 21 April '76.

**GRAF, Fr Leonard J. 1883-1970**



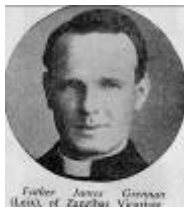
Born 10 Feb 1883 in Aix la chapelle (Aachen) Rhineland, Larry was brought to Rockwell by his cousin Fr Peter Leimann CSSp, who had been a student at Rockwell, 1874-81. The Congregation had been exiled in those years from Germany by Bismarck. It was soon realised that Leonard was a brilliant student. He was pushed to his utmost by the Dean, Dr Crehan, and eventually won the Gold Medal for First in Ireland in the Senior Grade in 1898. The following year he studied for the Matriculation, which was a separate year under the RUI. In 1899 he began his first stint of prefecting - five years - during which he took an honours degree in Classics at the RUI. Among his contemporaries during those years were Thomas McDonagh of 1916 fame (prefect) and Eamon de Valera (lay teacher). Joseph Shanahan had been his prefect earlier and from 1900 to 1902 was Dean of Discipline. Leonard may have taught the Leen brothers from Abbeyfeale and the Brownes of Grangemockler. In 1905 he went to Prior Park, Bath, to do his novitiate. Then, instead of being allowed at last to go to Chevilly to do his senior studies, he was called on to set out for St Mary's College, Trinidad, where he was to do another four years prefecting. While teaching a full day's class he studied his theology course in private as some others had done before him in Trinidad. At last, in 1910, he was allowed to return to Europe and was ordained in Chevilly. The following year he was reappointed to Trinidad where he had Dr Crehan once more as his superior. The story of the next 59 years is one of epic dimensions: he handled a 'back-breaking' number of positions simultaneously. An expert teacher, he taught Latin, Greek, French, Botany, Zoology with great success. As well as teaching a full day's class, he was Dean of Studies (Principal) of a College of over a thousand boys from 1920 to 1957. From 1913 to 1935 he also edited the College Annual, and he has the unusual distinction of editing the Golden Jubilee issue (1913) and the Centenary issue (1953). He also produced the College plays, was in charge of the school library, conducted the school choir and played in the orchestra. A self-taught biologist, his science department won the Island Scholarship 31 out of 42 times. Those who knew him well recalled him with admiration and affection. Over and above his academic achievements he is recalled as a priest: his deep spirituality, humility and zeal for souls outshone his other remarkable achievements. He was so highly regarded that neither World War saw him interned as an enemy alien. Until 1961 he missed classes only on two days because of illness, and was only three times absent for a brief holiday in Germany. He finally gave up teaching in 1966 at the age of 83 and spent his retirement days at the College. He answered his last roll call 15 January 1970 aged 86 years and was buried in Trinidad. *CIC Annual* 1970 57ff; Rath 290; BG 52,127; *RCA* 1970 78.

### **GRAHAM, Br Eugene (Anthony) 1899-1992**



Born in Belfast 3 May 1899 he entered the brothers' novitiate in Kimmage Manor in 1920 and was professed in October 1922. Appointed to Rockwell in 1923 he was to serve fruitfully in that community for the rest of his long life. He managed the students' refectory; in the days before the link up with the national grid, he was the vital source of light for the school and community as he took charge of the electricity generator; as part of his electrical expertise he showed the films in the college cinema; he looked after the wages for the staff and took care of the distribution of the post for staff and students; and on the demise of Br Agathon he rang the Angelus bell. Simple functions, performed without fuss, and so important for the smooth running of the community. And in the true tradition of the Brotherhood in Rockwell, ever since it served as the Irish Brothers' novitiate under the direction of Fr Huvétyts and Br Silas, Eugene's daily round drew its dynamic from his fidelity to the community religious exercises. Br Eugene's last days were spent in the quiet care of Marian House where he awaited the Lord's call. Br Eugene Graham died 14 June 1992 aged 90 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI* No. 3 1992

### **GRENNAN, Fr James Patrick 1902-1972**



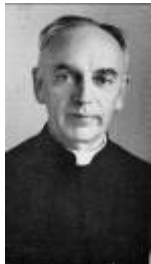
Jim Patrick was born 7 February 1902 in Murragh, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. In 1920 he came to Blackrock for the final two years of his secondary schooling, having had to start Latin. Professed in Kimmage, 1923, he was a prefect at Blackrock, 1923-25. As attendance at the university had been discontinued by the Provincial, Fr Joseph Byrne, because of lack of funds, Jim studied Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and continued with his theology course there. Ordained in 1931 he was appointed the following year to Kenya. His early years on the mission, 1932-43, were engaged with pastoral and educational work, chiefly on the coast, in Zanzibar Island. He spent about a year in Ireland at the start of the war. When the Italian missionaries were interned by the British during the war, Fr Jim and a few other Holy Ghost Fathers volunteered to help in the missions of Ethiopia, and there he was attached to the Harrar Seminary, 1943-46. Apart from this short time, and a year or so working with the Promotions Team in Ireland, he spent all his time in Kenya, working among the Duruma people in Ndavaya and in Taita country at Bura, Lushangoni and Voi. He was a devoted missionary, and, though strict, was well-received by his people. His confreres found him invariably friendly, cheerful and a steadfast companion. He was known to be specially devoted to St Patrick and had a keen interest in speculation about St Patrick's presence and traces in the Irish countryside. His last posting was to the Cathedral at Mombasa, about 1970, and when he died in the Mater Hospital, Nairobi, his body was brought back to Mombasa for burial. Fr James Grennan died 8 November 1972 aged 70 years. *BCA* 1973, 253.

### **GRIFFIN, Fr Charles (Carroll) Naish 1859-1889**



Born 13 September 1859 in Ballclough, Co Limerick, Carroll was the youngest of four brothers who entered the Juniorate at Blackrock; the other brothers being John, Gerald and Frederick. Carroll, who entered in 1870 aged 11, was to remain on at the college till 1881 when he was among the first students to take examinations held by the newly founded Royal University. Though very gentle and less than robust in health he managed to survive three years prefecting, 1879-82. He went to France where he was ordained priest in 1886. The following year he was assigned to Blackrock. When a college was to be opened in Ballarat, Australia, in 1888, it was thought that the climate there would be more suitable for Carroll who was already suffering from tuberculosis. The long and strenuous journey and the cold climate on arriving wore him out. He was transferred from the college to Maryborough parish which had been entrusted to the Congregation. His health failed rapidly and he died 14 March 1889 aged 30 years. Fr Charles Griffin's death was the first earnest of the series of unhappy events that were to culminate in the abandonment of that mission to Australia. *BCArch; BG, XV, 278; BCA 1962, 184*

### **GRIFFIN, Fr Francis 1893-1983**



Born 16 September 1893 in Kilmurry, Ibricken, Co. Clare, Frank came to Rockwell as a boarder in 1907 and later entered the Juniorate where he was a contemporary of Liam O'Flaherty, the well known writer. He entered the new novitiate opened in Kimmage in 1911 together with future archbishops Charles Heerey and James Leen. Professed in 1912 he studied Irish and French at UCD and prefectured at Blackrock, 1913-16. During the Easter Rising 1916 he was confined to the infirmary with an attack of pleurisy. He was later sent to Switzerland to do his studies for the priesthood. Ordained in 1920 he obtained the STL at Fribourg university in 1921. Fr Frank's first appointment was to the Irish senior scholastic where he taught Moral Theology for a year before being transferred to Rockwell, then badly in need of new blood. He served for three years as Dean of discipline. Because of his diminutive stature he was soon known to the students by the name 'Tiny' - a name by which he was to be widely known throughout the Congregation during all his long life. His life-long close friendship with Dr Dan Murphy, which began during their student days, was further cemented as they tried to revitalise Rockwell at this period. In 1925, however, Fr Griffin's services were required once again in the senior scholasticate, and in the following year the newly appointed Vicar apostolic of Kilimanjaro, Bishop Henry Gogarty, invited him to his mission in East Africa. He worked at Arusha for two years and at Kilema for five. He was superior of Kilema and Pro-Vicar Apostolic from 1931 to 1933. In June 1933 he was elected General Councillor and took up residence at the Mother House in Paris as from March 1934, having administered Kilimanjaro Vicariate between the time of the death of Bishop Henry Gogarty in 1931 and the arrival of Bishop Joseph Byrne two years later. Fr Griffin remained in Paris throughout the Second World War and was appointed Assistant General in January 1949. On 26 July 1950 he was elected Superior General, the first non-Frenchman to hold that post. Under his guidance the Congregation picked up the threads disconnected by the war, and the provinces of France, Germany, Belgium and Holland were rapidly built up. Contact was also reopened with the province of Poland

after a personal visit there by Fr Griffin. One of his first official actions was to recall Dr Dan Murphy from East Africa and to appoint him Procurator General at Rome; he was the first non-Frenchman to occupy that sensitive post. New foundations were started in Spain and Canada. Colleges and seminaries were built. He helped missionaries to adapt to the changes prompted by decolonisation. In recognition of his services he was awarded degrees of Doctor of Laws by the University of Duquesne and by NUI. He was noted for the simplicity of his life-style as Superior General. He was a strict upholder of the rule as then approved and his rather prompt decisions delivered in a gruff voice made him seem insensitive to those who did not know his manner. He was also seen to be less easy of access than other Superior Generals in modern times. When his term of office ended in 1962 he stepped back into the ranks, joining once more the staff of Rockwell College where he taught French and other subjects. He continued his work almost up to his death. He was to become a well-known figure on the school grounds, much liked and respected by the students as well as the staff. He was an inveterate long walker which kept him remarkably fit, and he kept an open mind as he witnessed the changes happening all round him. In fact, like a good brand of the whiskey which he appreciated on social occasions, he was seen to improve with age. His confreres got to love him as a man of great simplicity and fraternal understanding. The final summons come rather suddenly. Fr Francis Griffin died 6 September 1983 when he was aged 89 years. He was buried in Rockwell And as he was always a keen supporter of '*an teanga dúchais*' we conclude with: *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis. IPNI* No 54, September 1983.

#### **GRIFFIN, Fr Frederick 1861-1902**

Born 18 November 1861 in Ballyclough, Co. Limerick, (with an address Charlotte Quay, Limerick) Frederick was the youngest of four brothers who joined the Congregation: Gerald, who left the Congregation later in life, Charles (Carroll) who died in Ballarat, Australia, and John who served in the USA. Frederick studied at Blackrock, 1871-79. He took part in the first ever public examination in 1879, passing Senior Grade with distinction. He profected for one year at Blackrock, 1879-80, but when it was discovered that he was affected with tuberculosis, as was his brother Charles, he was sent to Trinidad, which was thought at the time to be a more helpful climate. He profected at St Mary's for five years, studying his philosophy and theology in private. In 1886 he returned to France where he completed his course and was ordained in 1887. The following year Fr Frederick was re-appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he was eager to teach and to help at parish work in his spare time. He taught English, Geography, and French, and for a period he served as Dean of Discipline. He worked successively at St Andrew's, Grenada, 1894-96, at St Patrick's, Coura, Newtown, and at St Joseph's, where he succeeded his former director in the Juniorate, Fr Joseph Spielmann. The tuberculosis which had been kept at bay for a number of years, finally claimed his life 26 November 1902. Fr Frederick Griffin was 41 years of age at the time. *BG* 22, 30; *BCA* 1962 187f; *SpWW* 154.

### **GRIFFIN, Fr James P. 1917-1995**



Born 1 October 1917 in Rahona, Carrigaholt, Kilrush, Co. Clare, Jim did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1930-36. A man of fine physique, Jim starred on both the Leinster senior Rugby and Hurling Cup winning teams and took an active part in the Irish debating society. Professed in Kilshane, 1937, he studied for the B.A. at UCD but, having contracted tuberculosis, he had to spend some time in a sanatorium. During his years in the senior scholasticate he was known for his sound common sense, his genial disposition and for his deep bass voice. Ordained in 1945 Fr Jim's appointment to East Africa was not unexpected because of his pulmonary complaint and it was there he was to spend his life from then. After two years at St Peter Claver in Nairobi, he was posted to the island of Zanzibar where he combined pastoral work with teaching. When the Vicariate of Zanzibar was divided into several dioceses, he was appointed to the Holy Spirit College at Mangu where he taught from 1953 to 1960. Later he taught at St Joseph's Secondary School at Githunguri, 1961-65, in the Archdiocese of Nairobi. In 1966 he was transferred to the diocese of Mombasa, teaching at St George's High School in Mariankani, 1966-1969. In 1971 he served as chaplain and teacher at the Sisters' novitiate at Kwale. From 1975 to 1985 he did missionary work at Taru, building three permanent churches in its outstations. In 1988 he became chaplain to Taru ya Wazee (old people's home) Mombasa. From 1989 he served for a period as district procurator at Nairobi. In October 1994 on being diagnosed as being terminally ill, he returned to Ireland where in spite of treatment he sank rapidly though he always had hopes of returning to his mission. Fr Jim Griffin breathed his last on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1995, the year he would have celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination as priest. He was 77 years of age and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1936; *IPArch*; *SpEAM* 534

### **GRIFFIN, Fr John 1856-1935**



Born 5 March 1856 in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, John did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1869-75, and prefectured at the college, 1875-77. The following year he went to Langonnet to begin his theology. He had done his philosophy course while prefecting, Père Leman being his main tutor. Ordained in 1880 he was professed the following year at Chevilly. Fr John's first appointment was to the college in Pittsburgh, USA. He was to serve there for the next 27 years, as professor, confessor, pastor and bursar. He excelled as a fund-raiser, part of his secret being his patience in face of refusals. His talent for music in church and outside helped start a good tradition of music in the school. From 1889 to 1895 he took charge of the black parish of St Benedict the Moor while residing in the college. He was helped by his brother, Fr Gerald, who arrived from Beauvais when the Apostolic School had to shut its doors. Together they also tried to minister to the large Polish population. Because of Fr Gerald's heroic efforts to speak Polish he was jokingly referred to as 'Griffinski.' Fr Gerald parted with the Congregation, which he felt had treated him with some lack of sensitivity, and he travelled the world serving as chaplain wherever he found a welcome. Fr John moved to Cornwells Heights in 1908 where he was to serve as professor and later as Superior. He is described as being gentle, patient, affable, a man who liked an argument where he proved sharp and keen but always courteous. His gentle smile disarmed the unwary until they found themselves at the

mercy of his rapier-like intellect and tongue. His literary achievements were honoured by 2 doctorates. For many years he edited *The Paraclete*. Fr John Griffin died 10th October 1935 aged 79 years. His brother, Fr Gerald, died about the same time in his native Limerick; another brother, Fr Frederick, had died in Trinidad in 1902, and Fr Carroll (Charles) died in Australia, 1889. They were closely related to the poet, Gerald Griffin. BArch; *BG*, 37, 466ff; *BCA* 1962, 179f; *SpWW* 420.

### **GRIFFIN, Mr. Patrick T. 1822-1879**

Born 20 May 1855 in Richmond Hill, Sundays-Well, Cork, Patrick came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1866 and joined the Juniorate shortly after, finishing his studies in 1873. He then went to Langonnet where the senior scholasticate was located since the Franco-Prussian War. In 1874 he returned to Blackrock where he did two years as prefect before completing his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained deacon in Chevilly in May 1879 but took seriously ill with TB soon after. Patrick Griffin was transferred back to St Ilan, Langonnet, where he died soon after, on 21 July 1879 aged 24 years. *BG* XII 63f.

### **GROGAN, Fr Michael Patrick 1910-1993**



Born 10 October 1910 in Birmingham - or was it Aston, Warwickshire - Micky Pat did his secondary studies in Rockwell. Professed in Kimmage in 1931 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and prefected for one year in Rockwell. Among the first group to do Theology in Kimmage he was ordained in 1937 and appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He worked in St Pater Claver's, Nairobi, 1938-40; Nyeri, 1940-43; Waa, 1943-45; Lushangoni, 1945-46; Kikuyu, 1946-48, and at St Mary's, Nairobi and Kilimambogo up to 1952. After a period at Blackrock he served in Rockwell until 1965 when he engaged in pastoral work in England and later at Warrenpoint. Though Fr Micky does not seem to have settled down for long in any place he was always ready to take on a new challenge when called upon. A gentle soul he had to suffer from a personal form of illness for many years. While retired in Kimmage he was happy when helping out pastorally in the Pro-cathedral parish. When the Lord called Fr Michael Patrick Grogan to his final resting place 26 July 1993 he was 82 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 5 1993

### **GROGAN, Fr Patrick 1915-1997**



Born 11 April 1915 in Aldana, Bansha, Co. Tipperary, Pat entered Rockwell in 1928. He was among the first batch of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane where he was professed in 1934. Having done Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he prefected for a year at Blackrock, 1936-7. He did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1940. Appointed to Nigeria in 1941. He served at Nsukka and at Obollo Eke. He was described as follows: "Pat was a fine strong and healthy young missionary full of energy and enthusiasm who worked cheerfully among the Igbo people entrusted to his care. Day in day out, year by year, Fr Pat trekked to the numerous outstations scattered throughout the area to bring the Good News to the people he loved. At night he would stay in a mud walled hut. Next morning at 'first cockcrow' he had morning prayer and mass with his people. After mass he had baptisms, then breakfast, a visit to the local school and then off to the next station either on foot, bicycle or motorbike



depending on the condition of the roads. He remained patient and cheerful all though. Then came the Biafra war and Fr Pat went to the USA, joined by the many confreres expelled from Nigeria. He was stationed in Rockledge, Florida, with Msgr Terry Farrelly as his pastor and they worked happily together for twenty-five years. He had a marvellous rapport with the people. The school children loved to have him visit their classes. The hospital beside the rectory was Pat's special concern. He visited there every afternoon and brought peace and happiness to countless patients irrespective of their religious beliefs. Pat spent brief periods in California and in Canada. He retired to Kimmage early in 1986 and soon after was confined to Marian House where that once strong man on the rugby pitch in Kimmage and on the mission field was confined to a wheel chair. He also went through a type of "dark night of the soul" with doubts about God's mercy and fears of approaching death. He came through these trials and an inner peace came to him shortly before his death. Fr Patrick Grogan died 12 August 1997 aged 82 years. *IPNI* December 1997; *SpNM* No.166

### **GUINA, Fr Seán 1928-1983**

Born 26 December 1928 in Limerick, Seán moved with the family to Donnybrook in 1939 and did his secondary studies at CBS, Synge St. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane making his profession in 1947. After qualifying for the BA at UCD in 1950 he prefectured at Blackrock for two years, taking the H.Dip.Ed. in 1951. He did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1955. Appointed the following year to Nigeria he was to serve for the next fourteen years in the Archdiocese of Onitsha. At first he worked in education at Obollo Eke, Agbogugu, and at the Holy Ghost Scholasticate in Ihiala. Later, he worked in the parish of Umuchu. At the end of the civil war in Nigeria in 1970 he returned to Ireland and worked as chaplain to the Mater Hospital, Dublin, until 1976. He was then appointed to Walkinstown parish. It was at this time that the first signs of leukaemia became apparent. In 1979 he joined St Michael's College staff as chaplain/counsellor where, in spite of ill-health, he conscientiously fulfilled his duties to the end. Fr Seán was a deeply spiritual and apostolic man, blessed with much ability and talent. His musical gifts were particularly apparent and wherever he was, first-class bands and choirs developed under his direction. The final call for Fr Seán Guina came 6 December 1983 when he was aged 54 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *IPNI* No. 56, Feb. 1984.



### **GUINAN, Fr William 1906-1965**

Born 30 Dec. 1906 in Hill of the Ward, Athboy, Co. Meath, Bill was already twenty years of age when he entered the juniorate at Blackrock in 1926. In 1927 he went to the novitiate at Kimmage and began his philosophy course the following year at the Castle, Blackrock. He prefectured for a year at Rockwell and then at Blackrock. Ordained in 1935 he was appointed to Nigeria. "Apart from the five years of rest and recuperation at home that interspersed the 27 years of his missionary career, Fr Bill trekked, taught, preached and ministered all up and down Iboland - Ahiara, Okigwi, Oturpo, Awgu, Nimo. Under middle height, broad as a barn door, he had a mop of red curly hair surmounting a Santa Claus countenance in which a pair of sparkling blue eyes gaily surveyed a world that he evidently found good. Song and gaiety and the gift of making friends were his to a marked degree..."



(J.Roche). His catchy songs were the soul of every reunion - one made memorable when future Pope Paul VI congratulated him on his splendid rendering of the hymn 'Sweet Maree'! Fr Bill suffered a stroke at Dublin airport as he was returning to Nigeria in April 1965. He died a week later in the Mater Hospital, Dublin 14 April 1965 aged 58 years and was buried in Kimmage. His fellow countyman and life-long friend, Br Anthony McCormack, was also terminally ill in the Mater Hospital at the time. He was to die 3 days later. BCArch; BCA 1965 53ff.

### **GUTH, Fr Joseph Edward 1858-1896**



Born 5 March 1858 in Katenthal, near Colmar, Alsace, Joseph was a nephew of the noted spiritan missionary, Fr Etienne Baur CSSp. Edward's father and grandfather were the local teachers. After passing through his father's school, Edward was sent to the college in Colmar run by priests, but the Education Inspector brought pressure on the family to send him to the State school. When that school closed due to the 1870 war, Edward was glad to return to his former Alma Mater. In 1871 Fr Ebenrecht, who had been a classmate of Fr Baur, visited his native place near Colmar and took Edward with him to Blackrock as there was no juniorate in Alsace during the Kulturkampf. Edward was of a very gentle disposition with a flair for artistic work and was always very observant of all that was going on around him. He seems to have learned a lot from Fr Ebenrecht's art class and from his architectural undertakings at the College as we learn from his performance later on the missions. In 1876 Edward went to Langanonnet to do his senior studies and did his novitiate at Chevilly being ordained in 1880. Though he suffered from ill-health he was allowed to go to Senegambia in 1881 where he acted as pastor in Dakar; and in 1885 he was appointed superior and procurator for the mission. At various times he replaced confrères who were absent due to illness - in Rufisque, 1886, and The Gambia, 1892. He set about building churches and mission residences, and in spite of his frail constitution he was involved at every level of the building process, supervising the kiln for providing bricks, controlling every decision for his totally unskilled team of workers whom he urged on at an unaccustomed rate of application. His keen observation of local resources helped him to achieve his projects at the most economic rate in areas totally bereft of ready-made products. In his spare time he sank wells and made a careful selection of plants for the mission gardens. He was noted for the poverty of his life-style, yet he held an open house to those who called. His patience seemed inexhaustible, even with God's providence. When faced with disasters and defections he would remark: "The Lord has centuries to achieve his purposes" - whereas others were in a hurry. His principal monument was the church of *Notre Dame de la Délivrance* at Poponguine. He was in the process of starting another when his health broke down. He had been obliged earlier to return to Europe for a period because of ill-health. In 1885 his ageing mother expressed the desire to see him before she died. He found that the mission was particularly understaffed just then through enforced absences of others. While he was trying to cope, he took ill at Poponguine late 1885. It was decided to transport him along the river to Dakar to be nearer medical attention. The arduous trip was troubled by accidents and by the time they reached Dakar, Fr Edward was so worn out that he died 9 January 1896 aged 38. BG XVIII 278ff; BCA 1962 188.

### **HAAS, Fr Jacques (Jacob) 1852-1889**

Born 22 October 1852 in Meudt-Westerwald, Rhineland, Jacob began his studies in the Juniorate at Marienstatt, and when the Congregation was suppressed by Bismarck, he and others were transferred first to Chevilly and later to Langonnet. Because of his ultra-Prussian views he was out of favour with his French confreres, so he was transferred to Rockwell to do his Philosophy with the students of the Scotch College. When young German aspirants arrived at the Juniorate in Rockwell, he acted as their Guardian Angel. As he was *persona-non-grata* in France he was sent as prefect to the French College, Blackrock, in autumn 1871, and was to remain on till autumn 1874 - but always under a cloud. He even annoyed Père Leman when he advised him to give preference to German students over the Irish of whom he had a very poor opinion. Eventually Jacques was allowed back to Chevilly to continue his studies when most of his contemporaries had by then finished their course. Ordained in 1877 he was appointed to The Gambia where he served till 1884. Once again his outspoken defence of Bismarck's policies led to his having to leave the mission. He called to Blackrock bringing with him the first ever black student to attend the college, Joseph Fye, who was placed in the Juniorate. Fr Ebenrecht got permission from his friend Cardinal McCabe for Fr Haas to make appeals for his new mission, Sierra Leone, in some public churches; he found it not so easy to get permission to have Joe Fye serve at these public masses! Fr Haas set off for Africa again in the company of Fr Joseph Gleeson, this time to Sierra Leone. His health forced his early return to Europe in 1887. He retired to the college at Castelnaudary in the south of France, and while undergoing treatment he composed grammars in Wolof and Diola for use on the missions. He never regained his health and he died 24 July 1889 aged 38. His brother John served in the American province, *qv*. PS. The French form of Jacob namely, Jacques, did not go well with his surname Hass for English speakers and when the novices reacted with amusement as the name came up in the necrology, matters were not helped when the master of novices, Fr Hugh Evans, used protest: 'I knew that gentleman well.' *BG XV 382; Leman 303f; GenArch*

### **HACKETT, Fr Anthony 1888-1973**



Born 21 March 1888 in Loughminane, Co. Kildare, Anthony was a student at Blackrock, 1905-08. From 1908 to 1911 he was prefect at Blackrock and did part of the Arts course at the university during the change over from RUI to NUI. In 1911 he was one of the first group to do their novitiate at the newly acquired Kimmage Manor. He continued his senior studies there until 1914 when, as part of the agreement worked out between the Provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, and Mother (Blessed) Katharine Drexel, he and other professed senior scholastics were sent to Ferndale - the senior scholasticate for the American province - in order to complete their course and to work among the coloured population in the States. Fr Anthony's first assignment after ordination was to assist at the Holy Spirit parish, New Orleans. In 1919 he was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Lake Charles, La., where he worked for ten years. He was then transferred to St John's, Tuscalusa, Ala., where he spent another eleven years. He also acted as chaplain of the Newman Club in the University of Alabama and succeeded in having an accredited course in religion introduced at this secular institute. During World War II he was pastor of Holy Spirit parish, New Orleans, and later of St Anthony's in Natchitotes. He was then asked to work among the coloured people of Hartsville, S. Carolina, where he had to start from nothing to

provide a parish organisation with chapel, school, convent etc. The next twelve years were spent as pastor to St Martin de Porres in Delcambre, La. At the age of 74 he became a hospital chaplain at Lafayette, serving there for another 8 years. Finally, in 1970, he returned to Immaculate Heart parish of Lake Charles where he died 10 Feb. 1973 having spent nearly all his priestly life in the service of the blacks in the Southern States. Fr Anthony Hackett was 84 years at the time of his death. *BCA* 1973 259f; *SpWW*, 934

### **HACKETT, Fr Daniel 1903-1992**



Born 20 May 1903 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Dan did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1917-21, and was professed in 1922. As this was the period when attendance at the university was suspended by Fr Joe Byrne because of the financial state of the Province, all did their Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines. It was Dan's uncle, Fr Richard Harnett, who was to reopen the university to scholastics when he became Provincial in 1925.

In the meantime Dan prefect at Blackrock, 1924-27, and did Theology in the Castle, Blackrock. Ordained in 1930 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He served short periods at Emekuku where Fr Howell was director, and at Ahiala with Frs Bindel and Stiegler. When Amaigbo mission was opened in 1937 Fr Dan was appointed there as assistant to Fr Tom Macken, and it was there he was to serve for many years. When he was appointed director of the mission in 1948 there were 8,780 Catholics and 5,134 catechumens. By 1961 there were 18,129 Catholics as well as 7,161 catechumens, and this work involved schools with over a 120 teachers. Fr Dan made contact with the Franciscan Brothers from Mountbellew who were entrusted with the running of St Charles Teacher Training College, and when he returned to Ireland after the Biafra war, he took on the post of chaplain to the Brothers and their Agricultural College in Mountbellew. He was thus renewing a long link between the Congregation and that community as it was its superior, Br Jerome Ryan OSF, who had greatly befriended Père Leman as he searched for vocations and for a suitable centre in which to start his work. Br Jerome Ryan was one of the three signatories of the original lease by which Blackrock was acquired. The Franciscan Brothers greatly appreciated Fr Dan's dedicated ministry among them and they requested that his remains be interred in their main cemetery. Fr Daniel Hackett passed to his eternal reward January 18th 1992 aged 88 years. RJJ; *État*; *IPNI* No.2 1992

### **HAEGY, Fr Aloysius 1878-1965**



Born 17 August 1878 in Ammerschwihl, Alsace, Aloysius was a cousin of Fr Ebenrecht, who arranged for him to do his secondary studies at Blackrock. He entered the Juniorate there in 1892 remaining on till 1899 and having by then done part of the course for the RUI examinations. After one year as prefect at the college, 1899-1900, he returned to France to do his senior studies. Ordained in 1904 Fr Aloysius was assigned the following year to St Mary's College, Trinidad. In 1910 he was appointed

to the juniorate at Gentinnes, Belgium, as teacher of English, and from 1911 till 1922 he served at the junior seminary of St Martial's, Haiti. The next twenty years he spent at Banjul, The Gambia, involved both in parish work and teaching. He returned to France in 1946 serving for periods in various communities; from 1946 to 1949 in the Apostolic School at Alex, then at Blotzeim and finally at Neufgrange in charge of

postulant brothers. Gardening was his life-long hobby. He suffered much from ill-health in his final years but his only words were ones of thanks to all who helped him. Fr Aloysius Haegy died 1 September 1965 aged 87 years. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1966 26f; *SpWW* 753.

### **HALPIN, Fr Joseph 1911-1988**



Born 1 January 1911 Joe did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1928-30, and was professed in Kimmage in 1931. Having done Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he professed for three years in Trinidad, 1932-35. Ordained in 1939 he was appointed to the Vicariate of Onitsha-Owerri in 1936. It was a time of unprecedented expansion as the mission benefited from the impulse provided by Bishop Joseph Shanahan. Fr Joe worked mainly in the Ihiala area for the first six years. In 1947 he was appointed to CKC Onitsha. Three years later he became head of the Teachers' Training College in Nsukka. Later he was teacher in the training college in Agulu. Ill health in the form of skin cancer forced him to quit the tropics in 1957. Returning to Ireland he was appointed to his alma mater and there managed to resume work in the classroom in spite of the progressive nature of his ailment which was obvious to all. Obvious too was his heroic fortitude as in a calm and uncomplaining manner he coped with his pain. Frequent visits to hospital for treatment were part of his routine. But he enjoyed all aspects of life in the community and the school, seeing the humorous side in the simple ordinary side of events and human behaviour. He proved a pleasant companion with his gentle wit and impish humour and he was grateful for all little services as he faced the final painful months. Fr Joseph Halpin was called home by the Lord 17 July 1988 aged 77 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCArch*; *IPNI* Nov. 1988; *BCA* 1988 192

### **HAMPSON, Fr Anthony J. 1907-1976**



Born 22 Feb. 1907 in Louisbourg, Co. Mayo, Tony worked for a short time on the farm and in the family business in Ballymahon. In 1923 he went to the Juniorate at Blackrock where he benefited from Fr Bertie Farrell's charisma for character moulding in accordance with Christian ideals. On completing his studies he went to the novitiate in Kimmage where he was professed in 1927. He returned to Blackrock which then housed the Senior Scholasticate at Willow Park and the Castle. After a year's 'home' philosophy he attended UCD, securing a B.A. in Philosophy in 1931 with First Class Honours and winning the Pierce Malone Scholarship in Mental and Moral Science. He professed at Blackrock, 1931-33, while also studying for the H.Dip.Ed., and playing rugby for the Blackrock RFC First XV captained by Phil. Crowe. The Theologate moved from the Castle to Kimmage and Anthony started his first year there, but the following year -1934- he was one of four students sent by Dr Dan Murphy to the international theologate in Fribourg to study for the Licentiate and the Doctorate. This was part of Dr Murphy's new deal for the Irish province, bringing some of the future teachers etc. into contact with European thought and the representatives of the other provinces of the Congregation. There were in fact representatives from Poland, the USA, Switzerland, and France as well as the Irish. Fr Hampson was ordained priest in 1936 and took the Doctorate in 1939, presenting for his thesis a study of the spiritual teaching of Liebermann. He was then appointed to Blackrock where over the years he was to fill every post - some of them more than

once: Director of the Juniorate, 1939-40; Dean of Discipline, 1940-46, and 1948-52; Dean of Studies, 1946-8, and 1952-5; Dean of the Castle, 1955-56 and, 1962-3. Finally, he served as President, 1956-62. From 1940 to 1959 he had charge of training the Senior Schools Rugby Team and his coaching, particularly in back-play, was so successful that in those years his students won the Leinster senior cup 11 times - an unparalleled record. In his dealings with the students he was always high principled, yet understanding, firm and demanding, but scrupulously fair. His free time and holidays were given almost entirely to preaching retreats to Sisters in the surrounding convents. He is quoted as saying that all that was necessary for success in life was 'a quick heel and the grace of God'. And like his former director, Fr Kearney, whom he admired so much, he was called on at the age of 56 to devote his energy and expertise to the formation of students doing Theology, first at Kimmage and then, 1965-69, as Director of the Holy Ghost International Scholasticate at Rome. This proved a very testing assignment as it was a time when seminaries were in ferment. In 1969 he was back again at Blackrock, but with a difference. He was now a total outsider for a new generation of students and he found that teaching class had not got easier. In 1971 he went to his last assignment namely, as Dean of Studies in Willow Park where he felt far more at ease. A humble soul, a man of prayer, he was always ready for any call to serve in the Lord's vineyard. The final call came rather quickly after a heart attack as he got ready for a normal day's work at Willow Park. He died 6 April 1976 aged 69 years. He was buried in Kimmage. He was a brother of Fr John Joe. and uncle of Frs Seán and Anthony Little CSSp. BArch; *BCA* 176 177ff; *IPNI* 22 1976

#### **HAMPSON, Fr John Joseph      1910-1984**

Born 16 November 1910 in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, and reared later in Ballymahon,



Co. Longford, John Joe followed his brother Anthony into the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1924. Professed in 1932 he prefectured at Blackrock, 1934-36. During his years as a student and prefect he developed a considerable talent for controlling young boys and men, and showed judgement and skill in all the arts of a school-master during his period of work as a prefect. Good humour and energy, especially in training rugby teams,

were part of his gift. Ordained in 1939 Fr John Joe was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was to work for the next 28 years. He served in the parishes of Urualla and Adazi until 1951, and also in the region later called the diocese of Umuahia. He was especially associated with the parishes of Ubuoma and Aba, and he was deeply involved in youth work, especially in athletics and football. He became a fine organiser and referee. In this last respect he resembled his brother Fr Anthony at Blackrock. In 1968, because of illness, he returned to Ireland and the following year he took up parish work in the USA. He spent two years in Buffalo, New York, and from 1971 in Jacksonville, Florida. The people he served appreciated his hard work on their behalf and his kind heart, and his confrères found in him a good neighbour and an entertaining companion. Fr John Joe Hampson died 18 December 1984 aged 74 years. He was an uncle of Frs Seán and Tony Little. *BCA*, 1985, 177

### **HANNAN, Fr Laurence Gerard 1927-1990**



Gerry was born 16 August 1927 in Limerick city. He received his secondary education at St Munchin's College as did his brothers Fr Tony and Fr Paddy. Gerry played an active role in the Boy Scouts and ever after was inspired by their motto: "*Bí ullamh*" - Always ready. Professed in Kilshane in 1946 he attended UCD where he secured the B.A. in 1949 and then prefectured in Trinidad for three years. He did his Theology in Rome where he secured the S.T.L. Ordained in 1955 Fr Gerry was appointed to Kenya. He served at Makupa in the diocese of Mombasa and at St George High School where he was headmaster. Returning ill to Ireland he served for a period in Kilshane and in 1971 he was appointed to Blackrock. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the school and became very close to the students as unofficial counsellor and as trainer of teams. Though there was no great tradition in soccer at the college he coached and motivated the senior team to win the Schools Leinster Cup for the first time. He was particularly caring for problem students who found him very approachable and understanding, one of themselves, they felt. He served as Dean of 4th Year, 1972-79, 5th Year, 1979-86, and Dean of Final Year, 1987-88. His health, which had never been over robust, began to show signs of serious deterioration requiring periodic hospitalisation. Death came suddenly from a heart attack while at home in Limerick during the Christmas break 4th January 1990. Fr Gerard Hannan was aged 62 years. He was buried in Kimmage. His brothers, Tony and Paddy, were also priests in the Congregation. IPArch; *BCA* 1990 137f

### **HANNAN, Fr John Anthony 1916-1994**



Born in Limerick city 12 June 1916, Tony he did his secondary studies at CBS and St Munchin's, Limerick and worked as a Civil Servant from 1935 to 1945. At the age of twenty-nine he opted to join the Congregation and was professed in 1946. He did his priestly studies in Kimmage - Philosophy, 1946-48, and Theology, 1948-52. Ordained in 1951, his first appointment was to Onitsha, Nigeria, where he served till forced to quit because of the Civil war. Appointed to the USA he served in San Francisco till obliged by failing health to return to Kimmage in 1992. Fr Tony was called to the Lord 12 March 1994 aged 78 years and was buried in Kimmage. He was predeceased by his two brothers, Fr Gerry and Fr Paddy who had also joined the Congregation. *IPNI* No. 2, 1994.

### **HANNAN, Fr Patrick 1921-1993**



Born in Limerick 25 August 1921 Paddy received his early schooling with the CBS and St Munchin's, Limerick. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1940 and after his profession he qualified for the BA at UCD. While prefecting at Blackrock, 1944-46, he secured the H.Dip.Ed., and then did Theology in Kimmage being ordained 1n 1949. Fr Paddy's first appointment was to Kenya, East Africa, where he served as Headmaster of St Theresa's High School, Nairobi, from 1950 to 1960, and as pastor of Eastleigh parish from 1956 to 1969. He then returned to Ireland, and in 1971 he was appointed to the USA, where he served as chaplain in Queen's General Hospital, Long Island, until 1973. From 1973 to 1989

Paddy worked in the parish and school of St Theresa's, Holywood, Florida. Fr Patrick Hannan returned to Ireland in poor health in 1989, residing in Kimmage till his death 16 October 1993 aged 73 years. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr Paddy's two brothers, Gerry and Tony were also priests in the Congregation . *IPNI* No. 5 1993; *SPEA* 589

#### **HANRAHAN, Fr Stephen C. 1897-1968**



Born 14 July in Cathedral Place (or Roaches St ?) Limerick city, Steve entered the Juniorate at Castlehead, Lanc., where he had as fellow student, future Bishop John Anyogu of Nigeria. He came to the Juniorate at Blackrock for his final year, 1916-17, and remained on as a prefect at the college before going to the novitiate in Kimmage in 1918. Steve took the BA at UCD, 1922, and was ordained in 1926 at Blackrock by Bishop Joseph Shanahan. Fr Steve worked at St Mary's College, Port of Spain, from 1927 to 1934. He then transferred to Nigeria serving at St Charles' Teachers' Training College, Onitsha, with occasional calls on his assistance in the nearby parishes. From 1946 on he was attached to Rockwell. It was written about him that he spoke seldom and said little, but his pronouncements were seasoned with a wry wit of his own that endeared him to his confreres and many friends. A local parishioner was heard to say after his death: "No finer preacher ever stepped into the pulpit of New Inn church." Undemanding and undemonstrative in every sphere of activity whether spiritual or temporal, he went his quiet way with few pretensions. Fr Stephen Hanrahan died 1 October 1968 aged 71 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1969, 87; *BCA* 1969, 172; *SpWW* 822

#### **HAREN, Br Mary Colman (Michael) 1846-1885**



Born 30 Oct. 1846 in Clones, Co. Monaghan, Michael entered the juniorate at Blackrock in 1872 aged 26 but soon after opted for the brotherhood. He was professed in 1874 and remained on at Blackrock till 1884. In the notes sent to the Mother House about him by both Père Leman and Fr Huvéty's he is referred to as 'an excellent religious, humble and docile'. Having asked to be sent to the missions he was appointed to Monrovia, Liberia, to help run the primary school there. The Liberian government had asked the Holy See to send missionaries, so a mission was opened in Monrovia in 1884 by Père Blanchet, head of the mission in Sierra Leone. They met with intense opposition from the entrenched Protestant missionaries and the Freemasons. Br Mary Colman found himself the subject of unwelcome publicity as people seeing letters etc. addressed to him as 'Mary' Colman accused the community of having a woman concealed in their house! In spite of some success in the area, the Congregation was forced to give up their mission there after the deaths of two of the small community. Br Mary Colman was one of the victims: he died 26 April 1885 aged 39 years. Someone had him visit a professional photographer in Dublin to have his portrait taken before leaving for Monrovia and fortunately the photo survived the 1984 fire. *BG* XIII 760; *BJR* No. 228; *BBR* No. 123; *GenArch*



### **HARKINS, Fr Michael 1905-1991**



Born 4 February 1905 Michael did his secondary studies in St Mel's, Longford and having been contacted by Fr Bertie Farrell, then starting his very successful tours of recruitment, he came to Blackrock in 1922 for his final year. Professed in Kimmage in 1924 he prefectured in Rockwell, 1924/5, and in Blackrock, 1925/7. He then attended UCD where he secured an Honours BA in Classics, followed by another year as prefect in Blackrock during which he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. Students of his years as a prefect recalled him as an excellent teacher, especially of Irish. He started Theology in the Castle, Blackrock, but was later sent to Fribourg by the new Provincial, Dr Dan Murphy. He was ordained priest in 1934 by Bishop John O'Gorman, that being his last ordination as he died the following year. Fr Harkins was seen to work extremely hard during his two years in Fribourg, too hard it was said for his health. He served as professor of Moral theology at Kimmage, 1936-37, and was then appointed to Blackrock. Appointed Dean of the day-school in 1938 he was to serve in that capacity till 1947 while also teaching a full schedule of classes. He proved a very active Dean, encouraging many extracurricular activities, swimming, chess etc. as well as taking a keen interest in the pastoral care of the students. In 1947 he asked to be sent on the foreign missions, any place except Trinidad, but because of his qualifications it was to Trinidad that he was appointed. He found this a difficult assignment but he gave it his full dedication. He engaged again in all the same activities in St Mary's, Port of Spain. So much so that when alumni of St Mary's, Port of Spain, and of Blackrock met in after life, they were amazed that they could relate so well due in particular to the exchange of anecdotes about Fr Michael, most of them of the hilarious variety especially in the area of his perceived over religiosity. Not that they did not appreciate his total dedication to their welfare. After twenty-four years service he returned to Ireland and was appointed once more to the Rockwell community but the following year he was transferred to Blackrock, serving for a period in Willow Park. When he retired from the class room he took on a very active ministry especially in connection with the Marian Association for priests, pilgrimages to Fatima and in promoting certain private devotions. Very conservative in his religious views he was no admirer of the reforms introduced in the wake of the Vatican Council. He held on to his convictions with such certitude that he is reported as having retorted on one occasion when challenged in a discussion: 'I may be wrong but I know I am right.' He was also tenacious of life. When given up as dying by his doctor he surprised all by returning to his punishing schedule of travels and, incidentally, survived his doctor. Confined to a wheelchair eventually he retired to Marian House where he continued to lead the confreres in prayer, especially the Rosary. The Lord called Michael home 14 June 1991 aged 86 years. He is buried in Kimmage. BJR No. 1010 *IPNI* No 4 1991

### **HARNETT, Fr Patrick Francis 1914-1994**



Born 5 October 1914 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Paddy did his secondary studies in Blackrock, 1928-32. Professed in 1933 he began Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, but on being diagnosed as having tuberculosis he was transferred to Montana, Switzerland. Later he joined those doing Theology in Louvain but on the outbreak of World War II he returned to Kimmage where he continued Theology. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed to Kenya where he arrived in 1943. He worked in Bura

and Lushangone in the Taiti Hills, and for thirty years he served in St Mary's, Nairobi. He later worked in Makadara, Ruaraka and Holy Family Cathedral Parish, and finally at Nayumba ya Wazee, with the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Ruraka. Though in poor health in his later years he worked with total dedication wherever he was called to serve. He was seen to be full of compassion for people, especially mothers and the underprivileged, and he was deeply appreciated by them. He was seen to keep abreast of theological developments and was dedicated to the ministry of the confessional. Fr Paddy died 7 June in 1994 in Nyumba ya Wazee aged 79 years. *IPNI* No. 3 1994

**HARNETT, Fr Richard A 1879-1959**



Born 8 June 1879 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Dick entered Rockwell in 1895 in the wake of his neighbours, Jack and Dan Leen. Dick recalled being helped to do his first Latin exercise by Thomas McDonagh of 1916 fame, who sat beside him in the study hall. He was not among the more gifted academically who were retained in the boarding school at Rockwell when the Juniorate was closed, 1898-1900. He was transferred to Blackrock in the company of Padraic O Conaire, John English, Dan Leen and others. He never regretted his connection with Blackrock but he was pleased to be sent to Rockwell

the following year as prefect. An enthusiastic Gaelic player he liked to recall that he played against many of the best teams in Kerry at that period. Among the prefects at the time were Thomas McDonagh and Leonard Graf. Dick, as he was more commonly known, went to France in 1903 to do his novitiate and one of the most formative events of that year was his assisting at the bedside of Fr Libermann's first novice, Fr Marcellin Collin, as he lay dying during the month of May 1904. That experience helped foster in him a strong family attachment to all that pertained to the Congregation which was to inspire his work at every level throughout his life. Ordained in 1908 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Rathmines, and he was to retain a special affection for that community ever after. In 1912, however, he was transferred to St Joseph's parish, Peasley Cross, Lanc., where it was hoped that a strong bridgehead might be built up for the Congregation in England. After two years he was called on by the Provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, to join the Irish Mission Band in the USA in an effort to raise the necessary funds to maintain an Irish senior scholasticate. He was to remain at this work till 1925, conducting parish missions in many parts of the USA. It was a period of strenuous but congenial work in which he exercised an effective apostolate in the pulpit and confessional. From 1920 he was leader of the Mission Band and he was awarded the LLD by Duquesne University in recognition of his outstanding work. It used be one of the many jokes told about him that he was very insistent that the degree was not an 'honorary' one - that he got it 'for preaching'; but those who were close to him and his team were in no doubt that the honour was hard earned and well merited. In 1925 he was recalled to Ireland to take on the post of provincial as had happened for his three immediate predecessors. The province was still in rather poor shape in spite of the efforts of Fr Joseph Byrne to improve matters. Among the changes introduced by Fr Harnett was the resumption of the practice of sending the senior scholastics to take degrees at the University. He also tried to improve the régime for the scholastics, who were being poorly fed through lack of money. He was remembered in particular as the man who introduced "the four o'clock tea". Under pressure from many quarters he willingly reopened St Mary's College in 1926. It had been closed for ten years by then. He remained on in residence there while Provincial and took a very special interest in all its activities. An ardent

follower of the rugby fortunes of the schools at all levels he established the Under 13s rugby competition, which is still very much alive. But above all he strove to maintain true religious observance in the various communities. In 1933 he purchased Kilshane, transferring the novitiate there from Kimmage Manor where it had operated since 1911. This allowed the Theologians to move back there from the Castle, Blackrock, where they had been since 1924. On ceasing to be Provincial in 1934, he still remained a force in the province as First Assistant to the Provincial. His main work from then on was in preaching retreats for which he was in demand in all parts of Ireland. His distinctly nasal tone of voice and his a-logical style of eloquence were a frequent source of amusement, but there was no doubting the sincerity and the orthodoxy of his message. From 1945 he was National Director of the Holy Childhood Association and to this he devoted all his energy and boundless enthusiasm right up to the last day of his life. He was in hospital for a check up and remarked that, once he came out, he would go home to recuperate "in that blessed spot called Abbeyfeale". He died some moments later on November 11th 1959 aged 80 years and was buried in Kimmage. Fr Richard Harnett was an uncle of Fr Dan Hackett CSSp. *BCA* 1960, 209ff; *RCA* 1960, 80; *SpWW* 692

### **HARRISON, Fr James Patrick 1915-2001**



(Fr. James Patrick Harrison CSSp died peacefully on 2nd April, 2001 in Kimmage. The following is an extract from the funeral homily preached by Fr. Denis Gavin CSSp at his Memorial Mass in Blackrock College on 2nd April 2001)

Saying goodbye to someone we love and hold in high regard is always with sadness, but we have the consoling words of Jesus to soften our grief that "He has prepared a place for us in heaven" if we have done our best to love with His love and forgive with His forgiveness. For those who are not familiar with Fr. Jim's history I begin with a brief résumé –

Born on 17 May 1915 in Abbeytown, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo, Jim did his secondary studies in Blackrock College 1930-34. Having opted to join the Congregation he was professed in 1935. Following his BA in Philosophy Jim perfected in Rockwell for one year. A lover of plainchant antiphons, he was remembered for his frequent singing of the *Cibavit* that was to be a word by which his contemporaries were to know him over the years. Ordained to the priesthood in 1942 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. As World War Two was at its height then the circuitous voyage to Nigeria was fraught with danger from German submarines. Fr Jim's first appointment was to teaching in Enugu. He then moved to parish work in Onitsha, 1946-49. Late in 1949 he was transferred to Trinidad where served in St Mary's College, Port of Spain, for two years. Returned to Nigeria he served at Owerri, 1952-57, and at Port Harcourt, 1958-67. Jim was an inveterate punster. One memorable example oft recalled: As he dined daily with Archbishop Heerey, his Grace thought to cure him by dictating the subject of conversation himself and remarked: "Why can't we have fresh eggs like the Sisters across the road?" Jim piped up immediately "We must consult the lay Sisters about that!" During the Biafra war Jim returned to Europe and took up parish ministry in England at Brixton and Somerset. In 1969 he moved to the USA and worked there for the next twenty-three years. For many years he worked in Louisiana and later in Flushing. He returned to Ireland in 1992 and retired to his Alma Mater, Blackrock. Due to increasing ill health he moved to Marian House in February 1997. He was noted as being the gentlest of patients - never complaining. Fr James died on 2 April 2001 aged 85 years. He is buried in?

James, the man, the priest, loved the simple things in life. He often spoke about his love for the opera and how he and Fr. Mahon were opera buffs. Above all he had a great sense of humour that endeared him to many people, and more often than not laughed loudest at his own jokes. James was very dedicated and faithful to his ministry. On reflection when Fr. James went to Nigeria he joined an outstanding band of missionary priests, brothers, and sisters, whose labours are now reaping a rich harvest for the herd. He told me on one occasion how privileged he was to have worked in the land that produced the greatest apostle of the twentieth century – Bishop Joseph Shanahan.

To all whose life he touched through his faithful ministry he will always be fondly remembered. I would like to thank the community here in Blackrock for receiving him with open arms when he retired from his active ministry, and the staff of Marian House who helped him to have an easy passage home to be with the Lord and Saviour.

### **HEALY, Br Osmond (Joseph) 1875-1939**



Born 15 November 1875 in Tipperary Town, Joseph entered the Congregation at Rockwell in 1899. He went with others to the general novitiate at Chevilly where he was professed in 1902. His first appointment was to Bathurst, (Banjul) The Gambia, where he was involved in the running of the mission school. It would appear that he and the Superior differed in their plans for the mission school. He returned home ill in 1905 and was stationed at the provincial house in Clareville for a year. There he made the acquaintance of Fr Joseph Shanahan, recently appointed Prefect Apostolic of Southern Nigeria, and he accompanied him to Nigeria in October 1906. For the next thirty years Br Osmond was to give sterling service in the mission schools there, first at Onitsha-Waterside and in later years in Onitsha Town. Endurance and solidity characterised the man and his work. It was written of him as he set out for Africa in 1937 after two years in semi-retirement in Clareville: "For Christian children or catechumens he provided the best education that his limited resources would permit and when that education was complete he spared no pains in getting them settled in positions that would make their prospects of earning a suitable salary and establishing a Christian family almost a certainty. With inspectors and officials, he was courteous and affable and they soon learned to appreciate the amazing efficiency what was hidden beneath his hearty camaraderie: some went so far as to say that for the code of education and other matters that affected his special work, he was a walking encyclopædia, and one of the best commentators on the West Coast." Br Osmond was never the easiest man to get on with and as the years went on rather autocratic manner aroused opposition. Bishop Shanahan always made special allowance for him, conscious of what he had achieved, but once the Shanahan era was over, Br Osmond was advised to retire too. When he volunteered to return to Africa in 1937 - leaving aside his work at the quiet care of Clareville orchard and garden - it was to give a hand in the school where he had worked in The Gambia, 1902-05. But he could no longer stand up to the African climate. Soon after his return home to Clareville Br Osmond Healy died while on a visit to his native Tipperary 20 August 1939 aged 64 years. He was buried in Rockwell. GenArch, Nigeria folders; *BCA* 1937, 62; 1942, 56.

**HEALY, Fr Gerard B. 1917-1976**



Gerry was born 16 October 1917 in Clontarf, Dublin. His father, a native of Bohernabreena, Dublin, had a wine and spirit business and later lived at Harold's Cross from where Gerard went to Blackrock as a boarder in 1931. He played as full-back on the SCT for two years and won an interprovincial Cap in 1937. He then entered the novitiate at Kilshane and was professed in 1938. Ordained in 1943 he was appointed the following year to Owerri diocese, Nigeria. Among those who made the perilous journey in 1944 to Nigeria while World War II still raged, he was to have a wide pastoral experience that ranged over what was later divided into the dioceses of Owerri, Port Harcourt and Umuahia: he served at Emekuku, Ekwerazu, Bodo, Ogoni, Port Harcourt, Umuahia and Amiri. During the same years his brother, Dr Stephen J Healy, was doing outstanding pioneer medical work in the leper colony in Ososio in Nigeria. Another war, this time the Biafran war, saw Fr Gerard leave Nigeria in 1967. He went first to work in USA, (1970-71) in Florida and (1971-72) in New Orleans. He then returned to Ireland and took up duty as a curate in the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. He was curate in Ballyfarnon at the time of his unexpected death 26 June 1976 aged 58 years. He was buried in Kimmage. A generous tribute was paid to his spirit of prayer, his work and enthusiasm by Bishop Cathal Daly, future Cardinal, and among those assisting at the funeral were the Superior General, Fr Frans Timmermans and the Provincial, Fr William Jenkinson. BCArch; *IPNI* 23, September 1976; *BCA* 1976 179ff.

**HEALY, Br Kevin 1886-1949**

Br Kevin Healy CSSp (John J), later, Fr John SMA, Nigeria 1886-1949. Was born 10



December 1886 in Aughrim, Co. Wicklow. John attended Blackrock College as a boarder, 1901-04. Wanting to go as a missionary to Nigeria he opted to join the Brotherhood in the French province as he thought that this would ensure that he be sent to the missions rather than be appointed to a house in Ireland. Professed as Br Kevin in 1907 he was given his appointment for Southern Nigeria where he served with distinction under Fr Shanahan till 1920. As he always felt that he had a vocation to be a priest, he asked to be allowed to study for the priesthood. This was eventually agreed to but, as it was not allowed for in the Rule of the Congregation then that a Brother could advance to the priesthood within the society, Fr Joseph Shanahan facilitated his transfer in 1920 into the SMA senior seminary in Cork. He was eventually ordained and appointed to serve once more in Nigeria, but this time working with the SMA missionaries. He died in Nigeria 3 January 1949. *BCA*, 1949, 27f; *The African Missionary*, Mar-Apr.,33.

**HEALY, Fr Laurence 1856-1938**



Born 13 December 1856 in Ballynagun, Doonbeg, Co. Clare, Larry had the good fortune of attending the school conducted by the renowned teacher Conor McDermott whose students regularly graduated directly from his 'primary' school to Third Level education. Larry came to Blackrock in 1872 together with Martin Hehir, future founder of Duquesne University, both having received glowing testimonials from McDermott. Both did their teacher proud. Larry excelled at classics, mathematics, English, French, German as well as Irish - a language he had learned

from childhood. He blossomed under the influence of the French system of education as operated by Père Leman and Fr Reffé, but for the rest of his life he was to operate with success the educational system introduced in 1878 by the Intermediate Education Board. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1877-8, and studied philosophy under Père Leman and Fr Michael Hyland before going to France to study for the priesthood. He returned to Blackrock in 1880 for a further year as prefect and was ordained in 1882. After his religious profession, 1883, he was appointed to Rockwell where he succeeded Fr John T Murphy as Dean of Studies in 1886 when the latter was transferred to Pittsburgh College, USA. In 1891 Fr Larry was himself transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, as Dean of studies, and assumed the duties of bursar also the following year. With the departure of Fr N.J. Brennan from Blackrock for Trinidad, 1894, Fr Healy was called on to replace him as Dean of Studies. In 1896 he was appointed President in succession to Fr Jules Botrel, being the first Irishman to fill that post. It was at this period that an effort was made by the newly elected Superior General, Mgr Alexander Le Roy, to restructure the Irish provincial administration. Till then the superior of Blackrock was also the provincial superior. Fr Botrel was appointed Provincial while still residing at Blackrock. The Mission Band was set up and a separate residence was acquired, first in Booterstown Avenue and later, Jan. 1900, in Clareville, which Fr Healy had acquired for the Province. When a review of the Intermediate Education Board and its system of education was called for at the end of the century, Fr Healy submitted a detailed and carefully thought out statement which was regarded by Archbishop Walsh, one of the Commissioners, as very valuable. The school thrived under Fr Healy's leadership in many respects: it was the era of the scholarship winners - John D'Alton, future Cardinal, the O'Rahilly brothers - Alfred and Thomas - De Valera and others who helped take Blackrock to the top of the league as in the days of Fr Reffé,. The strain of this post took a severe toll on Fr Larry's health, which was never robust, and he resigned in 1899 to be succeeded by Fr John T. Murphy returned from Pittsburgh. Mgr Le Roy paid a visit to Ireland in 1900 and, realising that matters were somewhat in a state of near stagnation, he prevailed on Fr Healy to take over as Provincial to get the Province moving again in the wake of the failure of the experiment with an Irish senior scholasticate at Rockwell, 1898-1900. In spite of his infirmities he guided matters firmly and wisely during the following seven years. He saw, not always with enthusiastic approval, Fr John T Murphy extend Blackrock grounds and restructure the frontage along Williamstown. Prior Park, Bath, was acquired in 1904, staffed mainly from the Irish province, in the hopes that a new centre of formation might be set up there for the English-speaking missions. After the failure of this project, 1904-06, efforts were then concentrated on making a start in Ireland, but that did not come under the leadership of Fr Healy. When he handed over to Dr Edward Crehan in 1907 he took up residence in St Mary's, Rathmines, serving over the years as Provincial bursar, Provincial councillor and bursar of the college. The ruthless military search of the property after the 1916 Rebellion left Fr Healy unnerved as he had been in poor health at the time. He retired to Rockwell for a period, but in 1920 he returned to Blackrock once more, residing in Clareville, helping as professor, as Dean of the Day school, and in meticulously compiling the school records with a view to composing a history of the college and its most distinguished alumni. His detailed notes on this subject and his very readable history are a monument to his attention to detail, his penchant for summing up what was significant in events and personages. He did not succeed in having this work published, and today it smacks of a bygone era and of battles long ago, but it has proved a welcome source for many a researcher of that period of Irish education in

which Fr Healy was himself an actor as student, teacher, Dean and Headmaster. Fr Healy, though somewhat diffident, was gifted with a cultured mind, a clear intellect and above all he was seen to be an excellent priest and religious. Among his great admirers was Eamon de Valera, whom he received into Blackrock when his application to two other schools had been turned down on financial counts. Fr Laurence Healy died 12 November 1938 aged 82 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *IPB* March 1939, 10ff; *BCA* 1939, 96f; 1962,193; *Blackrock College 1860-1995 99ff*

### **HEALY, Fr William 1844-1920**



Born 25 May 1844 near Mount Melleray, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, William had been a boarder at the school conducted by the monks, both his parents having died. Père Leman visited the school in search of vocations and William came to the French College, Blackrock, 1861-66. A long letter from him has survived describing some aspects of life in the Juniorate at the time, in particular the lively sense of patriotism as symbolised by the display of the Green Flag. He prefectured at Rockwell, 1866-69, and then went to France for his senior studies. There his directors thought him too nationalistic in outlook, "*Outre en politique, comme archIrlandais.*" He returned to Blackrock as prefect for another six years, 1870-76, and during that period he laid the foundations of Blackrock's tradition in football and athletics. He was mainly responsible for organising the first public Sports day, 1875. Helping him in those days was a lay-teacher, Michael Cusack, future founder of the GAA. After finishing his studies and being ordained in France he returned to Blackrock in 1877. His contribution to the college was to be substantial as we learn from Fr Larry Healy in his "History of Blackrock", (Ms): "Fr William Healy was what might be called Minister of the Games Department. He did for the games what Fr Reffé did for studies. At cricket, football, tennis, and gymnastics, his boys should excel. He levelled and rounded the recreation field - a mighty work. He employed professionals to instruct the young athletes in the best and least wasteful methods of using their strength, of wielding a bat or forming a scrum. On days of big matches, or other events, he looked after the newspaper reporters and helped them to take a right view of things. He also taught Greek and Latin classes. He seemed to be as familiar with the streets and buildings of ancient Rome and Athens as he was with those of Dublin. He was an excellent teacher, thorough and exact. He made you feel that the misplacing of a Greek accent was something to be ashamed of, and that to do outrage to a Latin quantity was little short of a moral fault. He was a man of ceaseless energy, mental and physical. He knew everything and he talked all he knew. If the reputation of the college stood high for scholarship, for athletics, and let us add, for hospitality, hardly anyone contributed more to create and maintain that reputation than Fr William Healy. Owing to throat trouble he had to cease teaching in 1887. A simple or cynical reporter announced that Fr Healy, in order to cure his throat, had gone to America on a lecturing tour." He spent some months in Rockwell and then went to Zanzibar to gather materials for a lecture tour to foster vocations and to collect funds for the African missions. In this work he was a pioneer in the Congregation. For years he lectured throughout America and in Europe. Because of his total dedication and lively temperament he proved a great success in that role. But he was no less successful as a pastor among the blacks at Philadelphia, as a confessor always in demand and as a confrere who created community wherever he lived. He spent some time at Cornwells, where he is buried, and at the college in Pittsburgh while serving the

parish of St Benedict the Moor, but it was at St Peter Claver's, Philadelphia, that he gave of his best and was looked on by the blacks as a second Peter Claver. It must have given this Irish patriot great joy to sit beside Eamon de Valera, President of Dáil Eireann, when he visited Cornwells in 1919 during his secret visit to the USA. A photograph commemorates that historic occasion showing the youthful President flanked by the bearded, venerable Fr Healy and surrounded by the Irish Holy Ghost Fathers whom Dev had known as students and prefects. Fr William Healy died 2 November 1920 aged 75 years and was buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG* 29,899ff; *LH*, 141-2; *BCA* 1962 158.

**HEARNE, Fr Brian                      1939-1996      381**



Born 4 July 1939 in Longford, Brian did his secondary studies at Willow Park and Blackrock, 1952-57. He was recognised as a gifted student and an excellent cricket player, winning a Leinster senior medal in 1957 under the tuition of Fr Willie O'Meara, as did his brother Rory, who also joined the Congregation. Professed in 1958 he studied philosophy in Kimmage from 1958 to 1960 and studied English and French at UCD where he gained 1st place and 1st class honours in the B.A.. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1963-64. Sent to Rome to do Theology he gained a *BD cum laude* in 1966 and the STL in the Dominican Angelicum University in 1968. Ordained priest in 1967 he was appointed to Kenya in 1968. He engaged in pastoral and secondary school work in Taita and Giriama for four years. From 1972 until 1986 he served as director of the Gaba Institute, Uganda (later Kenya). During these years he was the founding editor of *AFER - African Ecclesial Review*. Fr Brian worked from 1986 to 1991 in the Mindolo Ecumenical Institute in Zambia. He served as a Theological advisor to the East Africa Bishops. From 1991 he lectured in the Kimmage Mission Institute, at The Irish School of Ecumenism and at Tangaza College, Nairobi. He also acted as a popular animator of several spiritan seminars and retreats. Brian was profoundly influenced by the Second Vatican Council which he saw unfolding while a student in Rome. That exposure marked him permanently and he strove to promote its insights for the developing church in Africa, for the role of the laity in the church and the strategy of small Christian communities and the theology of inculturation. He managed to awaken an enthusiastic response from his students, and though he came with a reputation of being ultra liberal when asked to give the annual retreat to the more conservative and ageing members of the province he was hailed by them as being the equal of any of the leading lights in the province in years gone by. Brian's funeral in Kimmage was an occasion to remember, a lament for the passing of an challenging theologian and a celebration of the legacy he has left in Ireland and in the Africa he loved. Brian passed from our midst 1 July 1996 aged 56 years. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1973 221f; *IPNI* No.5 1996; *BCA* 1997 270f



### **HEELAN, Fr David 1895-1983**



Born 14 June 1895 in Coolalough, Hospital, Co. Limerick, Dave was a nephew of Fr John Heelan CSSp. A student at Rockwell he captained the winning senior cup side in 1914. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed in 1915. He then studied Philosophy at UCD where he obtained a B.A. degree and H.Dip.Ed. He prefectured at Blackrock 1919-20 and at Rockwell, after which he was sent to Rome for theological studies. He resided at the French Seminary, and was ordained to the priesthood on 5 August 1923. The following year Fr Dave was awarded the D.D. In 1924 he was appointed to Rockwell, and was for three years Dean of the boarding school. Though gentle by nature he had a great facility for maintaining strict discipline among the students. From 1928 to 1931 he was on the staff of the Senior Scholasticate, teaching Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock. Then, after 4 years as professor and Dean of Discipline at St Mary's College, Rathmines, Fr Dave spent two years as bursar at Kilshane. In 1937 he was transferred to Blackrock College, where he remained for 18 years. He was Dean of the Castle for three years, 1941-44, and for two years in charge of the Colganstown farm. Later he took charge of the farm at Carrickmines while also teaching class at the college. He returned to Rockwell in 1955 to look after the farm there. From 1963 to 1968 he was Superior of the Kilshane community and he remained on there, helping in many ways until his death. He will be remembered by all who knew him, young and old, as a kind and gentle man, truly humble, always willing to be of service to everyone and a bother to no one. Rather shy he spoke little but always to the point. Fr Dave Heelan died at Kilshane 15 April 1983 aged 87 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI* 53 May 1983.

### **HEELAN, Fr John 1879-1951**



Born 12 July 1879 in Ballinvrina, Emly, Co. Tipperary, he was a student at Rockwell, 1895-98, and when the Juniorate was discontinued in favour of the senior scholasticate, he did his Senior Grade at Blackrock. From 1899 to 1904 he prefectured at Rockwell, winning his place on the Club team with the Ryan brothers. He, Thady O'Connor and Tim Cunningham were closely associated with Dev who was a lay professor at Rockwell then. In 1904 John was among those who did their novitiate at the newly acquired mansion at Prior Park, Bath. Ordained in France, 1909, he was appointed the following year to the new juniorate at Castlehead, Lancs., where he was to spend the next 10 years as Director. In 1921 he was appointed Dean of Discipline at Blackrock, a post he was to fill for eight years. We are told that these years "were filled with intense and devoted activity in the spiritual and moral interests of the boys. He strove by word and example to inculcate the highest ideals and to form the boys' character in a masculine, vigorous direction. His interest in their games was imbued with this formative desire." While in England he had become aware of some new developments in the game of rugby where each player was trained to specific tactics and this influenced his training of teams leading in time to a noted improvement in the game as played at Blackrock. As the years went on the strain of maintaining discipline became too much for him. He could be rather erratic in his reactions to students' perceived misbehaviour. Suffering from strain of it all he was obliged to take a period of convalescence in Fribourg, Switzerland, after which he went to work in the mission

of Kilimanjaro in East Africa. Ill-health forced him to return to Europe in 1936 where for two years he recuperated before being sent in 1939 to serve in the USA. After a brief stay at St Paul's, Lafayette, La, he received what was to be his last appointment namely, to the black parish of Holy Spirit, Opelousas, La. The next eight years were to prove the most fruitful of his life in spite of continued indifferent health. His devotion to the sick and the poor became almost legendary in Louisiana where he identified with his poverty-stricken congregation as he learned to speak their Creole French. He was much sought after by his brother priests as counsellor, spiritual director and confessor. When his failing health influenced his superiors to relieve him of responsibility for the country missions he settled down to do more work than ever in the town. He died after an attack of influenza 5 January 1951 aged 72. During his obsequies the police had to close the street near the church to all traffic, it was so jammed with people who could not get in. He was buried in the USA. Fr John was an uncle of Fr Dave Heelan CSSp, qv. *BCA* 1951 16f; *SpWW* 589.

### **HEEREY, Archbishop Charles 1890-1967**

Born 29 November 1889 in Oldcastle, Co. Meath, 'Cha' was a student in Blackrock, 1905-09, together with his brother Paddy (CSSp). Both were members of Fr John Kearney's orchestra. Cha prefect in Rockwell, 1909-11, where again he figured in Fr Muller's orchestra. He was one of the first group of novices who made their novitiate in Ireland at Kimmage Manor, 1911-12. He continued his studies at Kimmage, attending UCD where he took his B.A. in 1918. He did Theology in Kimmage where he was very much relied on by Fr Kearney as Auxiliary, master of ceremonies and journalist. The students were in close contact with Monsig. Joseph Shanahan during his prolonged stay in Ireland, 1919-20, profiting from his frequent conferences or fire-side chats. As journalist Charles recorded the fact that they learned of the *Afrique* tragedy, 12 January 1919, from Shanahan himself who had known many of the victims, including Mgr Hyacinth Jalabert, who had been his director in the Juniorate at Cellule, and also a founder member of the mission in Nigeria - Br Hermann Fuch. Charles and his close associate, Joe Horgan, are mentioned by the journalist, Dan O'Sullivan, as having been specially chosen to act as servers at the dinner given by Fr Evans in honour of Shanahan, Bishops Neville and O'Gorman, and members of the provincial administration: "Mr Heerey and Mr Horgan, who were servers at the dinner, informed us that the quality, quantity and variety of the viands left nothing to be desired. We are happy to be able to record that, in accordance with an honourable tradition, cold water was the one and only beverage." Ordained in 1921 Fr Cha was appointed to Nigeria in 1922. He worked first at Calabar and then in the junior seminary in Igbariam. In 1926, when the Holy See directed Bishop Shanahan to nominate a coadjutor with right of succession, he nominated - on the advice, it was said, of Fr Kearney - the young and relatively inexperienced Fr Charles Heerey whom he was to ordain at Killesandra in 1927. Five years later in 1932, Dr Heerey took over from Bishop Shanahan and was to remain in charge until his death 35 years later. By then there were a dozen bishops in Nigeria and over a hundred native priests together with Nigerian Sisters and Brothers ministering to a Catholic population of 3,000,000. Dr Heerey had himself been the founder of an order of Nigerian Sisters - the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ. In 1950, when the Holy See changed the status of the bishops, erecting their territories into fully formed residential bishoprics, Dr Heerey was named the first Archbishop of Onitsha and Metropolitan of Eastern Nigeria. It



was said of Dr Heerey as he presided over these extraordinary developments, that he seemed to be occupied, not so much in starting and pushing on great movements himself as in drawing out and guiding the initiative of others. His was a wise and self-effacing, peaceful way of ruling, though in times of crisis he was firm in his stand for what he saw was necessary before God. Dr Heerey was a nephew of Br Canute Heerey (+ 1916), a brother of Fr Patrick, who predeceased him by a few weeks, and uncle of Frs Bernard and Anthony Heerey. Archbishop Charles Heerey died 7 Feb. 1967 aged 77 years. He was buried in Nigeria. *BCA* 1967 32.

### **HEEREY, Br Canute (Patrick) 1839-1916**



Born 10 December 1839 in Castlerahan, Co. Cavan (with an address Clonkeefy, Oldcastle, Co. Meath) Patrick entered the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock in May 1868 and was professed in 1870. No obituary has been traced due to his having died during the 1914-18 war period. He is given in the *Etat* as being in charge of housekeeping at Blackrock, and for a period he was '*commissionaire*', in other words he did the shopping errands. In 1896 he asked to be sent on the missions but, as he was approaching the sixty mark at the time, he was sent instead to St Peter Claver's parish in Philadelphia where there was a school for black children attached to the parish. Fr Ebenrecht penned these words in his journal for 23 January 1897: Br Canute is off this morning for America; 'Blackrock is losing one of the most sensible men, one of the most religious, fervent, devoted Brothers in the Congregation; one formed to the religious life by good Père Leman himself'. It would appear, however, that Br Canute was unable to fit in with life in the United States as we find him the following year back in Ireland but this time in a different community and in a new role: he was cook at St Mary's, Rathmines, until 1903 when he was transferred to the Provincialate at Clareville, again as cook. He was to remain at Clareville, joining the Blackrock community when Clareville ceased to be a separate house in 1912. Br Canute died 10 June 1916 aged 77 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. He was to be the first of many from that Heerey household to join the Congregation, including his brother Peter, who joined the brotherhood for a period; in the next generation there were his three nephews: Fr Patrick, Archbishop Charles, (q.v.) John; and in the succeeding generation there were Bernard CSSp (q.v.) and Anthony CSSp. BBR No 67; *État*; BCCJ 1897.

### **HEEREY, Fr Bernard 1925-1992**



Born 24 May 1925 in Clonkeefy, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, he came from a family that had for three generations provided members to the Congregation, beginning with Br Canute, followed in the next generation by Fr Paddy and Archbishop Charles, and by Bernard (qv) and Anthony in the third generation. All had entered the Congregation at Blackrock, Bernard having done his studies there from 1937 to 1943. He played for the SCT and later as prefect played with the RFC XV. Professed in 1944 he did Philosophy at Kimmage and prefectured, 1946-48, at Blackrock. Ordained in 1951 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where his uncle Bishop Charles was head of the mission. Bernard's first appointment was to Udi where he served for five years. Transferred to the new parish of St Michael's, Ozobulu, he struck up a good partnership with veteran Fr Bill Doolin. Next he was posted to the new parish of Isieniu, where he built the priests' residence and acquired the land where the Spiritan

house of Philosophy was later to be located. During the Biafra war he worked for a year in a parish in New York until word came from Lagos that some missionaries would be allowed back. Bernard was among the small band of CSSp to be allowed to return to Nigeria, entering via Lagos. He was to spend the rest of his life working in Nigeria, being assigned again to Udi. He died suddenly as he was on the way with his catechists to say two masses in outlying villages. He was 66 years of age when he died 26 January 1992. He was buried in Nigeria *BCA*, 1957,58; *IPNL*, No. 1.1992

**HEEREY, Fr Patrick 1885-1967**



Born 28 October 1885 in Clonkeefy, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Paddy was the first of three brothers to enter the Juniorate at Blackrock, the others being Charles, later archbishop, and John, who became a teacher. Again in the next generation, three from that homestead came to join the Congregation, two of whom persevered, Bernard (qv) and James Anthony. Going back to an earlier generation, the first of the Heerey family to enter the Congregation was Patrick, who was given the unusual name in religion, Br Canute; he entered at Blackrock 3 May 1868. This family tradition must surely be a record in the Irish province. Paddy came to Blackrock in 1898 and having done Senior Grade in 1904 he went on to do Matriculation and First Arts. From 1906 to 1910 he prefectured at Blackrock where we find him and his brother Charles featured in the photos of Fr Kearney's orchestra. He went to France in 1910 to do his novitiate, being a member of the last group to do so. 1911 saw the start of the Irish novitiate at Kimmage. It also saw the start of the house of Philosophy. Paddy was among those recalled from France to continue their university course at UCD and the new National University, taking up where they left off at the RUI. After taking his BA in 1913, Paddy returned to Chevilly to do Theology, but on the outbreak of the Great War the senior scholasticate was transferred to Langonnet in Brittany where he was ordained in 1916. On the closure of St Mary's, Rathmines, the two houses of the senior scholasticate were located there from 1917. Fr Heerey was appointed to the staff of the house of studies for those attending the University College at Earlsfort Terrace. In 1919, when Fr Edward Leen took ill, Fr Paddy replaced him as director. In 1924, when the senior scholastics were transferred to the Castle, Blackrock, under the direction of Fr Kearney, Fr Heerey was seconded to the Mission Band in the USA. From 1925 till 1931 he toured several States, preaching retreats and missions, and the receipts from this pastoral ministry went to the upkeep of the Irish senior scholasticate. In 1932 he was appointed chaplain and instructor in spirituality for the Holy Rosary Sisters at Killeshandra, a post he retained till 1949 except for a three year period (1936-39) spent as assistant Master of novices in Kilshane when Fr Gough had taken over from Fr J.J. McCarthy. In 1949 Fr Paddy retired to Kimmage where he was to remain till his death 16 January 1967. He was 82 years of age at the time. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1967 31

**HEFFERNAN, Br Thomas (Thomas) 1849-1874**

Born in Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary, in September 1849, Thomas came to Rockwell in 1873 to join the Brothers. His family opposed his vocation and when he became ill with tuberculosis they took him home for awhile but he pleaded to be allowed to return to die in the community he loved. He spent some time in Blackrock for a change of air but his last two months were spent in Rockwell in extreme pain. He accepted all with great calm. While still but a novice of some months duration

Thomas Heffernan was professed a few days before his death on 18 December 1874 and was buried in Rockwell. RBR; *BG X 588*

### **HEFFERNAN, Bishop John William 1883-1966**



Born 11 September 1883 in Kilmanihan, Brosna, Co. Kerry, John Willie was brought to Rockwell in 1895 by Fr Daniel Murphy of Knocknagoshel, then a member of the Congregation but later a canon in Lancashire. John Willie was an Exhibition winner all along the way, 1897-1901, being firmly pushed by Dr Edward Crehan, Dean of studies. When the Juniorate was discontinued in 1898, J.W., being among the more academically gifted, was retained in the boarding school when the majority were transferred to Blackrock. After Senior Grade he studied for the Matriculation, then a separate year under the RUI. Among his teachers for English he had Tom McDonagh of 1916 fame, then a prefect at Rockwell. Being an athlete also he was much in demand for teams - cricket and rugby - under Fr Joseph Shanahan, who was Dean of discipline, 1900-2, and Fr Joe Baldwin, his successor. Fr Hugh Evans, Director of the juniorate, deciding to remove J.W. away from all these distractions and demands on his time and energy, took the unusual step of sending him to France in the middle of the academic year. While waiting to start his novitiate in autumn, J.W. perfected his command of French. Professed in 1904 he was sent to Blackrock where he was to spend four demanding years as prefect while studying for his degree and playing rugby for the Castle University team. He did 1st Arts in 1906, achieving a very high mark in French. At this time he got to know Dev very well. The latter was boarding at the newly-extended Castle while teaching at Carysfort Training College. At this time too he got to know Frank Duff - founder of the Legion of Mary - who was then a senior student. This acquaintance prompted J.W. in later years to write to Frank, asking for an Envoy to organise the Legion in East Africa. Frank's response was to send Edel Quinn. J.W. continued his studies in France in 1908 and was ordained in 1912. The following year, because of a deterioration in his health, Fr J.W. he was sent to Montana in Switzerland, where he remained till 1916, convalescing and helping students similarly afflicted to pursue their senior studies. In 1916 he was appointed to Martinique but shortly after transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, where as well as teaching he carried out the duties of Dean of discipline. In 1923 tuberculosis once again reasserted itself and forced him to give up teaching. He returned to Montana in 1923, and in 1925 he was appointed this time to the more congenial climate of East Africa. He worked at St Austin's, Nairobi, and in 1932 was nominated Vicar-apostolic of Zanzibar mission in succession to Bishop John Neville. The episcopal ordination took place in Blackrock College chapel just as the Eucharistic Congress was about to start. Dr Edward Leen preached the sermon on that occasion, taking as his subject the theme of the Congress, namely "The Eucharist is the sign and the cause of our unity." Among those present were W.T. Cosgrave and Eamon de Valera, that being one of his first engagements as President of the Executive Council. During the thirteen years in charge of the Vicariate, Bishop Heffernan put firm stress on education. With few men and limited resources he opened a Teacher Training College at Kabaa, a junior seminary for Africans, and a second High School for Africans at Mangu. For European students he approved of the founding of St Mary's College, Nairobi, rather than having parents send their children overseas for schooling. After the outbreak of World War 2 he released twelve of his priests to man the stations vacated by the Italian Consolata Fathers, who were interned. He was also responsible for bringing the Carmelite Sisters and the Legion of

Mary to the mission. Finally, it was he who invited Bishop Shanahan - his former Dean in Rockwell - to spend his declining years once again in Africa. Having brought these people to his mission it was remarked that thereafter, he left them very much to their own devices. It was felt that Bishop Heffernan's indifferent health had diminished his appetite and ability for administration under trying circumstances, but his unexpected departure in 1945 saddened those who were aware of his problems and his achievements. After retiring he lived in Kimmage till his death 20 March 1966 aged 82 years and he is buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1966 34; *RCA* 1964 57; *SpWW* 761; *Dev and his Alma Mater* 92f, 166f; Desmond Forristal, *Edel Quinn*, 92ff

### **HEFFERNAN, Br Columbkille 1847-1928**



Born 27 January 1847 in Moygarky, Co. Tipperary, Patrick worked on the family farm till aged 24, when he applied in 1871 to be admitted among the Brothers in Rockwell where the novitiate was then located. He was professed in 1873. One of his duties at the time was assisting in the college bakery. He was appointed for a year to Blackrock in 1874 and again in 1879. He was to stay on there for the rest of his long life. During his years at the college he was cast in many roles - the main one being in charge of the students' dining-room. He also took charge of the cellar, at times tended the hall-door as porter, and saw to it that the bedrooms were properly looked after. When the French editor of the *Bulletin Général* failed to elicit an account of Br Columbkille's life for his obituary he turned instead to the 'notes' or comments sent to the Mother House about him over the years since he entered at Rockwell in 1871. He found that he was regularly commended for his 'intelligence', his commitment, solid piety, his regularity as a religious, his good will and for his being always willing to undertake any employment he was called on to do. Finally he is reported as having been always highly esteemed and loved by his confreres. What more could one add to such encomiums? One thing: he featured in a poem published by a past student who still felt lyrical in his praise of his alma mater after a festive occasion he had attended in the students' dining room! Br Columbkille died 24 January 1928 aged 81. He was buried in Deans Grange. *BG* XXIV 280; *État* and Brothers' registers.

### **HEFFERNAN, Br Gerard 1880-1959**



Born 1 August 1880 in Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary, Timothy came to Rockwell in 1900 to join the Brothers. There being no novitiate in Ireland at the time he and others were sent to Chevilly to do their novitiate and to receive training in some *métier*. Professed in 1902, Br Gerard's first appointment was to the newly opened Mission House and Provincialate at Clareville, Blackrock. His duties were to supervise the kitchen garden and orchard. He also started his life-long interest in cultivating flower beds. After six years his services were called for at Castlehead, the new juniorate and Brothers' novitiate which was destined to be the beginnings of the English province. Because of its location in Lancashire quite a number of Irish boys came there and on occasion Br Gerard had to act as peacemaker between some trouble-makers and their director. When Kimmage was acquired in 1911 to start the novitiate in Ireland, Br Gerard was recalled to act as assistant to Fr John Stafford in organising the kitchen garden and farm. A few years later, 1913-17, Rockwell asked for the services of Br Gerard in running the college farm. When Fr Joseph Shanahan was home in 1914 Br Gerard, who had known him earlier at

Rockwell, asked to be allowed to go with him to Nigeria but without success. In 1917 he received what was to be his final obedience namely, to take charge of the Blackrock farm at Nutley. With his fine bronzed face and quiet unruffled demeanour he was to become a familiar figure as he cycled daily to take up his duties on the farm and taking care of the playing fields used by the college and the past students' teams. He became an expert on all matters connected with club rugby but his first love was all that pertained to farming and gardening. And eventually when the Nutley farm was disposed of during the Emergency Years, Br Gerard returned to where he had begun, tending the orchard and kitchen garden attached to Clareville. Always a perfect gentleman and a religious noted for his fidelity to the rule, he made his community richer by his goodness. He had a strong loyalty to the Congregation as a family and loved to recount anecdotes about its personalities and 'characters' as he had known them in communities in France, England and Ireland. He had also inherited from the Brothers he had known in his early days a rich store of the Congregation's folklore about times past. He also had a penchant for playing practical jokes on unsuspecting confreres whose foibles he had quietly observed. A roguish saint. We mention one peccadillo. He loved and cherished plants and shrubs. Yet on visiting the Zoological Gardens on one occasion he could not refrain from disobeying the notices about not taking cuttings from the shrubs. With gentle surgery and deft secrecy he hid some special cuttings in his umbrella. Then, as he joined the queue on the way out at closing time, a sudden shower prompted him to loft his umbrella scattering the tell-tale takings in front of the crowd! Br Gerard Heffernan died 2 January 1959 aged 78 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1969, 64f.

### **Heffernan, Fr Gerard Christopher 1918-2005**

Gerry was born at Kilmorna, Tralee, Co. Kerry, on December 27<sup>th</sup> 1918. After his secondary school studies at C.B.S. Synge St., Dublin he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on October 28<sup>th</sup> 1938. He studied philosophy at Kimmage Manor. During 1940-41 he prefected at Blackrock College. Gerry studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1944 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1945. In 1945 Father Gerry's first appointment was to the Vicariate of Zanzibar and he was sent to **Kenya**. For twenty six years he worked there at parish work and teaching. Over the years he was involved in seminary work and teaching at *Kilimambogo, Kabaa, Mangu, St. Mary's Nairobi* and parish-mission work at *Giriama, Limuru, Riruta, Kiriku* and *Gatitu*. In 1971 he went to the **U.S.A.** He joined the Long Island Spiritan Community serving as *Provincial Delelgate* during the 1976-79 period. From 1980 he served as hospital chaplain in *De Paul Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia* until he retired to Ireland in 1991. Back in Ireland Father Gerry enjoyed his retirement in Mission House Kimmage. Due to failing health Gerry was admitted to Marian House in January 2000. He is buried in Dardistown, Co. Dublin

## HEHIR, Fr Martin

1855-1935



Born 10 November 1855 in Cranny Bridge, Kildysart, Co. Clare, Martin, like Larry Healy and Martin Kelly, was a pupil of a famous teacher, Cornelius McDermott of Cooraclare, grandfather of Frs Paddy and Con Holly CSSp. He gave Martin an excellent training, particularly in mathematics and science, and inspired him with an enthusiasm for study. He was a student at the French College, Blackrock 1872-77, thus having had the benefit of the French system of education as imparted by Père Leman and his able deputy, Fr Reffé.

Later as prefect, 1877-80, Martin had the benefit of attending the university course given by the well-known mathematician, Dr John Casey. While prefecting he did his course of scholastic philosophy before going to France in 1880 to study theology. Ordained in France in 1883 he was appointed the following year to Pittsburgh College where he taught mathematics and the ancient classics. He was appointed director of the juniorate there in 1892. In 1899 he succeeded Fr John T Murphy as president of the college - a function he retained with distinction for 31 years. Instead of closing the college as some advocated, he expanded its programmes being ably supported in this by Fr Henry McDermott. He also added several new buildings, and obtained a university charter for the college in 1911. He changed the name to Duquesne University, and he saw to it that seven schools - faculties in European terms - were set up. He obtained tax exemption for the educational institution, launched the first major fund drive and even managed for a while to obtain state support at a time when such things were not yet done. He also made the college co-educational. The student body rose from 500 to 3,500 under his regime. He enjoyed the highest esteem of religious and civil authorities and was idolised by the students and alumni, who affectionately called him "Daddy Hehir." For many decades after his death they continued to recall his name at their gatherings. He gave an honorary degree in 1920 to President Eamon de Valera, then on tour of the USA for his part in the liberation of Ireland - and received one in return later when de Valera was Chancellor of the National University of Ireland. When Field marshal Foch was being conferred with honorary degrees by the University of Pittsburgh and by Duquesne, Fr Hehir was deputed to read the citation. Foch was heard remarking, *Mon Dieu* this man speaks French like one of ourselves. Fr Hehir resigned in 1933 when he was 77 years old. The provincial named him rector of Cornwells Heights and later of Ferndale's senior seminary. When he realised that death was approaching, he asked to be allowed to return to Pittsburgh, so that he could die in the city where he had spent 47 years of his life, and he wished to be buried in the Cornwells community cemetery. While he was popular among students and other outsiders, he was a very strict disciplinarian with respect to the members of his community - a trait that did not endear him to everyone who had to live under his regime. However, he himself practised what he preached. Fr Hehir died 10 June 1935 aged 79 years and is buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG* XXXVII 405ff; *OP* July 1935 9f; *BCA* 1962 193ff; *SpWW* 418.



**HEIM, Br Fulbert (Gottlieb) 1862-1926**



Born 12 July 1862 in Schreckenmoglitz, Bavaria, Gottlieb studied at Munich's Academy of Fine Arts and then joined the Cistercians, but wanting to be a missionary he transferred to Knechtsteden where he was professed 1892. When his talent was discovered he was sent even before his profession to Grignon-Orly to decorate the chapel at the new novitiate. Thus began his pilgrimage throughout the houses of the congregation at home and abroad. When finished at Orly he was called on to do a similar work at Chevilly while also training the younger brothers in the novitiate. Next his itinerary took him to Cellule, Langonnet, Merville, Mesnières and rue Lhomond before setting out for foreign places - Martinique, Reunion, Zanzibar and Nairobi. On his way back to Europe he stopped off at Rome to make a tour of famous churches. Then he received a message to report at Blackrock, July 1909. There he was commissioned to paint the oratory in the juniorate and later to decorate the ceilings and the walls in the old reception rooms of Castledawson House. As Fr Ebenrecht followed the progress of this work with delight, he wrote 23 January 1910: "No.5 parlour is completely finished and greatly admired. There is nothing like it anywhere." Incidentally, when Br Fulbert took seriously ill during the task, Fr Ebenrecht was standing by to administer the Last Rites. Happily, Fulbert recovered and was well enough to resume his travels around the world at the end of March. Most of his work has perished, it would appear, some as a result of natural catastrophes, including the volcanic eruption in Martinique, but most as a result of changes in taste or the absence of it in the various communities. The decoration of the parlours at Blackrock still stands as a monument to Fulbert's own taste and skill. Br Fulbert Heim was to die in the USA 12 October 1926 aged 64 years. *BG* 33, 131ff; *Rath* 101f; *SpWW* 326.

**HEINTZ, Fr Michel 1848-1916**



Born 2 June 1848 in the diocese of Strasbourg, Alsace, he completed his studies in 1876. Appointed to Blackrock in 1880 he spent one year on the teaching staff. After a short period on the missions we find him in 1886 at St. Joseph du Lac and from 1893 he was stationed at the Mother House in Paris from where he served as chaplain to various communities: the Little Sisters of the Poor and a boarding school run by the Sisters of St Joseph etc. Fr Michel Heintz died in Paris 5 May 1916 aged 68 years. *BG* XXVIII 344.

**HEITZMANN, Fr Mathieu, 1838-1917**



Born 26 March 1838 in Heidenhofen, Baden, Mathieu entered the Congregation at Langonnet in 1861, moving to Chevilly when that property was acquired in 1864. Ordained in 1865, he was assigned to Marienstatt, Germany, the following year. He taught there till the houses in Germany were closed by Bismarck in 1873. With several others from the German community he was transferred for a period to Rockwell where he was called on to assume the duties of Director of the juniorate. The following year, when Fr Strub had secured an opening for the German confreres in the USA, Fr Heitzmann joined his compatriots there. He worked first at St Mary's,

Sharpsburg, and later played an active role in the launching of the college opened by the Congregation in Pittsburgh. In 1883 he returned to Sharpsburgh as superior, and in 1887 he became superior of the new Marienstatt, Ark. In 1895 he went to serve in Sierra Leone but had to leave six weeks later for Europe for health reasons. He returned to work in the USA at Morrilton, Ark., Sharpsburg and Detroit. Finally, he retired to Ferndale where he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood. He died 3 March 1917 aged 79 years. *BG*, 28, 509; *Rath*, 61; *SpWW*, 238.

### **HENRY, Fr Patrick Joseph      1914-1957**



Born 3 June 1914 in Clonowen, Athlone, Co. West Meath, Pat did his secondary studies at Blackrock 1930-34. Professed in 1935 at Kilshane he went on to do Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock. He began Theology in the newly opened senior scholasticate in Kimmage in 1938 and was ordained in 1941. Appointed to Nigeria the following year, which was during the war, it took some time and trials before he and his companions finally set foot in Africa having travelled the Atlantic in a troopship - a trip which proved no picnic. Fr Pat worked at Urualla where Fr Mick Foley was director. In 1948 he had to return home for medical attention as the first symptoms of what was to prove a terminal disease were diagnosed. Bravely Fr Pat settled into a new life as he taught class at Willow Park while attending UCD where he was to qualify for the BA and the H.Dip.Ed. One recalls him during those years regaling his confrères at meals with his favourite quotations from Edmond Burke, Milton etc. He declaimed them in the style advocated by the elocution teacher Mr Fleming, who had made the rounds regularly of the senior seminaries in Dublin. On completing his university course he was asked to give two years as teacher of English at St Alexander College (CSSp), Limbour, Quebec. Having fulfilled that contract he returned to take up where he had left off at Willow Park. Soon it became obvious that the omens detected in 1948 were only too true. Cancer had already spread though his whole system. He was to endure several weeks of the most intense suffering before his death, cared for by the Linden nursing staff and continually supported by his confrère of Nigeria days, Fr Tom Fox. Fr Patrick Henry died 30 September 1957 aged 43 years. He is buried in Kimmage. In a sense, for those who knew Pat, he never died. He was a most loveable confrère who radiated happiness and laughter in the community and wherever he went. He had a marvellous charisma for relating to people old and very young, and could make perfect strangers unburden their confidences to him as to a life-long friend. His simplicity of outlook and the total candour of his countenance dismantled any artificial barriers. He enjoyed a leg-pull even when he was at the receiving end as he frequently was. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1958 53.

### **HERCHENRODER, Fr Joseph      1864-1914**



Born 5 October 1864 in Port Louis, Mauritius, he attended Collège St Joseph de Port-Louis conducted then by the noted educationalist Br Hortentius. Having entered the Congregation at the age of eighteen he did his senior studies in France and was ordained in 1886. Appointed the following year to Blackrock he said in one of his letters that though it was not his own choice he was as happy there as he could imagine. When he had to leave Blackrock for health reasons in 1897 and it was decided that it was best for him to return home to Mauritius, he was referred to in

official reports as “being an excellent religious, very exact and persevering and dedicated to his duties. He has overcome his natural tendency to be somewhat abrasive. All are sorry to see him go from here and while not up to the demands of the classroom he would make an excellent Master of novices for the proposed brothers’ novitiate.” Fr Joseph wrote that he knew he was leaving a community where he was happy and had so much going for him he was ready now to devote himself to the service of the poor blacks at home. Later it was remarked that in spite of his aristocratic manners and a certain coldness of temperament he was soon loved. He devoted his talents to the adornment of churches and promoted the work of the Petit Clercs de St Joseph, namely an organisation whose purpose was to help raise funds for the education poor students who wanted to be priests. Fr Joseph Herchenroder died in Mauritius 15 March 1914 aged 50 years. GenArch; BCJ 27 December 1897.

### **HERRY, Fr Paul 1877-1907**



Born 31 May 1877 in Saint Pol-de Leon, Finistère, Brittany, Paul was orphaned early in life and was reared at St. Michael's Orphanage attached to Langonnet. In 1891 he was sent to the apostolic school at Seysinnet (the successor i.e. to Beauvais Apostolic School which had been attended by Joseph Shanahan), and in 1893 he was transferred to the Juniorate at Blackrock where he had Fr John Kearney as director.

In a letter written while he was in the Juniorate he said that his consolation in exile was the hope that he would be sent to a mission where English would come in useful for the ministry. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1897-8; then he was recalled for military service at Brest in Brittany. Having resumed his priestly studies, he was ordained priest and appointed to Nigeria in 1903. Stationed at Holy Cross Mission, Dekina, he was in close contact with Frs. Lejeune and Joseph Lichtenberger. The progress of the mission was severely impaired by the uprising on the part of the Okpoto tribe leading to the death of British soldiers and subsequent severe reprisals. The traumatic effect of this, combined with the onset of tuberculosis, undermined Paul's health, necessitating his eventual departure for France. Towards the end of his stay in Nigeria he was joined by Fr Joseph Shanahan, who in his report spoke highly of his contribution to the life of the mission, - not least by his invariable good spirits, his gentleness and his regaling his confreres at night-time with his rendering of Breton and Irish songs as rearranged by his compatriot, Fr Jules Botrel. When Fr Shanahan returned to Europe for the General Chapter of 1906, he took Fr Paul along with him though he was heartbroken to have to abandon his cherished flock. After a brief stop off at Prior Park to recover his strength Fr Paul set off for a sanatorium near Paris. When death appeared inevitable he was allowed to return to Langonnet to die where he had first got his vocation. Fr Paul Herry died 5 August 1907 aged 30 years. BCArch; N.B., III, 119.

### **HEWITT, Br Patrick (James) 1900-1974**



Born 8 September 1900 in Tipperary Town, James opted to follow in his father's footsteps as a member of the police force. Later he decided to follow in the footsteps of his brother, Fr Patrick, in joining the Congregation. He was among the first novice Brothers to be professed in Kilshane in 1934. After one year in Kimmage he was sent to the Brothers' novitiate in Chevilly for special tuition. It is said that he opted for shoemaking but there is no evidence that he practised that art on returning to

Kimmage where he was to spend the next nine years. His main function there was tending to the furnace which catered for the needs of the whole establishment. This presented a special challenge during the war years. In 1946 he asked to be transferred to Blackrock where he was to become a familiar figure - a character, in fact, when among other occupations he took charge of the ground staff. His sharp eye and his blunt tongue kept many a deviant in line. He was perfectly at home in any company and his sound common sense was appreciated. When asked what the school principal did he gave one of his typical salty replies: 'He does nothing, but if he wasn't there forty others would be doing nothing!' He was not a man for a multiplicity of pious practices but he delighted in serving Mass, sometimes three at a time in the Clareville oratory, timing and directing his Latin responses with precision as he seemed to rotate on his kneeler. In his efforts to have many Masses said for the Holy Souls he collected every bottle and tin etc. that could be exchanged for a few pence in order to provide the Mass stipends. He showed his affection for his brother, Fr Pat, in an unusual way. They would arrange to meet at Wynne's Hotel for a cup of tea or whatever. An argument would arise and Br Pat would eventually clap on his hat in his inimitable gesture, walk out, declaring that never again. Within a few days he would be on the phone arranging for another get-together. Br Pat had to suffer much in his last months, the heaviest cross being that he was lodged in a home for the elderly, far removed from the company of his confrères. Br Patrick Hewitt died 7 September 1974 aged 73 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1975 220f; *IPNI* No 13, 1974.

**HEWITT, Fr Patrick 1897-1979**



Born 14 March 1897 in Kilcooley, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, Pat was a student at Rockwell, 1912-16, and entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor in 1916. After having finished Philosophy he professed in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1919-23. He did Theology at St Mary's, Rathmines, and the Castle, Blackrock. He was one of four ordained 26 June 1926 by Bishop Joseph Shanahan in the college chapel at Blackrock where 26 years earlier Dr Shanahan had himself been the first to be ordained priest. The others ordained in 1926 were William Danaher, James Meehan and Stephen Hanrahan. Assigned to East Africa (Tanzania), Fr Pat worked at Mgeta before becoming a staff member of St Paul's Seminary at Kileme where he served till 1946 except for a period of three years (1934-7) when he was Master of novices for the Brothers at Kimmage and Kilshane. Again from 1946 till 1961 he served in Ireland at Kilshane either as Novice master for the Brothers or as confessor. Then once again he returned to East Africa where he worked for another five years. In 1966, when he was by then 69, he retired to Kimmage where he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1976. Fr Patrick Hewitt died 12 February 1979, aged 81 years. He was buried in Kimmage. His brother, Br Patrick Hewitt CSSp, had died 7 Sept 1973. *IPNI* 37 April 1981; *SpWW* 1062.

**HICKEY, Mr William 1918-1941**

Born 22 June 1918 in Kilbarry, Athy, Co. Kildare, Bill studied at Knockbeg College and at Blackrock, 1937-8. A competent Gaelic footballer, he played for his native county at Minor level. He entered Kilshane in 1938 and was professed the following year. He and his former schoolmate at Knockbeg, John Gannon, being late starters for their novitiate year, remained on for some weeks with the incoming group. Their leadership in all spheres was highly appreciated. Bill was a very popular confrere

because of his jovial spirit, his flair for sport and his zest for action at all times. During his Philosophy course he contracted bronchial pneumonia. While undergoing treatment in hospital he developed an abscess which had to be drained for some time. Surgery was then attempted but matters did not go according to expectations. He developed meningitis and, to the shock of all who knew him, died 19 June 1941 aged 22 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. IPArch; BCArch

### **HIGGINS, Fr Michael J. 1907-1962**



Born 3 February 1907 in Dungiven, Co. Derry, Mick studied at Rockwell, 1924-27. Professed in 1928, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and profected at Rockwell, 1930-32. He began Theology at the Castle and moved to Kimmage with the general body of Theologians in 1933 after the novices had moved from there to Kilshane. Ordained in 1935 Fr Mick was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served for a period at St George's Catholic School, Waa, near Mombasa and later in the school at Kabaa. Obligated by ill-health to return to Ireland in 1945 he joined the teaching staff at Rockwell. Intelligent and very entertaining he took a keen interest in many subjects from Irish to poultry. Having acquired a Bantam cock he entered him in a local contest where he emerged a clear winner much to the amusement of all. His illness having resurfaced, it was decided in 1954 that he required special hospital care and he spent a number of years in St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan. Fr Michael Higgins died 30 December 1962 aged 55 years and was buried in Kimmage. RJR; IPArch, H.6; *État*

### **HIGGINS, Fr William P. 1906-1992**



Born 16 August 1906 in Grange Con, Co. Wicklow, Bill did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1921-24, where he had the benefit of the formative influence of the dynamic director of the juniorate, Fr Bertie Farrell, as well as Fr Edward Leen. He had a slight brush with history in the making: when Dev was preparing to travel abroad disguised as a priest, Bill was asked by Fr Bertie Farrell to lend him his black overcoat! Professed in 1925 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and profected at Blackrock, 1925-27 & 28-29. He returned to the Castle to do Theology being ordained in 1933. The Theologians moved to Kimmage in 1933 once the novices had transferred to the new novitiate in Kilshane. Fr Bill's first appointment was to The Gambia, but the following year, when he was found to suffering from tuberculosis, he was obliged to go to Montana, Switzerland, for hospitalisation. He was to remain there from 1935 to 1939 when he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served at St Mary's, Nairobi, for five years, followed by one year in Mombasa, and then back again to Nairobi, 1946-48. He was then called on to succeed Fr Tom Gough as Novice Master in Kilshane, a post he held till 1956. It was remarked that his regime as Novice master was characterised by a welcomed note of humanity and common sense approach to formation, breaking with a tradition based on a too narrow and repressive asceticism. In 1956 Fr Bill returned to Switzerland, this time to Fribourg as Director of Students in the international scholasticate for the Congregation. Coming as he did from a novitiate situation to deal with an international group of university students, it was not to be expected that he would find it easy to maintain a balance of freedom and discipline. It was indeed a testing period for all concerned. After six years Fr Bill was appointed General

Councillor, serving in Paris and later in Rome to where the Mother House had been transferred. During those years he developed a close friendship and admiration for the Superior General, Mgr Marcel Lefebvre, which was to last for a life time in spite of diverging views on the congregation and the church. At all times Fr Bill was respected as a gentleman in all his dealings with people and for his deep sense of faith. In 1969 he retired to St Michael's, Ailesbury Road, but the following year he returned to Kenya where he joined the staff of the Queen of Apostles seminary in Nairobi. In 1982 he retired to Kimmage Manor where he died 11 May 1992 aged 85 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 3 July 1992

**HOGAN, Br Tobias (James) 1861-1918**



Born 19 June 1861 in Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary, James entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1880 aged 21. Professed in 1884 we find him at Bathurst (Banjul) in 1887 teaching young blacks. Mgr Barthet described him as "an excellent religious." Health problems forced him to return to Europe in 1893, and in 1894 he was posted to the school for black children being conducted by Br Celsus McCabe at St Peter Claver's, Philadelphia. In 1901 he was transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, where for sixteen years he was to give devoted service in charge of maintenance. In 1916, when he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis, Br Tobias returned to Ireland and was appointed to Rockwell where he died 8 March 1918 aged 57 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BG* 1918, 59; *SpWW*, 250.

**HOGAN, Fr John 1851-1885**



Born 22 June 1851 in Carron, parish of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, within a stones throw from Rockwell, John started school there as a day student 12 January 1866, i.e. about a year after the college had opened its doors to secondary students of the locality. He entered the Juniorate in August 1867 and became prefect in 1871. In 1873 he was sent to Langonnet where the senior scholasticate was operating due to the upheaval caused by the Franco-Prussian War and the troubles in Paris. John let it be known that he suffered much from the damp weather of Brittany. Things improved for him when transferred to Chevilly for his ordination in 1877 and his final spiritual year. In 1878 Fr John was appointed to the newly erected prefecture of Cimbabasié pioneered by Fr Charles Duparquet. This vast area (a million square miles) covered at present by Namibia, Botswana, parts of Angola and South Africa. Irish personnel were sought because of the British influence in this region and because the Portuguese might be less hostile to Irish than to French missionaries if access were had to Angola eventually. Fr Duparquet had visited Ireland early 1878 in search of men and money. He was very happy with his reception. Apart from the money collected for him he was assigned the newly professed and highly competent Br Onuphre Cooney. They had set off without Fr John via Cape Town where they had commissioned the large ox-drawn chariot, the 'prairie schooner' called the 'Raphael,' and having chosen as their centre, Omaruru in the North of Namibia, they set out for there via Walvis Bay. Fr Hogan eventually caught up with them in Spring 1879 after several months travel and much travail. He and Br Onuphre started a very successful school as the centre of the mission. The very success of their project was its ruin: it aroused the jealousy of the local Lutheran ministers who orchestrated their expulsion. Fr Gerald Griffin, one of four brothers to

join the Congregation, had been sent out to join them after his ordination. A severe dose of culture-shock and fear of the Huttentot-Damara war caused him to abandon ship and return to Europe. Fr Joseph Lynch, formerly of the Scotch College, Rockwell, was told to join them as he returned from the mission in India. Fr Lynch arrived in Omaruru after his long trek, just as his confreres were being expelled, early 1882. Fr Hogan set up temporarily at Walvis Bay while awaiting further instructions from Duparquet who had negotiated with the Portuguese authorities that they be allowed to open a mission in Angola. Fr Hogan opened a mission and school at Humbe near the border with Namibia where they were joined by some of their former students at Omaruru. Just when they had made a very good start with the people in this new area, Fr Duparquet announced that he wanted them to hand over to others and to move to a new centre still within Angola but under his own jurisdiction as Vice-prefect of Cimbabasié. After a long trek they settled for a centre at Amboellas (Cassinga today). This mission was started in July 1884. Extensive work was done by Fr Hogan and Br Onuphre on erecting a new school compound with a boarding section for the students, who had opted to follow them once again. The local chiefs were delighted with the progress made in such a short time. Food supplies, however, were a problem, having so many mouths to feed. Fr Hogan and Onuphre decided to return to Humbe for supplies, travelling in the Raphael with some of the senior students as helpers. They were caught up in the rainy season and contracted fever. Fr Hogan suffered most. He was nursed back to life but got a relapse when he tried to resume work. He died 10 March 1885 aged 34 years. Fr Lynch, shattered by the sequence of events, died a few weeks later. Br Onuphre, though very ill, managed to survive till help eventually came. Fr Hogan's extant correspondence with Fr Duparquet and with the Mother House show him to be a very level-headed and practical person, giving evidence that at last the Irish, who had been rated as second class missionaries by the French, were in fact second to none once they were given a free hand. Père Leman had hoped that this particular mission might at last give the desired opening for the Irish foundation. But that was not to be. *BG XIII*, 1007; *Leman*, 288ff; *Forum* 1990 nos. 6 & 8; *Messenger of St Joseph*, Vol. 3, pp 95,178, 221, 312, 126, 274f.

### **HOGAN, Fr Patrick                      1923-1960**



Born 11 February 1923 in Liscullane, Tulla, Co. Clare, Pat did his secondary studies at Rockwell where he entered the Juniorate in 1937. Professed in Kilshane in 1943 he did his studies at Kimmage and UCD, securing the BA in 1946. After one year's prefecting at Rockwell he began Theology at Kimmage in 1947 and was ordained priest in 1950. Appointed to Nigeria the following year, his first missionary experience was in Awgu, a station high up in the hills. There was physical hardship in plenty to test his great frame - tramping across twenty five miles of swamps in the rainy season, trekking up mountain paths in the heat and returning at the week-end to a makeshift mission house. He soon acquired a remarkable proficiency in the Igbo language and this brought him very close to his flock. In his next station at Ahiala he had the comfort of a residence and had less trekking to do but his 9000 Christians kept him busy in the confessional. He had also to act as chaplain to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. From parish work he was transferred to school life for the rest of his years. At Obollo-Eke he built a Preliminary Training College which he later raised to an Elementary Training College, called St Patrick's after his patron saint. During his visit to Ireland he was very active in all aspects of life in his native parish. On returning to

Nigeria he was called on for a short period to teach in Christ the King College, Onitsha. Then came his final appointment - to St Joseph's Higher Elementary Training College recently built at Emene, near Enugu. He used his talents and experience to place the new college on a level with the best in the diocese. He aimed at the highest standards in organisation, teaching, visual aids and equipment. He installed electricity, sank a well and insisted that the college and grounds be tidy and orderly. Evening saw him busy improving the plant. Night found him correcting exercises and preparing for class. His gift for music made St Joseph's Band a centre of life and celebration. Fr Pat always radiated joy and enthusiasm; his light-hearted laugh cheered up many a visiting missionary as it had done so often for his fellow students at St Joseph's, Rockwell and in Kimmage. The most memorable image people had of him was his saying his Rosary in public no matter how busy was his schedule. He returned ill to Ireland. The nature of his illness was diagnosed too late. Fr Patrick Hogan died from black water fever 25 July 1960 aged 37 years and was buried in Kimmage. RJR; *Missionary Annals*, September 1960

### **HOLLEY, Fr Mary Louis 1833-1861**

The first Spiritan to come to Ireland, Louis was born in 1833 at Henebont, Brittany, where his father had commercial interests. At the age of nine he was sent at his mother's request to a school in Redon conducted by clerics, but after her death his father transferred Louis to College de Fougières, a commercial institute. He learned English there but detested commerce. After a period at home he wanted to become a sailor but, having opted for the foreign missions instead, he entered Notre Dame du Gard 1854. After his premature death many of his letters to his family and friends were collected with a view to compiling a lengthy biographical account. This was never written but the extant letters in Louis' personal dossier give a fresh and vivid account of life as he saw it at N.D. du Gard, rue Lhomond, and in Ireland, where he was sent in August 1859 to look for vocations and to sound out the country for a possible foundation. On completing his studies in 1858 he was appointed bursar at the Colonial Seminary, Paris, whereas he ardently wanted to go on the missions if only to counteract the symptoms of tuberculosis. Because of his knowledge of English he was asked to make enquiries at the Irish College nearby, and by letters to people in Ireland about the prospects for the Congregation there. On arrival in Dublin he fell in love with the Irish, as might be expected of a Breton, and he also developed an intense dislike of the *Sasanach*. His hosts were the Carmelites at White Friars' St., who arranged for an appointment with Archbishop Cullen and advised him to take out a lease on the former Carmelite Convent at Blanchardstown. He brought back with him to France seven young lads, two of whom persevered, Fr Edward Conyngham and Fr Thomas Houlaghan. When Père Leman was called on to start the foundation in Ireland the following October, Fr Holley agreed to go with him as interpreter and bursar though he felt that, because of the state of his health, he was signing his death warrant. He and Père Leman formed an excellent team during the trying months of prospecting in various areas in the country while trying to conduct a juniorate in Blanchardstown. It was Fr Holley who was the first to inspect the suggested site at Castledawson, Blackrock, and it was he who, because of his knowledge of English and his flair for making friends, laid the foundations of the school launched at Blackrock, September 1860. He was also closely involved in the introduction to Ireland of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. By Christmas 1860, it was obvious that his days were numbered. He left for France mid-January, still hoping to be sent to some foreign mission. When acquainted with the terminal nature of his illness he said



he had only wish, to survive till the month of Mary. As he lay dying at the novitiate house at Mons Ivry he was attended by an infirmarian, John Mattie Ebenrecht, who was destined to succeed him later as bursar at Blackrock. Fr Holley died 7 May 1861 aged 28. Fr Holley comes to life as a very personable individual with a keen eye for detail in the many letters assembled with a view to writing his biography. Cf. his personal dossier and the file on the origins of the Irish Province in the General archives; cf. also the Dublin Diocesan Archives for 1859. *Père Leman* pp 88ff

### **HOLLY, Fr Cornelius Colbert 1917-2001**



Born on 25 September 1917 in Tarbert, Co. Kerry, Con did his secondary studies in Rockwell College. He was named after his uncle Con Colbert the youngest signatory of the 1916 Proclamation and one of those who were executed for their part in the 1916 Rising. Following in the footsteps of his brother Paddy, Con opted to join the Congregation. Professed in 1936 in Kilshane he attended UCD where he took his degree in Classics in 1939. When the Provincial, Dr Dan Murphy, decided it was time to send some members of the Irish Province to study at Louvain University in Belgium he cast around for two who had shown their mettle. Con set off to do a degree course in Philosophy. Unfortunately the war and the invasion of Belgium put paid to their university course. As they were beating a hasty retreat they heard the bombing of Louvain already beginning. Con was called on to go as prefect to Blackrock where in 1940-41 he was called on to take over the Latin classes which had been taught by Dr McQuaid until his appointment as Archbishop of Dublin. Con resumed his studies in Kimmage and was ordained to the priesthood in 1945. Appointed to Nigeria in 1946 he served in Owerri Diocese. He served for five years as Supervisor of Schools in the Owerri Diocese and for the next thirteen years he taught in the Diocesan Teacher Training College. Obligated to leave Nigeria because of the Biafra War, Con was appointed to the USA where he was to work for a further 24 years. Apropos his first appointment, namely to the teaching staff of Duquesne University, it is worthy of note that it was his great-grandfather, Con McDermott, who wrote the testimonial letter for Martin Hehir, founder of Duquesne, as he began his studies at the French College, Blackrock. Con having proved himself from his days as a prefect as a consummate teacher of Latin, he was persuaded to take up a teaching post in St Pius X Seminary and at Lincoln, Nebraska. His services as professor and confessor were greatly appreciated in the seminary and in the local parish. In 1992 Con returned to Ireland and retired to Blackrock where he joined his brother Paddy. Due to an arthritic condition Con was very restricted in his movements but he was a regular visitor to Fr Paddy when he was a patient in Marian House. Early in 2001 Fr Con himself was transferred to Marian House where he died on 30 June 2001 aged 83 years. Fr Con was buried in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin.

### **HOLLY, Fr Patrick J. 1914-1999**



Born on 20 May 1914 in Tarbert, Co. Limerick, Paddy did his secondary schooling in Rockwell College, 1929-32. Having joined the Congregation he was professed in Kimmage in 1933. While residing in the Castle, Blackrock, he studied at UCD for the BA, which he gained in 1936. After two years prefecting in Rockwell he entered the newly opened seminary in Kimmage in 1938. Ordained in 1941 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. It was a perilous time for those travelling by sea because of the menace of submarines. Appointed to St Edward's secondary school in Brookfields, Freetown, he taught there till 1948. Returning to Ireland he taught for a year in St Mary's, Rathmines, qualifying for the H.Dip. Ed. Back in Sierra Leone he was appointed Principal of St Edward's. In 1952 he transferred to Rockwell where he taught for one year before receiving his appointment to Blackrock College. There he proved an excellent teacher of English and History much appreciated by his students. The prefects also appreciated him as he was seen to take a special interest in them personally. He was familiarly known to students as Buddy Holly because of the well-known 1950s singer of that name, and as Bo Bo - a phrase from Sierra Leone which he frequently used. He was recalled as speaking eloquently from time to time about missionary life in Sierra Leone. He also took charge of Liturgy for some years. Dogged by ill health he eventually transferred to Kimmage and his final years were spent in Marian House where he died on 12 November 1999 aged 85 years. Paddy was a brother of Fr Con. CSSp, and a nephew of Con Colbert, the youngest of the 1916 leaders executed for their part in the Rebellion. Fr Paddy was buried in the Spiritan plot in Shanganagh Cemetery, Co. Dublin *IPN* No.1 2000; *KSWAM* No.246

### **HOLMES, Fr Edward 1912-1988**



Born 2 May 1912 in Littleton, Co. Tipperary, Ned was a student at Rockwell, 1924-30. Professed in Kimmage Manor in 1931 he attended UCD where he took an honours B.A. He prefected at Rockwell and later at St Mary's, Rathmines, when he took the H.Dip.Ed. Sent to Fribourg for his theological studies, he was ordained in 1939 and obtained an honours D.D. the following year taking for his thesis Newman's idea of a Catholic university as compared with the medieval concept of a university. The story of his rambles in Germany etc. during these years, and of his return to Ireland via Portugal during the war, were often recounted in detail in conversation over the years by Fr Ned or 'Doc' Holmes as he was also affectionately known to the students. He was attached to Rockwell, 1941-52. When he went to France during the summer to do a refresher course in French, it is reported that his professor at the *Institut Catholique* was so impressed by his wide-ranging erudition, accuracy and charm, that he reversed the usual custom and invited him out to dinner. In 1952 he was transferred to Blackrock where he was to spend the rest of his life as the head and heart of the French faculty. He was a fund of information on whatever topic you cared to raise; a very unassuming man who bore his learning lightly; a wonderful conversationalist for whom time never seemed to matter. He was always respectful of the views of others. He was, in spite of his gifts, a very shy person and had to suffer much from that drawback. In fact, his only public appearances were in the classroom. Fr Ned's health began to give cause for concern

only towards the end, but his sudden death 11 February 1988 at the age of 75 was totally unexpected. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1988 186f

### **HORGAN, Fr John Francis 1915-1979**



Born 6 August 1915 in Dublin, Jackie, as he was generally known, he did his secondary studies at Rockwell and entered the novitiate in 1934. An exceptionally talented student, he had an academic record far above the ordinary. He took 1st Class Honours in his B.A. and M.A. at UCD and was then appointed prefect in the Castle, Blackrock, where he served under Dr. McQuaid until his appointment in 1940 as Archbishop of Dublin in December. After his ordination in 1944 at Kimmage, Fr Horgan took a B.A. and M.A. in History at Cambridge. He was appointed to Blackrock from where he took the H.Dip.Ed. at UCD with 1st Class Honours in 1948. He was also Dean of Studies, a post he held until 1952. He was remembered as a strict disciplinarian, an excellent teacher, especially of the slow student, a man who was just and charitable, even if somewhat austere and inflexible. In 1952 he left for Nairobi where he was principal of St. Mary's College until 1956. Thereafter he was in succession Director of the House of Philosophy in Kimmage until 1963, Professor in the Bigard Memorial Seminary at Enugu, Nigeria - the largest seminary in Africa - and in 1966 became the first Principal of Templeogue College. From 1970 to 1973 he was provincial councillor. He then went to Canada where he followed a course for Hospital Chaplains and took a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies. In September 1975 he returned to Kenya, but the following year he became seriously ill and had to return to Ireland in October 1977 where he died 1 May 1979 aged 63 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. A man with a keen and questioning mind he was noted for his total dedication to whatever work he was asked to undertake. His coldness of temperament and his austere approach to life somewhat curtailed his influence for bringing out the best in those with whom he had to deal. It was typical of his universal interests that as he faced certain death he liked to tune in on the radio to the rosary being recited from the Vatican in order to be able to join with the wider world in prayer. *BCA* 1977, 203; *IPNI* 38, July 1979.

### **HORGAN, Fr Joseph 1892-1981**



Born 12 March 1892 in Gortnaskehy, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry, Joe came to Rockwell as a student in 1910 and his fine, splendid, physique assured him a place on the college rugby XV. He was among the first group to do their novitiate in Ireland being professed at Kimmage in 1912. It was then that his lifelong friendship with Charles Heerey, future archbishop, began. From 1913 to 1916 he prefected at Rockwell and was ordained priest in 1921. Joe was among the Theologians in Kimmage, 1919-20, who were deeply influenced by Fr Shanahan when he was frequently among them for fire-side chats as he was recovering from major surgery. Fr Horgan's first appointment was, however, to Sierra Leone where he worked till 1928 having served at Freetown and Moyamba. He is reported as having asked the provincial not to send him back to 'a life of inaction'. He was asked instead to serve on the Mission Band in USA and then on the Promotions team in Ireland. He travelled extensively around the country using the film on the Little Flower produced under the direction of Père Brottier. Then it was back to Africa but this time to join Bishop Heerey's team in Nigeria. There he was to serve till 1967 being director of St

Thérèse's Mission at Nsukka. Although he was then over 75 he went to USA to take up ministry there but his age and uncertain health obliged him to return to Ireland and retirement. He spent the last four years in St Gabriel's Hospital, Cabinteely, weak but patient and prayerful and retaining his noted joviality. He was among the number of those whose deaths occurred while the confreres were gathered for their annual retreat, giving many an opportunity to pay a last tribute to a dedicated missionary. Fr Joe died 16 June 1981 aged 89 years and was buried in Kimmage. *État*; RJR; *IPNI* No 47, July 1981

**HOULAGHAN, Fr Thomas 1848-1870**

Born 24 November 1848 in Camdem St, Dublin, Thomas was being catered for at St Vincent's Orphanage, Glasnevin by 1859 as his deceased father had served in the navy. Thomas' mother was also dead by then, but in a biographical note preserved in his dossier he recalled being brought by his mother to Rathmines 'cathedral' when he was as yet very young and that he was so impressed by the ceremonies that he repeatedly said he wanted to be a priest. He was among the group of students that Fr Louis Holley brought back with him to France in 1859 after his first visit to Ireland in search of vocations. He was sent to Langonnet to do his secondary studies. Père Leman was in the community at the time and he admitted afterwards that he was far from being impressed by the standard of education of these first Irish candidates. Thomas does not seem to have ever returned to Ireland. Thomas was ordained in spite of the fact that he suffered seriously from tuberculosis and he was admitted to final profession just three days before his death 28 August 1870 aged 25 years. Gen.Arch, Chevilly.

**HOURIGAN, Br John Baptist (William) 1839-1924**

Born 7 Aug. 1839 in Shronell, Lattin, Co. Tipperary, William had planned to join the army but changed his mind. He is reported as having served as a Papal zouave for a period before he decided to enter the Congregation. He was professed at Chevilly in 1871. After serving for two years at St Michel, Langonnet, and at the Mother House in Paris. Br John-Baptist was appointed in 1873 to the Piqua community then being formed in Ohio, USA. In 1875, however, he set out from Paris for Sierra Leone where he spent six years. On his return to Europe he was employed again at rue Lhomond as refectorian and he became well known to the confrères passing through *en route* to and from the missions etc. When the new community, St Patrick's Mission House, was started at Kimberly House, Booterstown Avenue, he was appointed there and the following year (early 1900) he transferred with the community to the newly-acquired Clareville beside Blackrock. In 1903 he received what was to be his final appointment namely, Rockwell, where he spent the rest of his life, and where, it was said, 'he could now indulge to his heart's content his desire to serve as many Masses as possible and gain all the indulgences granted by Mother Church.' He prayed that the Lord might grant him the favour of doing his purgatory in this life. He did suffer grievously - mentally as well as physically - but he regained his perfect peace of mind as he faced death. He is a good example of a generation of Brothers who had received little schooling but were totally committed to their particular métier and their religious observance. Br John-Baptist Hourigan died 17 Feb. 1924 aged 84 years. He was buried in Rockwell. He was an uncle of Fr Michael Meagher, a great uncle of Fr John Hourigan and a great grand uncle of Fr John Hogan CSSp. *BG XXXI* 731ff; *SpWW*, 307

### **HOURIGAN, Fr John 1913-1993**



Born 4 November 1913 in Ballingary, Co. Limerick, John did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1927-33 where, like his uncle Fr Michael Meagher, he proved a stylish hurler and a champion handballer. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane where he was professed in 1934. He did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, followed by prefecting in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1936-38. Having done Theology in Kimmage he was ordained in 1941 and was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Fr John worked at Onitsha till 1948 when he got a form of spinal malaria which forced him to return home and left a permanent mark on him. He was appointed bursar in Kimmage in succession to Fr Joe Nolan. In 1954 he was transferred to Kilshane where again he filled the role of bursar as well as being Spiritual Director. In 1963 he was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he took charge of the Junior School. In 1971 he was appointed National Director of the Holy Childhood Association, a post he filled for ten years. He also took an active interest in organising pilgrimages to Our Lady's Shrine at Knock. He published a booklet telling the story of the apparition and providing a suitable scheme of prayers for the occasion of a group pilgrimage. He also published booklets on local history. In 1982 he retired to Kimmage and after a short illness died 5 February 1993 aged 79 years. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr John Hourigan belonged to a family which has the record of having provided a vocation to the Congregation in four successive generations beginning with his granduncle, Br John Baptist Hourigan, followed by his uncle Fr Michael Meagher, and then his nephew Fr Seán Hogan. *IPNI* No. 2 1993

### **HORRIGAN, Fr Seán 1921-1999**



Born on 29 July 1921 in Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Seán received his Primary education at Skibbereen National School and Rosscarbery. He did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1935-40. An excellent hurler, he was a member of the 1936 winning Harty Cup Team. A fine singer, he was regularly called on for his party piece at *soirées* and played the part of Josephine in the school production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*; the cast included Paddy Hillery, future President of Ireland and life-long friend of Seán. Seán was also a talented musician and dancer. Professed in 1941 he studied philosophy in Kimmage and at UCD. He then prefectured on the Burse for two years. Ordained in 1949 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He worked in Onitsha and Enugu beginning his pastoral ministry as assistant in Eke. He served at Nsukka, Agwu and Udi. His ministry involved mainly pastoral work and education. Later he was in charge of Sacred Heart parish in Iwollo Oghe, and finally at Ibagwa in the Enugu Diocese. Obligated to leave Nigeria because of the Biafra war he was assigned to pastoral ministry in the USA. He joined the Long Island Spiritan community taking up pastoral duties in the New York area. He ministered first at Holy Trinity Parish, Manhattan and in 1969 he moved to St Philip Neri Parish at the invitation of Monsignor Edward McGrath. He was moderator of the Rosary Altar Society, the Don Bosco Society and the Bedford Park Shamrock Club. He was also chaplain of the Catholic Kolping Society of New York. He kept in touch with Irish affairs, especially sport, through the newspapers supplied by a close circle of Irish friends with whom he used spend a relaxed weekend. He loved Irish dancing and his last dance was with noted film actress Maureen O'Hara, who came to visit him at St Patrick's home in the

Bronx. Ill for two years he remained on until obliged to retire to Ireland in 1999. He was cared for at Marian House where he died on 21 May 1999 aged 78 years. At his request he was buried in the Rockwell cemetery. Seán is survived by his brother Fr Finbar CSSp. *KNSM* No. 269 and family papers supplied by Fr Finbar.

### **HOWELL, Fr Francis 1880-1953**



Born 12 May 1880 in St Finbarr's, Cork, Frank came to Blackrock at the age of 11 in 1891. Having completed his secondary course he continued his studies at the university college in the Castle with a view to the BA, and he completed his course while prefecting in Rockwell from 1901. He was among the students who assisted in April 1900 at the ordination of Joseph Shanahan in the college chapel at Blackrock. Ordained in Paris in 1909 he was appointed to

Nigeria the following year where he was to spend the rest of his years apart from brief returns to Ireland for a rest. His first appointment was to Calabar where he soon became renowned as a preacher, teacher and parish priest. Within a year of his arrival in Nigeria he is mentioned as follows in a letter by Shanahan to Fr Neville, then recently appointed to the General Council: "The Irish missionaries in Nigeria are a credit to their country. Fr Howell will become one of our most successful men in Calabar. He has already won the hearts of confreres and people alike." The same high praise is repeated in his report for the following year, September 1912: "Fr Howell is the man in Calabar. Already he is one of the leading missionaries. Gifted with a sound religious and sacerdotal spirit, a good deal of intelligence and sound common sense he likes his work and his people." Years later, when responsibility for Calabar was handed over to St Patrick's Missionary Society, the people objected strongly to Fr Howell's removal, going so far as to file a petition to the Holy Father to have him remain on. Fr Howell then became a pioneer missionary in Ogoja province, opening up many stations, including Kikwagum, a great centre of faith for a complete tribe, half of whom he had already converted by the time he was changed again. His greatest work, however, was done between the ages of 55 and 70 among the Ibos, especially in the parish of Nsu which he saw rise under his administration from 6,000 to 40,000 Catholics. Such great success was the result of unusual organisation and method. Every week he went to bush for five days, spent the sixth in his office dealing with marriages and schools, and the seventh in community after Sunday Mass. This schedule he adhered to year after year in Nsu and later in Okigwi to which he was changed for his last few years. He was ever happy, ever completely calm and unruffled. No one ever saw him lose his temper or utter a harsh word. Even when treated with harshness he remained peaceful, gentle and unruffled. The day of his death, which occurred at Emekuku Hospital, was a day of universal mourning among the Ibo people he knew and loved so well. All along the thirty mile route from Emekuku to Nsu, thousands turned out to salute him. It was a last gesture of respect, reverence and love for a great man and a great missionary. Fr Howell died as peacefully as he had lived 5 March 1953 aged 72 years BCArch; *BCA* 1953, 74f.

### **HUGHES, Fr John 1921-2000**

Born on 17 December 1921 John did his secondary studies in Knockbeg College, Co.



Carlow. He had been a fine athlete at Knockbeg where he was 'Victor ludorum', captain of the gaelic team and played on the Leinster schools' inter-provincial team. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he was professed in 1942. Following his BA in Philosophy in 1945 John prefected in the Bursar's office for one year, 1945-46. Ordained priest in 1949 his first appointment the following year was to the Promotions team. Getting Promoters and gathering funds was a

difficult apostolate but his easy manner and affability won him friends all over Dublin and beyond. In 1954 he was appointed Bursar of the farm at Kimmage, and in 1957 he took over as Bursar of Kimmage Manor. John was a shrewd businessman. This was to be seen even in his dealings with himself in his two capacities - selling vegetables from the farm to himself as Community Bursar at a definite profit to himself as Farm Bursar! And as usual he saw the humour of the situation. In 1964 in fulfilment of his ardent wish John was appointed to Kenya where for the next 30 years he served successively in the Queen of the Apostles Junior Seminary, Kiambu, in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Nairobi, in Karen, Kilimanbogo, and finally in Thika. While in Nairobi - apart from his pastoral work - he was in charge of the Catholic Bookshop. He gained for the Bookshop the lucrative agency for the much-in-demand coloured pictorial cards of Kenya published by the well-known Irish photographic company, John Hinde Studio. While serving in Karen he ministered to a mixed population of Africans and expatriates. There too he got to know the nomadic Massai tribe in whom he maintained a special interest. His house there was a haven of hospitality to a long list of visitors. To update himself in pastoral theology and preaching methods John did a sabbatical year at Maynooth College. He returned to his pastoral work with renewed spirit and enthusiasm. In the ups and downs of life he never lost his sense of humour; he was known to be a practical joker and loved to make a shrewd bargain. He made friends easily and those who knew him well loved his manner. A close friend of his was Fr Seán Swaine - the very successful director of the Irish School of Liturgy; he invited him to visit his mission and prevailed on him to give the annual retreat to the Spiritan confreres. In 1997 John returned to Ireland and lived with his family in Graignamanagh. When he developed a serious illness he was cared for in Marian House, Kimmage, where he died on 30 November 2000. Fr John was buried in Abbey Cemetery at Graignamanagh. IPArch; *KEASM* No. 743; *IPNI* No. 1 2001

### **HUGHES, Br Mary Jarlath (Michael) 1897-1973**



Born 27 August 1897 in Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Michael entered the Novitiate at Kimmage at the age of 29. Professed in 1928 he was appointed to Bathurst (Banjul), The Gambia, in 1934. He returned to Kimmage after two years, where he supervised the orchard and vegetable gardens. He spent a period in Kilshane and was appointed to Rockwell in 1943 where he was to spend the rest of his life. It is not easy to quantify his particular contribution to the community *projet*. For many years he was plagued with severe rheumatic pains but his recipe for happiness for himself and all visitors was a good laugh and a cup of tea! He managed to husband life's taper even beyond the Biblical three score and ten. Br Jarlath Hughes died 10 March 1973 aged 75 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1973, 91.

### **HURLEY, Fr Edward J. 1922-1962**



Born 1 May 1922 in Drogheda, Ned later moved with the family to Harold's Cross, Dublin. He studied at Synge St. CBS and at Blackrock, 1937-42. Ned was described as "active, very upright and cheerful, a leader at games." He studied at Kimmage and UCD taking his BA in 1946. Ordained in 1949 he was appointed to Nigeria in 1950 - the Holy Year on the occasion of which Onitsha was created an archdiocese. His first post was teaching philosophy in the senior seminary; the following year he was attached to the College of the Immaculate Conception at Enugu. In 1952 he was appointed principal of St. Peter's Training College, Achina. On returning from a holiday in Ireland in 1955 he spent a brief period as principal of St. Teresa's College, Nsukka, and in January 1956 he was appointed principal of St. Anthony's College, Agulu. All his missionary life he was involved in education at various levels, especially in the training of teachers. He was meticulous in his attention to detail, shared authority easily with his colleagues and was invariably kind to the students. He provided for them the best equipment which funds could procure and took an active part in organising extracurricular activities. Deeply spiritual he was also noted for his hospitality to the visiting confreres and in his care for those hospitalised. While supervising the preparations for the enormous gathering to welcome Cardinal Montini (later Pope Paul VI) to Onitsha, he took suddenly ill and died within three days. Over 250 priests and 5 bishops joined the vast throng assisting at his funeral. Fr Edward Hurley died 6 August 1962 aged 40 years. *BCA* 1962, 82ff; *MA*

### **HUVÉTY, Fr Pierre 1835-1898**



Born 13 December 1835 in Martinique, Peter did his studies in the Spiritan seminary conducted in Fort-de France by Fr Ambrose Emonet, future Superior General. When Peter opted to join the Congregation - being incidentally, the first from the New World to do so, he was sent to France to complete his studies for the priesthood. After his ordination in 1862 he was appointed to the college at Langonnet in Brittany, and the following year he was specially asked for by Père Leman, who wanted someone solid and accomplished to take over as Dean of studies. Just as he was proving to be all that Leman had hoped for, he had to part with his services in favour of the Scotch College, Rockwell, which was offered to the Congregation in 1864. Fr Huvéty was remarkably successful in the post of superior of Rockwell during troubled times, 1864-80. He used his diplomatic skills in breaking down the initial hostility of the Irish clergy and in trying to cope with the rather bizarre behaviour of the founder of Rockwell, M. Thiébault, when matters had turned sour for him. After the death of Père Leman in 1880, Fr Huvéty took over as superior of Blackrock and Vice-provincial for Ireland. He and Fr Reffé were to be very much involved in the struggle for fair play for Irish Catholics in the area of higher education. When his health gave cause for concern in 1889, Fr Huvéty returned to France where Fr Emonet appointed him secretary for all matters to do with the English-speaking areas of the Congregation. Later, 1892-7, he was co-opted on to the General Council. Finally, he acted as vice-superior of Chevilly. Fr Huvéty was well known as a peacemaker, rather diffident, a good administrator, devout and rather restricted in his views of what was compatible with religious life as understood in the Congregation. He died rather unexpectedly at Chevilly 15 March 1898 aged 63 years. *BG* XIX 158; *LH*, 130ff; *Leman* 200ff *et passim*.



### **HYLAND, Fr James A. 1886-1953**

Born 13 January 1886 in Ballacolla, Leix, James did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1904-08. As he took part in productions of Shakespeare under the direction of the noted elocution teacher M'Hardy Flint, the foundations of his future fame as preacher and orator in the USA were being laid. He figured also on the rugby field with the Castle or Past Students' XV, both when a junior scholastic and later as a prefect, 1911-13. He was in France, 1908-11, for his noviceship and Philosophy. In 1913 he was transferred to Ferndale, USA, as part of the



Murphy-Drexel project of supplying men to work in parishes for the blacks in lieu of money badly needed for the Irish senior scholasticate. Fr James was to spend the remainder of his life in the USA. He started as assistant in the parish of the Holy Ghost, New Orleans. A year later he was founder and first pastor of St Peter Claver's, Charleston, and in 1920 he opened another new parish at Holy Ghost, Opelousas, where he was pastor until 1935. During his nineteen years in the southern states he proved a colourful, forceful speaker, a man of great zeal and energy, while always remaining hearty and friendly. He showed himself fearless in denunciation of the Ku Klux Klan for their hate and bigotry. He wrote two books during this period dealing with the problems of the day: one, *Rome and the White House*, published during the bigotry-filled years of Al. Smith's candidature for Presidency, the other, *The Dove Flies South*, a novel on the racial problems of the southern states. Fr Hyland next took part in the Mission Band's pastoral tours of the western states, and after eleven years he took his last appointment in the Province's new mission field in California. He became the first pastor of Our Lady of the Valley at Hemet. In California, too, he was tireless in travelling on pastoral work. He entered hospital November 1953 and it was discovered that his illness was terminal. On being told of his condition he prepared for death with great simplicity and faith. Fr James Hyland died 6 December 1953 aged 67 years. *BCA* 1954, 97; *SpWW* 627.

### **HYLAND, Fr Michael J. 1848-1930**



Born 26 June 1848 in Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Mike did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1862-67. He was among the first students from the college to be entered for the examinations conducted by the Catholic University under the rectorship of Monsignor B. Woodlock, and he won several distinctions in those examinations which brought the French College to the notice of the public for the first time. We find a reference in the juniorate journal saying that 'Mr Hyland was excluded from the community for three days' by the director, Fr Jerome Schwindenhammer, who was to be long remembered for his eccentric behaviour, but in this instance he had noticed already that Mike had to be encouraged to conform to the accepted regimental norms. Neither Fr Jerome, nor his brother, the Superior General, nor anyone else, could get Mike to follow the herd. It is reported that when he was ordained priest and had taken his first vows, he was ushered in through the various ante-chambers to the Superior General's office and was invited to lay bare his soul to him as to God's representative, Fr Mike replied that, as he was now a priest like the Superior General, he could be relied on to look after his own soul. He was appointed to Blackrock 1872, being the first Irishman to be sent there. . He was to remain at Blackrock all his long life as teacher in the secondary and the University College, and later as full-time national director of the Holy Childhood Association.

Père Leman was disappointed that apart from his work in class, Fr Mike made little contribution to the life and work of the college. He chaired the debates held by the university students at the Castle, and composed addresses and speeches for various occasions, but was not a man to get involved in the nitty gritty of school life. This was probably one of the reasons that he was ruled out as the first superior of St Mary's, Rathmines, even though he had been led to expect that he was the man to take over. He was an excellent speaker on the big occasion and took part in the first mission preached by members of the Congregation in Ireland. His main work in life, which he did with success, was as the first ever national director of the Holy Childhood association. When he was appointed in 1881 the annual receipts amounted to £500 whereas by 1922 under his direction and the co-operation of his faithful team of workers, the intake was £6,000 annually. Having been regarded as a master of English language and literature one is not surprised to learn that he greatly improved the style and content of the *Annals* of the Society. When Blackrock was seeking official recognition for its university college within the system of the RUI, Fr Hyland's name was put forward for a Fellowship. That application did not meet with success, but in 1920 he was given an honorary doctorate by Duquesne University. Fr Michael Hyland, who could lay claim to be one of the best known 'characters' of the Irish Province for some fifty years died 14 October 1930 aged 82 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG* 35, 70; *BCA* 1962,161 and 1931 63ff; *LH* 142ff.

#### **IBRAHIM, Fr Irwin                      1924-1983**



Born 5 June 1924 in Woodbrook, Port of Spain, Trinidad, Irwin did his secondary studies at St Mary's College. Having come to Ireland for his senior studies for the priesthood in 1948 he did Philosophy in Kimmage, 1948-50, and Theology, 1950-54. He was appointed to St Mary's College. Returning to Ireland in 1957 he attended UCD where he gained the BA in 1960. He also studied at the Alliance Française, Paris. He served on the staff of St Mary's College and from 1971 to 1977 in St Vincent, W.I. His final assignment was as Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Port of Spain. Fr Irwin Ibrahim died 15 July 1983 aged 59 years and was buried in Trinidad. *IPArch*; *POS DA*; *État*.

#### **JENNES, Br Sabbas (Theodor)      1839-1907**

Born 9 October 1839 in MillenLahn near Cologne Theodor entered the Brothers' novitiate at Marienstadt where he was professed at the age of 32. When the houses of the Congregation were suppressed in Germany by Bismarck, he was sent to Chevilly near Paris. In 1873 Br Sabbas came to Blackrock. Having learned the shoemaker's trade, this was to be his full-time occupation at Blackrock. Not only had he to attend to the footwear of the community and the juniorate but he found himself saddled with repairs of students' football boots etc. He also was being constantly distracted by people dropping in for a chat, and in time found he was becoming crippled with rheumatic pains due to having to sit continually in a cold workshop. He wrote about these matters to the Mother House in German, so he may not have got due attention. When Fr Ebenrecht was interim superior in the prolonged absence of Fr Huvéty's in 1889 he offered Sabbas the option of working in the garden. From then on he was more relaxed among the plants and the flowers and had more scope for his love of silence. Fr Larry Healy, who knew him well, wrote of him: "He brought to his functions of tradesman and gardener German intelligence and thoroughness...He was

a practical botanist and herbalist, and, in a small garden, grew a great variety of medicinal plants. He introduced and cultivated many of the flowering shrubs which are now such a striking feature of the college grounds...He is remembered not so much for his skill as a tradesman or nurseryman as for his saintly life, and for the cheerful readiness with which he gave his service to all who asked it." Br Sabbas Jennes died Easter Sunday morning 1907 aged 69 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *B.3*, 93; *BG XXIV* 134; *LH* 268; *Rath No.* 93.

### **JORDAN, Fr John 1906-1992**



Born 18 September 1902 in Portlaoise, Co. Offaly, Jack's people had come from Mayo. He studied at Rockwell, 1919-1924, and he recalled being very impressed by Bishop Joseph Shanahan when he addressed the students shortly before returning to Nigeria after his episcopal ordination in 1920. But the Director of the Juniorate at the time was not at all convinced that Jack had a genuine vocation. He had actually written a letter telling him not to return after the holidays but forgot to post the letter. When Jack reported back at the beginning of the school year, the Director accepted that as a sign from God. Professed in Kimmage in 1925, he was among the first group of scholastics to attend the university after the moratorium introduced by the Provincial, Fr Joseph Byrne. Gifted with great ability he always achieved excellent results. But he never lost the common touch. He was very popular during the years in the senior scholasticate as his highly original and non-conformist behaviour, together with his penchant for practical jokes, enlivened an otherwise over regulated régime. Directors were sometimes nonplussed by his behaviour, as indeed were the neighbours' dogs on finding themselves 'outbarked' all sensed that behind it all Jack was rock solid. The fact that his three years prefecting were spread between three colleges probably confirms the picture to date. He prefected at St Mary's 1929, Rockwell 1930, and at Blackrock 1931 while studying for the H.Dip.Ed. While studying Theology he was entrusted with a rescue job as editor of the *Missionary Annals*. His search for material on the missions brought him into close contact with Bishop Shanahan then living in active retirement in Clareville, Blackrock. These interviews were later drawn on as a valuable source for the inspiring biography, *Bishop Shanahan of Nigeria*. Ordained in 1935 Fr Jordan was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was to serve with such distinction. His first years were spent in straightforward "bush whacking" missionary work. Very soon his potential was recognised for a leadership role. He was appointed Catholic Education Adviser to the Federal Government and it was his remarkable success in that post that placed Catholic education on a special plane throughout Nigeria. Inspired by the example of Bishop Shanahan he put education at the top of the agenda of the Nigerian church, and in the process laid the foundations on which that amazingly vigorous church rests. His enlightened co-operation with the Government in this matter anticipated the teaching of the Vatican Council on Church/State relations. In all that he did he was a missionary and a true son of the Church and his Congregation. He had a keen intellect, a sharp tongue when he felt called on to speak out as not infrequently happened; but he was never deliberately hurtful. From 1948 to 1954 he was District Religious superior during which time he laid the foundations of the Nigerian province as he opened a novitiate and a house of formation. In 1963 he was called on to lead the Irish mission to Brazil and in spite of his age and the difference in climate and social conditions, he gave of his best while his energy lasted. Eventually in 1970 he returned to Ireland to a life of active retirement. He served for the next seven years as

chaplain to the Sisters and residents at Our Lady's Manor, Dalkey, and found time and energy to stimulate and guide charismatic and other groups. He was a popular spiritual director and his pen was active too. He had published a booklet on the missionary work in Brazil and was working on his own extended memoirs. Unfortunately he had not the opportunity to supervise the pruning and editing of these very personal revelations before the Lord called him to cease at last from his labours 4 November 1992. Fully conscious that the end was near Fr John Jordan greeted death with total resignation. He was 86 years young. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.5 1992; *Padre Joä & Co- A Missionary Venture in Brazil.* and *Autobiography of a Missionary*, both by Fr Jordan

**JOY, Fr Denis            1887-1937**



Born 1 December 1887 in Coolacusane, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Denny entered Rockwell as a boarder in 1900. In 1905 he joined the juniorate, and from 1908 to 1912 he perfected at the college and had the distinction of being chosen for four successive years as captain of the Rockwell club team. Among those who played with him were the Ryan brothers - internationals - Eamon de Valera, Edward Leen and James

Mellet. Denis was rated as one of the best out-halves in Ireland at the time. He was among the first group to do their novitiate in Kimmage, 1911-12, and he was recalled as being the life and soul of the novitiate because of his ability to spin yarns and dramatise his narratives. Eleven scholastics had been recalled from France by the provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, to start the senior scholasticate. Denis joined this group in attending the new University at Earlsfort Terrace where he qualified for the B.A. in philosophy in 1915. The master of novices, Fr Daniel Walshe, wrote of Denis: "Capable of doing good in more than one type of work of the Congregation." When he was sent to France in 1915 to do his theology at Langonnet, far removed from the war zone, the director wrote about him: "This student has made a very good impression: pious, diligent; lives up to the reputation he had among his Irish directors." When the new Irish theology faculty was begun in 1917 Denis was recalled from France to be among the founding group of students. Returned to Chevilly in 1919 for ordination, he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. From 1922 he was to act as superior and bursar at Freetown, and became Pro-vicar in 1925 after the departure of Bishop John O'Gorman. When Bishop O'Gorman was succeeded in 1933 by Bishop Wilson, Fr Denis had the long-awaited opportunity to return to Ireland for a rest. He was, in fact, invalided home, but very soon he was active in promotions work and assisted Fr Richard Harnett in preaching retreats and parish missions. There were several insistent appeals from Fr John Meehan in The Gambia for someone to take charge of the mission at Bathurst (Banjul) in order that he could develop stations farther inland. Fr Denis volunteered. He was just getting into the swing of his new missionary career when, after a mere six months in Bathurst, he was suddenly swept away by death 1 May 1937 aged 49 years. *BG XXXVIII*, 348ff; *RCA* 1937, 62.

**JOYCE, Fr Richard 1912-1990**



Born in Partry, Co. Mayo, Dickie did his secondary studies at Rockwell College. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane where he was professed in 1934. He prefected at Rockwell, 1936-38, and having done Theology at Kimmage he was ordained in 1941. Fr Dickie was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar but, because of the war restrictions on travel by sea, he served at Rockwell for a period. It was only in 1943 that he was able to sail for his mission. He taught at Kiambu till 1948, and then engaged in parish work in Machakos, Pemba Island and Kabaa. He had a narrow escape from drowning as his car plunged into a swollen river. In 1959 he was appointed bursar at St Mary's School, Nairobi. He transferred to Canada in 1965 where he served as pastor of Holy Rosary, Guelph, Ontario. In 1971 he took on the post of chaplain to the senior citizens in St Joseph's Villa, Hamilton, where his gentleness, good humour and listening skills endeared him to the residents. He was one of the first to affiliate to the new province of TransCanada and he also embraced Canadian citizenship. Forced by ill-health to retire from active ministry, he spent his declining years with the formation community at Laval House, Toronto, where the scholastics enjoyed his anecdotes and repartee, and where he relived his own scholastic days in Kimmage when he himself was the constant target of banter and practical jokes. Fr Richard Joyce died in Providence Villa Hospital 23rd March 1990 aged 77 years. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 3 1990; *SPEAM* 479

**JUDGE, Br Thaddeus (Myles) 1842-1902**



Born 11 March 1842 in Kilcolman, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Myles came to the French College, Blackrock, in April 1863. He was one of several to come from that area, influenced, it would appear, by an advertisement which Père Leman put in a Western newspaper. Myles had some business training and was well grounded in English and Mathematics, but being then 21 he was considered too old to begin his studies for the priesthood. He proved very useful in the running of certain departments of the college while doing his postulancy for the brotherhood. Then he was sent for a period to the general novitiate in Langonnet. After his profession in 1865 he was appointed to Blackrock where he was to spend the rest of his life, becoming one of its best known functionaries, always so dapper, wearing his distinctive skullcap, and known to generations of students as Br 'Buzz', no doubt because he was always as busy as the proverbial bee. This is how he was described by Fr Larry Healy who knew him when he was a student himself and later when he was superior:- " For the function now assigned to him in the College he was admirably fitted. He got general control of the junior section with special jurisdiction over the very young boys - the "Chicks". For 37 years he ruled this little world with unlimited and undisputed sway. Active, intelligent, and always busy, he was ever affable, polite and ready to oblige. Always alert to maintain law and order among his tiny subjects, he was always unruffled and supremely reasonable. To the little boys he was mother and nurse, as well as teacher and lawgiver. He was with them all day. He slept in their dormitory. In the morning he helped the smaller mites to wash and dress. At night he saw them snugly 'tucked in'. In study he helped them at their lessons. At recreation he organised their games, and insisted on a lesson hard to learn:- that truthfulness and fair play were preferable to Victory. At meals he made them feel that good manners and self-restraint were

lovely things, and that selfishness and greed were ugly and detestable. Br Judge had also charge of the Class-book and Stationery Store. This function brought him into touch with all the boys, senior and junior. By all he was liked and respected. Indeed such a big place did he fill in the life of the College for many years that he was looked on as indispensable. His many duties did not interfere with the regularity and fervour of his religious life. He rose daily at four, and was punctual at the Brothers' exercises. After his death in 1902 his private Notes, with Rule of Life and Resolutions, revealed the secret principles that made his life so exemplary and fruitful". Cardinal John D'Alton, who was also from Claremorris, related that Br Thaddeus took a special interest in him as a student and told him one day to forget about his plans for a professional career because it was obvious that the Lord had marked him out for the priesthood. The Cardinal felt that he owed his vocation to that advice. Br Thaddeus developed a heart condition from which he died 9 April 1902 aged 61 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR No.16; *BG XXI* 564; LH 265ff.

### **JUDGE, Fr Philip 1907-1942**



Born 9 August 1907 in Limerick city, Phil he began his secondary studies with the Christian Brothers and came to Rockwell in 1922. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1924, went on to the Castle, Blackrock, to do Philosophy there. He prefectured at Rockwell, 1927-29. During his years in the scholasticate he was noted for his sincere piety and was looked on by his companions as a model. They were very pained when, because of his boyish exuberance and carefree behaviour at times, he was 'clipped' for orders, to use the received term then for having one's promotion to major orders postponed as a penance. Phil, was ordained in 1932 and the following year was appointed to Nigeria. Stationed at St Mary's, Port Harcourt, under the direction of Fr Phil. O'Connor, he very soon got actively involved in all aspects of the mission life, especially with young people and with the lepers at St Patrick's Mission, Bodo. He believed in having events and personalities recorded by the camera and a selection of these photos were sent home to his family and were mounted in an album. In spite of being damaged in some flooding, a perusal of this album allows us to sample the life of a young missionary in Nigeria at the time when the cathedral was being built in Onitsha and was seen as a symbol of the church coming of age there. Fr Phil. was home on a holiday in Ireland, making the mission work known when World War Two broke out. He returned to his mission, resuming his work. 'He was selfless and untiring in his travels through broiling bush to bring spiritual aid to his flock.' It was written of him: 'No matter where he worked in Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Aguleri, Nsukka, this capacity to give was his distinguishing feature'. Fr Phil. died after a brief illness 14 June 1942 aged 34 years. 'His funeral was a mighty cortège, perhaps the mightiest ever seen in Onitsha. The people of Onitsha insisted on carrying the coffin the whole long way to the grave, for Fr Judge had worked among them and they had learned his worth.' *RJR; RCA* 1942, quoting from the *Missionary Annals*.

### **JULIEN, Fr Emile J. 1848-1917**



Born 27 September 1848 in St James, Louisiana, USA., Emile's people lived later in Cuba, New York and Venezuela. At the age of 11 years Emile came to Trinidad. He was one of the first students to enter St Mary's College, and was the first to enter the Congregation from

there. He is looked upon as the first American-born to become a Spiritan - hence the name 'Julien' House' given to the senior house of studies in Chicago. He was sent to Langonnet in 1867 to study for the priesthood and would appear to have done part of his course at the Colonial Seminary in Paris. Before completing his theology he was sent to Blackrock, 1874, where he did part-time prefecting while continuing his studies. He received the subdiaconate at All Hallows from visiting Bishop Quinn of Bathurst, Australia. Ordained priest and professed in France in 1875, Fr Emile was appointed to Blackrock where his proficiency at both Italian and Spanish was appreciated. He never mastered the art of enforcing discipline in his classes, but he was, however, popular among the students as confessor. He was transferred to St Joachim's, Detroit in 1887. This appointment was not to his liking and he was not happy in parish work. He was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, 1888, where he taught for sixteen years. His kindly and good humoured disposition gained him many friends not merely among his confreres and pupils but also among the clergy and laity of Trinidad. He left Trinidad through ill-health in 1904 and when given the choice of which community to retire to, he asked to be allowed to go back to Blackrock where in semi-retirement he taught Greek to a small class and was available as confessor. Fr Julien died 13 April 1917 aged 69 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. GenArch; BG XXVIII 544; SpWW 240

**KANE, Fr Camillus                      1953-1987**



Born 8 June 1953 in Trim, Co. Meath, Camillus did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1966-71, being among the last generation of the 2,172 students who had passed through the Juniorate since 1860. Professed in 1972 he went to Kenya as prefect in 1975 where he was stationed at Kwale for two years. Ordained in 1980 by Bishop Joseph Whelan, he was appointed the following year to Papua/New Guinea. He served there for three years together with Frs Denis Rogers and Pat Whelan. In 1986 he was transferred to Kenya and was appointed as assistant to Fr Larry Shine in the parish of Wanyororo, Nakuru. He is described as being "youthful and enthusiastic, friendly and very hospitable. He was very pastorally minded, and most faithful and devoted to the visitation of the homes in the villages of the parish and the small Christian communities." He was about to start work on building a church in summer 1987 and was expecting a group of students and staff (20) from Blackrock College who were to devote part of their Kenya holiday to digging the foundations. He went to a neighbouring parish 29 July and was took back with him an extra supply of petrol in order to be able to provide transport for his expected visitors. En route the car took fire, going up in flames immediately. Fr Camillus was consumed in the blaze. This tragic death caused shock throughout the mission and at home. His mother and some members of the family came out for the funeral mass concelebrated in Nairobi with Cardinal Otunga as principal celebrant and Bishop Ndingi of Nakuru preaching the homily. The presence and the Christian faith demonstrated by Camillus' mother as she spoke at the masses celebrated in the various mission churches, greatly impressed the faithful. 80 priests concelebrated at the Mass in Trim presided over by the Bishop of Meath, Dr Smith. Dr Smith was among those who generously contributed towards the expenses of the church Fr Camillus had planned to build. Fr Camillus Kane was 34 years when he died 29 July 1987. IPNL No. 66 1987; BCA 1988 185

### **Kavanagh, Brother Gall (Patrick) 1923-2004**

Patrick was born at Cor an Dola, Annaghdown, Co. Galway on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1923. For some years Patrick worked as a clerk and at farming. He entered the Congregation and was a postulant at Kilshane from 1946 until '48. Patrick made his first profession on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1948 taking Gall as his religious name. Br. Gall made his perpetual vows on November 14<sup>th</sup> 1957 in Ardraccon. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1957. In 1948 Brother Gall's first appointment was to Kilshane where he worked as the hall-door porter. In 1949 he was transferred to Kimmage Manor where he again worked as the hall-door porter. In 1950 Br. Gall was appointed to Blackrock College where he replaced Br Anthony in charge of the college book shop Br Gall was also in charge of preparation for in-house examinations, compiling the result sheets, the notes for the week given by all teachers. For fifty years he did all the preparations for Prize Day, he did the same for Sports Day, supervising the distribution of medals, trophies etc. For these and other school chores he got to know every student personally in the school, and was the first to be on hand when past students called to the college. His practical expertise was often summed up by Fr Dinan's oft repeated phrase in a critical situation; "Send me Gall." In later years a new lease of life began with his involvement with athletics in the school. He attended courses in physical education and became an excellent coach especially in javelin – recognised by experts in that field. He served as assistant to Deans of the Boarding School who highly appreciated his expertise and sagacity. He maintained to the end his role of providing the required copies of exam papers for all classes. Eventually Br. Gall suffered much from physical disability but struggled on to the last. Br. Gall celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession in 1998. A severe fall in which he suffered injuries to his skull necessitated months in hospital and his admittance to Marian House early in 2000. He died 18<sup>th</sup> July 2004. He is buried in the Community Grave at Shanganagh.

### **KAVANAGH, Fr James Gerard 1912-1999**



Born on 2 February 1912 in Inch, Co. Wexford, Jim did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1925-31. Professed in Kimmage 1932, he went on to do Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and profected at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1934-36. Ordained priest in 1939 he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He was in charge of the Machakos station, which had been opened in 1943. Transferred to Nairobi he became pastor of St Austin's Church. In 1952 he was appointed rector of the Junior seminary recently established at Kiserian. He also served as Dean of the Kiambu region where he built schools and churches in many parts. Jim was a very gentle and kind person, a lovely singer, and liked to entertain. He had a great love for the Kamba people. He knew their language and proverbs and enjoyed their company. He is really a founder member of the church among the Kamba people. Under his guidance the Brothers of St Peter Claver were founded. He pioneered the work in remote areas of Makuen and Kamoni - living in a small hut that was also his office and church (His address was "Catholic Bore Hole Kamoni"). He built the first house and church in Machakos town and started many schools. He also worked in St Mary's, and St Peter Claver's, Nairobi. In 1967 he became Vicar General of the Machakos Diocese. As the Bishop had been suddenly transferred it was an onerous duty for Jim and it was expected by many, including himself, that he might be appointed bishop. Suffering from ill health he returned to Ireland in 1973 and



accepted an appointment to the USA where he was to begin a new career in the ministry. He worked in St Anne's Parish, State Island, 1975-79, and in St James parish, North Dakota, 1979-82, followed by a stint in New York on replacement work, 1983-91, while a member of the Spiritan community there. On a visit back to his beloved Machacos he was delighted to see the great number of young African priests. He retired to Kimmage in 1991 and was in indifferent health until his death on 12 April 1999. He was then 87 years of age. Fr Jim is buried in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No. 3 1999; *KEASM* No. 469

### **KEANE, Fr Bernard            1907-2001**



Born on 7 November 1907 in Dartmouth Square, Rathmines, Dublin, Barney attended CBC Synge St where he was acclaimed as a top athlete, winning many medals in athletic competitions. He saw the funeral of Michael Collins and took photographs of the cortege - these being the first of his many brilliant photos. He won a ticket to Croke Park, which resulted in his being caught up in the events there known as Bloody Sunday. He was probably the longest survivor of that historic event. As he assisted in St Vincent de Paul work in a junior club event he made his first acquaintance with Frank Duff when he volunteered to help him in cleaning up the toilets, which were left in a deplorable state by the youths. He met Fr Bertie Farrell, Director of the Blackrock Juniorate, during the Sale of Work in St Mary's Christmas 1923, and he entered the Juniorate on 16 January 1924 as the College was celebrating its Patronal Feast. Again he distinguished himself as a sportsman, winning medals in hurling and in athletics while competing in the first All Ireland Sports for secondary schools. Some thirty of his medals have survived. Having entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor he made his first profession in 1926. Dr Dan Murphy - the new Dean of Rockwell, who had taught for a year at Blackrock - learned to value Barney's great potential. He persuaded Fr Kearney to send him to Rockwell as Prefect directly after his profession. He served successfully there for three years and was allowed to make his final profession as he was starting his Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock. The Theologians transferred from the Castle to Kimmage in 1933 where Barney was ordained priest the following year. During his fourth year of Theology he was asked by Fr Kearney to act as editor of the *Missionary Annals*. Nigeria was the preferred destination then for newly ordained priests in the Congregation. A call came from the Superior General for two young priests to serve in Angola. Dr Dan Murphy - by then Provincial - knowing that Angola was going to be a very tough assignment chose Barney and Johnny O'Neill. They headed for Portugal where they underwent a crash course in Portuguese language and culture. Barney was asked to take charge of the Juniorate at Regua but he would have none of it. Arrived in Angola in 1936 he was to spend 37 gruelling years there. His first station was Ghivinguiro where he spent one year, followed by two years in Sendi. His third station, Chiulo, was to be the theatre of his many operations till 1973. In 1954 when he felt dispirited with the lack of progress he wrote to his friend Frank Duff for advice on how to set up the Legion of Mary in his mission. Frank favoured him with a lengthy personal letter, which Fr Barney treasured all his life. On the strength of this advice the Legion was launched and during the darkest days of Angola later when torn by civil war it was stated that the Legion was practically the only movement that existed in the country, and that its work for evangelisation was incalculable in the absence of missionaries. During the difficult years of the Second World War when there were no schools, Barney taught the children himself. At that time he used a four-

wheeled cart drawn by oxen to visit the villages and he would be away from his central station of Chuilo for up to 6 weeks. Many of the children went on foot with Barney as he visited the villages. Each morning he spent several hours teaching them, and in the evening shot a wild animal, which the children cooked together with corn on the cob. After some years many of the students became catechists. With the help of the people he dug many wells in his parish - the best well was the one he dug for the lepers. Seeing that many young mothers died at childbirth Fr Barney studied midwifery at the hospital conducted by the Medical Missionaries at Drogheda. While waiting for Mother Mary Martin to send Sisters, he built a little clinic and helped to safely deliver many babies. The hospital eventually opened by the Sisters at Chuilo was a godsend and was one of the few institutions to survive the war intact. The Sisters had high praise for him as their chaplain, spiritual director and adviser on all things practical, including cooking. In Chuilo there was also a large prison, which Fr Barney often visited and he continued to help prisoners once they were set free. He had to leave Chuilo in 1973 because of ill health. Even when he retired from active missionary work and joined the community at Blackrock College he continued to assist the mission with cargos of necessary equipment. In spite of his angina problems he even went back on occasion to Angola during the civil war to lend a helping hand. A skilful photographer, he made good use of his camera in recording significant aspects of the mission. He fought a continual battle with ill health but was well into his 94th year when at last the Lord whom he had served so well called him home. Fr Barney died in Marian House on 10 February 2001 aged 93 years. He was interred in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown. IPrNI No. 2, 2001.

#### **KEANE, Fr Kerry 1890-1967**



Born 28 February 1890 in Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, Kerry came to the boarding school in Rockwell in 1903 and after two and half years he entered the Juniorate there. He had Eamon de Valera as one of his teachers. Having perfected for one year, 1908-09, he went to France to do his novitiate and commence his higher studies. Professed in 1910 he started his senior studies in Chevilly. In 1913 he was appointed to Rockwell for another stint as prefect. He was among those who were sent to the USA under the Drexel-Murphy agreement of supplying personnel for parishes for the blacks in exchange for funds for the Irish Senior scholasticate. While studying in the USA he was appointed in 1916 to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he did a further three years as prefect. Finally, in 1919, he continued his studies at Ferndale, Conn., and was ordained in May 1921. In 1922 Fr Kerry was appointed to one of the separate parishes for blacks in New Orleans. Ill-health requiring a change of air, he was appointed to St Peter Claver's parish in Philadelphia and later at St Christopher, Tiverton, RI. When fully recovered in 1943 he was appointed pastor of Holy Spirit, North Tiverton, where he had a long and fruitful pastorate (24 years) in this predominantly Portuguese parish. An accident hastened his death. Fr Kerry Keane died at St Anne's Hospital, in Fall River, 2 March 1967 aged 77 years *SpWW*, 784

**KEANE, Fr Joseph Patrick      1909-1975**



Born 18 July 1909 in Dartmouth Sq., Dublin, Joe was educated at Synge St CBS, where he won a scholarship in the Leaving Certificate. Following in his brother Bernard's footsteps he entered the Congregation in 1926. After his profession in Kimmage, 1927, he took his BSc. with honours in UCD, 1930, availing of the scholarship he had won. He then prefected for two years at Blackrock, during which he suffered a severe attack of rheumatic fever. Ordained in 1935, it was taken for granted that Fr Joe could not be sent to the missions because his heart was so impaired. With characteristic courage he said he would give it a try to see if he could stand up to it. He was in fact to spend 34 years of arduous missionary work in different parts of Nigeria, leaving it only when forced to do so after the Biafra war. He went to Nigeria in 1936, and his first term there lasted without leave for eight years. He was to work in parishes in Onitsha, Nsukka, Awgu, Enugu and Orsumoghu, and in each of these stations he is reported as having left an indelible mark of good missionary work. He taught in St Charles Teacher-training College and Christ the King College, Onitsha, and also in the College of the Immaculate Conception, Enugu. He also held the posts of Consultor, Chancellor, Vicar-General, Diocesan Secretary and the Supervisor of all Catholic Schools in the old Onitsha and Owerri Provinces. Apart from his remarkable intelligence and administrative ability, he was valued because of his straightforwardness. Anything savouring of subterfuge was anathema to him. He was seen to be a man of humility, never pushing himself, and a man faithful to his prayers and his devotions, quietly and unostentatiously. When forced to quit Nigeria in 1970 he worked for awhile in the USA but then volunteered for service in Sierra Leone. Appointed to Yengema Secondary School he taught physics there and looked after a small parish. He was known at this stage as the "young old man" because, in spite of his grey hair, the people saw in him the zest and vitality of a young man. His heart, which had been damaged while a student, finally gave a clear warning that all was no longer well. Fr Joe drove himself to hospital where he died shortly after on December 18th 1975 aged 66 years. *IPNI* 20 Feb 1976

**KEANE, Fr William F.      1866-1938**



Born 4 August 1866 at Abaville, Fohenagh, Co. Limerick, William had been a clerk in a Dublin store for 6 years before he found his vocation and entered the juniorate at Rockwell 1891. In 1895 he was called on to go as prefect with Br Malachy Costelloe to Bathurst, The Gambia, as the mission school was in dire straits because of illness and death affecting those already appointed there. He returned after but one year to take part in the extraordinary novitiate, 1896-97, when there were three separate novitiates in order to ensure that all were professed before being promoted to major orders. He continued his senior studies at Chevilly for one year; then he was among those transferred to St Joseph's, Rockwell, where a new senior scholasticate was launched in 1898. He also prefected for some hours at the college. When that senior scholasticate closed in 1900, William returned to Chevilly where he was ordained in 1901. The following year he was appointed to Sierra Leone where he worked for fifteen years, mainly at Ascension Town. Later we find him on the teaching staff at Blackrock, and from 1920 in America where he served in the black parishes of St. Peter Claver, Philadelphia, Holy Spirit in Opelousa, and Sacred Heart in Lake Charles, La. In 1927 he asked to be

allowed enter the diocesan clergy of Wichita but changed his mind and returned to Ireland where he lived in semi-retirement at the Castle, Blackrock - then the senior house of studies for the province. People had two memories of Fr Bill Keane: Being a simple man people enjoyed a joke at his expense: e.g. when in Sierra Leone someone challenged him to a sprint and when Bill arrived puffing at the terminus he looked back to see his challenger sitting down half-way; all enjoyed his unorthodox way of playing tennis in his late sixties at the Castle; but the most vivid memory of him is that he was always available as confessor. Fr William Keane died 13 May 1938 aged 71 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *SpWW* 449.

### **KEARNEY, Fr John St.J. 1865-1941**



Born 11 June 1865 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, John was a student at Blackrock, 1877-83, just as the first public examinations were being introduced, and was a student at the University College Blackrock, 1883-6, when the Royal University was being launched. He did his philosophy course and prefectured at Blackrock, 1886-90. He went to France to do his Theology, being ordained in 1894. After his novitiate and profession in 1895 he was appointed to Blackrock where at first he taught mainly Mathematics having been a pupil at Blackrock of the famous mathematician, Dr John Casey. He was appointed director of the juniorate in 1896 in succession to Fr John Neville. In 1902, with the introduction of practical science, Fr Kearney, together with Mr James Burke, then a senior scholastic, attended the summer courses given at the College of Science; and with money donated by his family he helped equip the science laboratories. He taught science, produced the college musicals in co-operation with Fr Alphonsus Murphy, conducted the college orchestra and was director of the school sodalities. His Sunday sermons were highly thought of by the students, among whom were John (Cardinal) D'Alton, Dev, Alfred O'Rahilly, J.C. McQuaid etc. After the premature death in Kimmage in 1918 of his former student, Fr Dan Walsh, Fr Kearney was appointed director of the Senior Scholasticate - a post he retained at Kimmage and the Castle, Blackrock, from 1918 till replaced by the newly ordained Fr Patrick O'Carroll in 1937. During all this period he was a formative force not merely within the scholasticate but in the province as his advice was sought and followed in many things such as the launching and production of the *Missionary Annals*, the *Holy Ghost Hymnal*, nomination of candidates for the post of Vicar apostolic etc. He always insisted on maintaining the highest standards, though by some he was rated as too restrictive and austere. Though never on the missions he was eminently pastoral and missionary in his outlook. In his later years he was encouraged by the Provincial, Dr Dan Murphy, to publish in book form the conferences he had been giving to the scholastics and religious Sisters over the years. His genre of writing, poured out in a steady stream of devotional works, was characterised by solid, simple teaching, expressed in a limpid if rather Euclidean style. There was nothing complicated or diplomatic in Fr Kearney's make up; he was known to be totally dedicated to the work in hand to the exclusion of other worthy interests. He was so happy to learn that Dr McQuaid had been appointed Archbishop of Dublin that he could sing his '*Nunc dimittis*'. He died at Kimmage 5 April 1941 aged 75 years. Internment took place at Deansgrange, but when the new cemetery was ready at Kimmage his remains were transferred there. *BCArch*; *MA*, May 1941; *BCA* 1942, 54; *Treasure in Heaven*, XI ff.

**KEATING, Fr Michael Gerard 1940-2001**



Born in Crosshaven, Co. Cork, on 25 February 1940, Michael did his secondary studies. Having opted to join the Congregation Michael was professed in Kilshane 1959. After Philosophy in Kimmage he professed in Blackrock College for two years, 1961-2. Ordained priest in 1965 he was appointed the following year to Kenya. From 1966 till 1984 he worked in St George's High School, the parishes of Giriama, Taveta, Bamba and at Kwale Junior Seminary. In 1984 he went on a sabbatical and was awarded an MA in Education from the University of Duquesne. On returning to Kenya in 1986 he took up a teaching post at St Mary's College, Nairobi. Michael returned to Ireland due to ill health in December 2000. He died on 23 April 2001 aged 61 years. Fr Michael was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin.

**KEATING, Br Livinus (Thomas) 1869-1900**

Born 20 January 1869 in Fodera, Co. Clare, Thomas joined the Christian Brothers but as he wanted to work on the missions he came to Blackrock 7 September 1896 having received a good recommendation from his superiors. There were two novices and six postulants in the novitiate at Blackrock then. It is recorded that he lived up to his reputation. After two years at Blackrock, Livinus was sent to Chevilly to do his novitiate being professed 20 March 1899. He received his appointment for Bathurst (Banjul) in The Gambia to take over direction of the boys' primary school there, a school with 200 on the roll. Towards the end of June 1900 Br Livinus took suddenly ill and after but three days of severe fever he died 29 June aged 31 years. BBR No.206; *BG XX 536*.

**KEATING, Br Samuel (Daniel) 1849-1868**

Born 21 December 1849 at an address given in as 'Glencallaghan', diocese of Cashel, Daniel entered the juniorate at Blackrock, July 1865. He is reported as being a model in his piety, modesty and devotion to his duties but rather slow at the studies. Eventually he was advised to opt for the brotherhood, and by November 1867 we find him in the central Brothers' novitiate at Chevilly in France. Again the notes written about him are highly complimentary. He is described as having a "*humeur toujours égale*", being affable and gentle. His own letter, where he requests the privilege of being admitted to profession, reveals a balanced, simple spiritual outlook, trusting not in himself but in Christ. His novitiate was shortened in view of his period of probation at Blackrock and Chevilly but mainly, one suspects, because an English-speaking Brother was urgently needed by Fr Magloire Barthet in Chandernagor, India, where the French Fathers and Brothers had difficulty in conducting a mission school in an English colony. On 14 December 1867 Br Samuel, as he was by then known, set off for India from Marseilles. He seems to have made a good start in the mission school where his services were welcomed. Gentle in disposition he also showed himself to be energetic when that was required. Within a year he was struck down by a fever which proved fatal. He was comforted in his last hours by his Irish confrère, Fr William Power from Co. Waterford. Fr Barthet in his letter to Paris refers to Br Samuel as an angel and a saint, and remarked that the smile he always wore during life was not banished by death. In later years he was to describe the first Irish Brothers sent to him as "*la crème de la crème*". Br Samuel Keating died 4 September 1868 aged 19 years. BJR No.70; GenArch; *BG VI 708*.

## **KEAWELL, Fr James      1861-1942**



Born 8 November 1861 in Tipperary town James came to Rockwell as a boarder 1878 and entered the Juniorate the following year. After one year as prefect he went to the senior scholasticate in 1882 and was ordained in 1887. After a short period in the novitiate Fr James was transferred to Blackrock where he taught commercial subjects in the Civil Service College and also at second level. Latin, however, was to become his principal subject. He hesitated for years before re-entering the novitiate but, when guaranteed that his order of seniority would date from his first attempt at the novitiate in 1887, he agreed. In 1901 he returned to France where he began the novitiate in company with those whom he had taught all the way through their secondary studies. These younger men found this highly amusing at times whereas Fr James must have found the experience embarrassing. On his return to Blackrock he was appointed Dean of studies in succession to Fr T.A. Pembroke. For a number of years, 1904-09, he produced an excellent College annual giving all the results of the house examinations as well as those achieved in the public examinations at Secondary and University levels. It was also well illustrated with professionally taken photographs. Unfortunately, when he ceased to be Dean in 1909, that Annual ceased publication. Fr Keawell had the reputation of being rather severe as a teacher and somewhat lacking in tolerance of any variation from what was, in his view, "the correct version", which was often merely the version used by the translator he was following. He was known to be so given to using the phrase: "That deserves a '4'" that Sinéad, Bean Dev, used on occasion repeat the phrase when Dev had slipped up on some minor detail. One student who highly appreciated Fr Keawell's assistance when Dean of studies was Frank Duff, future founder of the Legion of Mary: in token of gratitude he presented him with a gold card case purchased on the receipt of his first pay cheque. From 1912 to 1922 Fr Keawell assumed the duties of bursar. Most of those years were difficult ones for the economy of the school because of the restrictions introduced by the Great War and the disturbed state of affairs in Ireland. Yet, it was during this period that Fr Keawell supervised the erection of a much needed concert and assembly hall. After the destruction of much of Dublin in 1916, Fr Keawell was seen to approach the city with his horse and cart in search of supplies for the school. At weekends he travelled to Bray to act as chaplain to a military camp. Later he had a minor clash with the military as the college was being searched for de Valera in 1921. As the soldier searching Fr Keawell's office perused some private letters and remarked facetiously that he did not think padres had any correspondence with females, Fr Keawell told him that he was acting beyond his brief and that he would have him reported to his commanding officer! Conditions were pretty grim for boarders during Fr Keawell's years as bursar. When told that at last he was being released from his onerous post in 1922 he was asked what he planned to do next. "I will return to class immediately" was his uncompromising answer, so much in keeping with his normal way of life. He was never seen to sit down while working: he stood bolt upright beside a high desk whether in the classroom or in his office. Dev was so impressed by this method of working that he had a similar high desk made for his own office. When Fr Keawell returned to the classroom in 1922 he was seen to have mellowed with the years and revealed an impish sense of humour never suspected by former generations of students, one of whom was heard to remark as he stood beside Fr Keawell's grave: "He was hard on us, but we knew he was harder on himself. " After his long stint of dedicated service it was realised that a special era had

ended when Fr James Keawell answered the Lord's roll-call 1 December 1942 aged 81 years. He was buried in Deans Grange. *RJR*; *BCA* 1943 41ff

#### **KEENA, Fr Joseph M.P 1912-1985**

Born 16 October 1912 in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, Joe studied at Blackrock, 1933-34, and finished his secondary studies at Mungret College in 1935. He entered the novitiate and was professed in 1936. Joe was among the last group to do their philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and in 1938 he went to Kimmage to do theology. Ordained in 1941 he joined Fr Richard Harnett the following year to preach missions throughout Ireland. Two years later he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, where his first posting was to St. Peter Claver's in Nairobi. In a short time he gained a great fluency in the Kiswahili language. From 1951 to 1954, and again from 1957 to 1961, he was teaching in Giriama near Mombasa. From 1964 to 1968 he was in charge of the Mission of Zanzibar where his knowledge of the Kiswahili language was of great value to him in the days of the revolution in the island. In all the posts he held in Kenya and Zanzibar he was much loved and respected by his confrères, his pupils and his parishioners. Failing health brought him back to Ireland in 1968, but as soon as his health improved sufficiently he went to England to do pastoral work. Again his work was highly appreciated. Leaving England he went to the USA and for nearly ten years he worked at St. Gerard, Lansing, Michigan. There he was a well-known figure as he cycled on his rounds to hospitals, nursing homes and to visit the sick who were confined to their houses. He took a great interest in the training of altar boys and in the preparation of children for the reception of the Sacraments. Ill-health again forced him to return to Ireland in 1982 and he spent the last three years in Kimmage. He bore his illness with fortitude and patience. Fr Joseph Keena answered the Lord's call for the last time 8 December 1985 aged 73 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI*, 62, Apr 1986.



#### **KEENA, Fr Kieran 1915-1984**

Born 7 September 1915 in Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly, Kieran was orphaned at the age of 12 and was cared for by his aunt, Mrs Agnes North. After his secondary studies at Rockwell he was professed in 1936 at Kilshane. He prefectured in Trinidad from 1937 to 1942 and then resumed his university course after five years, securing an honours BA in Philosophy at UCD in 1944. Ordained in 1947 he worked with the Promotions Unit (The Burse) for a year and was then appointed to Blackrock as Director of the Juniorate in succession to Fr Christy Meagher. In 1950 he acquired the H.Dip.Ed. After one year as Dean of discipline he was to fill the post of Bursar for the next ten years - years of amazing activity and achievement under the dynamic presidency of Fr V.J. Dinan. Fr Kieran was to be involved in a series of innovations which transformed the college: the remodelling of Our Lady's Hall, the laying of new water mains and new heating pipes, the introduction of hot and cold water in the rooms used by the community, the replastering of the college outer walls, the restructuring of many aspects of the college chapel, dining rooms etc. in connection with the college centenary in 1960. In his final year he personally supervised the building of a new wing on to the old Clareville house. And all this time Fr Kieran was to be seen on the tractor in all weathers supervising the care of the college grounds. In 1963 a new field of action opened up



to Fr Kieran in Canada when he was appointed to the then District of Ontario. He joined the staff of Neil McNeil High School, Toronto, and was again active as bursar for some years. His last seven years were spent in pastoral work in the parish of Woodstock. Once again he showed himself a prodigious worker. He was devoted to the people, persevering in regular parish visitation. The people revered him in return. To the immense shock of all at home and abroad he died suddenly 19 June 1984 just a few days after his return from a well-earned holiday in Ireland. He was 68 years at the time. BCArch; *IPNI* 58, September 1984.

### **KELLY, Bishop Ambrose 1900-1952**



Born 24 June 1900 in Newhaven, Sussex, England, of Irish parents, his people lived at Crosthwaite Park, Dun Laoghaire, when Ambrose and his two brothers, Paddy and Jim - later priests - were boarders at Blackrock , 1913-18. Ambrose excelled at games. For two seasons he was captain of the Senior Cricket XI, being a skilful batsman and a destructive bowler. In 1918 he played outhalf on the SCT and won an interprovincial cap. But he was also known to be ‘an inward type, disposed to recollection of spirit.’ He went to the novitiate in Kimmage, being professed in 1919. He did Philosophy at St Mary’s, Rathmines, and UCD, graduating with honours in 1922. While prefecting at Blackrock for the next three years, he played as outhalf on the Past Students’ Firsts (as had Archbishop J.J. McCarthy the previous year), and through his prowess at football he became a popular idol among the students. He was particularly noted for his elusive drop-kicks, and in this he was later emulated by another future bishop, Michael Moloney. He continued his studies in the senior scholasticate, by then transferred to the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained in 1928. Appointed to Sierra Leone the following year, Fr Ambrose’s first posting was to St Edward’s Secondary School, Freetown, under Fr Con. Mulcahy. Fr Mulcahy received him with joy and hoped that ultimately he would take over the secondary school. That was not to be. After one year he was transferred to Moyamba where he relished the open life, the trekking and the ministry. Later he replaced a missionary on leave at Holy Rosary Mission, Blama, and again he was called on to take charge of St Columba’s Mission, Moyumba, on the death of Fr John O’Donnell. Next he was appointed to St Patrick’s, Bonthe, where he spent some years until he returned to Ireland for his first holiday in 1936. In after years to those whose transfer became necessary as replacements because of deaths or holiday arrangements, he used to say by way of consolation: “Look what happened to me! Changed from pillar to post; then they made me a bishop!” While at home on holiday in Ireland he followed the month’s recollection given in Rockwell by Bishop Shanahan and assisted the National Director of the Holy Childhood. In May 1937 he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Sierra Leone in succession to Bishop Wilson, who had retired the previous year owing to ill-health, and was ordained bishop at Blackrock College 24<sup>th</sup> August. The war years were particularly trying for Sierra Leone as the main harbour at Freetown became the principal naval station of the West Coast. And being gentle to a fault he suffered more than somewhat from some of the more senior members of his clergy who insisted on doing it their way regardless. Only after the war, and with the arrival of further personnel, was development and expansion possible. When Bishop Kelly visited Rome with the West African Pilgrimage for the Holy Year in 1950 he had the joy of learning that his vicariate had been raised to the status of a diocese and that he, the successor of Fr James Browne - the first Irishman to head this mission - was to be its first Bishop. But not for long. Sierra Leone’s searching climate was soon to claim



him as it had claimed so many others who were much younger but had passed on the standard of Christ: Fr Joseph Koeberlé - 1865 aged 27, Fr Thomas Bracken 1867 aged 27, and so on. Bishop Ambrose Kelly died 12 Feb. 1952 aged 51 years. Referring to his appointment as bishop it was said of him in the funeral homily: "His titles were different but the man remained the same. That simplicity of outlook, that shyness of manner, that kindness in word and deed so characteristic of him all during his life, remained with him till his dying day. One had to be close to him to catch, almost unawares, the secret deeds that came from his paternal goodness...We who were his priests, who were so close to him, found him more ready to exercise compassion and to sympathise than to wield authority. Not only was he approachable to us but the veriest beggarman at the gate could find a like kindness in his turn.." *BCA* 1930, 64;1952, 62f; *IPNI* 23 March 1952; *Hamelberg*, pp 48ff.

### **KELLY, Fr Bernard Joseph            1910-1993**



Born 16 November in South Circular Road, Dublin, Barney received his early education in James' St CBS. He entered Kimmage as a novice in 1927, but on gaining a scholarship he was sent to Rockwell to continue his studies for the Leaving Certificate. Returned to Kimmage in 1929 he was professed the following year. Having acquired the BA in Philosophy at UCD with First Class Honours, he prefected in Blackrock for one year, 1933-34. The new Provincial, Fr Dan Murphy, who had known Barney's ability as a student in Rockwell, sent him with others to Fribourg to study Theology at the university there. Ordained in 1937 he was awarded the S.T.D. in 1939 with the comment on his thesis '*Nova sed bona*'. Due to the sudden death of the Director of Philosophy, Fr Jack Dempsey, Fr Barney found himself early on in a very challenging office as director of an ever increasing number of students, many of whom were attending the University. He also had to teach a part of the Philosophy course for those not attending the University, and later he taught Patrology and Homiletics to the Theologians. Director of music also, he trained an excellent choir which was called on from time to time to broadcast on Radio Eireann. His only recreation was gardening. He was otherwise constantly at his desk busy with his typewriter preparing his conferences and producing a series of spiritual books. Though considered to be rather abstract in his approach, he was rated the most balanced and easily approached member of the staff, and though a junior in years he had no hesitation in taking a firm stand against what he considered unhelpful interventions by more senior members of the staff e.g., Fr Denis Fahey and Fr Edward Leen. He had a great love for all things Gaelic and even composed some theological writings in Irish, among them a book on Our Lady which for some unknown reason was blocked at the last moment by the censor; a case perhaps adjudged this time *nova sed non bona*. For the guidance of others he published a little dictionary of Irish theological terms. After Fr Edward Leen's death, Fr Barney was called on to shoulder more of the academic teaching. In 1949 he was elected a member of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors in the USA, and in the same year he was at last allowed to set off for the missions. Appointed to Nigeria, he served in the Adazi mission in the newly erected Archdiocese of Onitsha. He found pastoral work a welcome relief from his academic and other demanding duties in Kimmage. Having come to terms with the Igbo dialect, quite typically, he published a simple Igbo grammar. In 1950 he was appointed to the Education Secretariat in Onitsha, and for the rest of his time in Nigeria he was mostly involved in the secretarial and supervisory areas of the educational system. He was very successful as a Supervisor of Schools and was highly regarded and respected by

school managers, teachers and by the Education authority because of his recognised academic qualities, his balanced judgement, common sense and fairness. Recalled to Ireland in 1958 he was deputed to take charge of a new pastoral course to train young priests for the active ministry. Back in Nigeria in 1962, he resumed his Education Post once more. Appointed Vicar General of the Enugu Diocese he moved out to a new parish where he was extremely happy. Then came the Biafra war which eventually forced him to quit his beloved mission and return to Ireland in 1968. He was co-opted as a lecturer in the Mater Dei Institute where he taught till 1980. Sheehan's Apologetics having lost its appeal and the various substitutes having proved unsuccessful, Fr Barney produced a manual of Christian Doctrine for use in secondary schools - one of them in Irish. When, at last he went into active retirement, he served as a chaplain to the Christian Brothers in Drimnagh who deeply appreciated his Irish liturgies; he also got deeply involved in the St Vincent de Paul Conference. He had suffered much throughout his life as he was hypersensitive; but in his last years his greatest cross was his impaired vision. He was recognised as one of the most brilliant minds of the Irish province; he had a great facility for languages, a wide cultural outlook, a very balanced judgement and had a lively sense of humour. Death came unexpectedly: he died 15 May 1993 aged 82 years and was buried in Kimmage. RJR; *IPNI* No.4 1993

#### **KELLY, Br Finbar 1937-2000**



Born 10 May 1937 in Dunmanway, Co Cork, Dan was the only boy in a family of four. He took over the management of the family farm on the death of his father, but after a few years he signed it over to his sister and entered the Congregation at Ardbraccan. He was professed in 1969 taking the name of the Cork patron St Finbar. Appointed to Rockwell he worked on the college farm for some years. Later he took over the management of the college stores. This involved ordering, checking and distributing the goods that came to Rockwell. It was a job of considerable responsibility and very demanding. For example over one thousand meals a day were served at the college. Nothing went astray when Finbar was around. Dependable, efficient, always at hand, were words used to describe his tenure in charge of stores. His great interest in life was Irish music. No session or *fleadh* for miles around was complete without Finbar among the crowd. He was a man of few words, yet with a sense of fun, which belied his rather serious demeanour. He walked every day - usually four to six miles - and was well known to the people of the surrounding area. This was evidenced by the huge attendance at his funeral of the people of the neighbourhood. Br Finbar died suddenly on 25 March 2000. He was 62 years of age. He was interred in the Rockwell Cemetery

#### **KELLY, Fr James P. 1905-1973**

Born 7 January 1905 in Buncrana, Co. Donegal, James spent some time as a farmer and a factory worker before he opted for the priesthood in the USA where he had gone as an emigrant. He studied at the Marist College in Washington and at Villanova College before being professed in the Congregation in 1942 at Rige field. He spent 25 years at St Emma Academy, Powhatan, Va, an academy for black students. He also served as chaplains to prisons in the area. Suffering from cancer of the lungs Fr James Kelly died in Philadelphia 17 August 1973 aged 68 years. *SpWW* 949

**KELLY, Fr Joseph B 1883-1946**



Born 15 February 1883 in Ballystrue, Downpatrick, Co. Down, Joseph suffered from ill-health from his earliest years. Becoming blind after one boyhood illness, he was taken to Lourdes by his parents where he regained his sight. Educated locally by the Christian Brothers and at Mungret College, he came to Blackrock to study for the Matriculation and First Arts under the RUI, 1904-6. There followed two years prefecting at the College and in 1908 he went to France to do his novitiate and senior studies. Ordained in 1913 he was appointed to The Gambia in 1914 serving at Banjul (Bathurst). Affected by sunstroke he was obliged to return to Ireland. In 1917 he was transferred to America, serving for a time at Ferndale house of studies. He was then appointed to work in St Augustine's, the special parish for coloured people at Isle Brevelle, La. For nearly seventeen years he laboured in the 'swamps of Louisiana', always in indifferent health but totally committed to his parishioners who took him as he was with his rather egregious ways, simple, very bashful, but a caring pastor. He was weak in administrative talents but strong in empathy for his flock. He compiled a detailed history of his mission, written in French and English. In 1935 his V.G., who appreciated the sterling work he had seen him perform, promoted him to being pastor of the neighbouring parish, St Anthony's, Natchitoches, La. This charge proved too much of a challenge. Broken in health he retired to the community at Ridgefield. In 1937 he returned to Ireland where he spent sometime with his family and later in Kimmage where he was a favourite Confessor with the scholastics. His health having deteriorated, he spent his final years in the care of St John of God Brothers, Stillorgan, where he died 3 January 1946 aged 62. Fr Joseph Kelly was the first to be buried in the new cemetery at Kimmage. *BCA* 1946 22f; *SpWW* 540.

**KELLY, Fr Michael A. 1880-1931**



Born 9 October 1880 in Fohanagh, Kilmeady, Co. Limerick, Michael received an excellent primary education from his parents, both of whom were school teachers. Sent to Rockwell as a boarder in 1894 he had as contemporaries Denis Fahey, Leonard Graf, Michael Meagher and Michael McGrath, later Archbishop of Cardiff. Among the prefects at the time were Thomas McDonagh of 1916 connection and Joseph Shanahan returned after spending eleven years in France as a student. One is not surprised to learn that Michael was to the fore at studies and extracurricular activities. He opted to join the Congregation on the completion of his secondary studies but as the juniorate was suppressed in 1898 to make place for the senior scholasticate, Michael was transferred to Blackrock to continue his studies for the Royal University. After one year he was appointed prefect and in 1903 he was sent to France to do his novitiate. Professed in 1904 he was sent to Rome to do his senior studies. He secured the Doctorate in Philosophy at the Academy of St. Thomas and the Licentiate in Theology at the Gregorian while attending the French Seminary. Ordained in 1908 he was appointed the following year to the juniorate at Castlehead, Lancashire. He was an immediate success with the students in the classroom, on the playing fields and on their tours of the Lake District. His enthusiasm for the English language and its classics was infectious, his total lack of starchiness and his direct approach were so appreciated by the students that they were shattered when the news of his change to Ireland became known. They petitioned the Superior General to have him retained, but the needs of the Irish Province at this juncture were paramount. Fr

John T. Murphy wanted the best man available for the post of Master of Novices in the new novitiate being launched in Kimmage and he was accorded his request. The Irish province could be said to have begun under the playing captaincy of Fr Michael Kelly. Fr Murphy soon came to the conclusion that with his talents he could be of greater help to the public and to the Irish province by joining forces with the Irish (CSSp) Mission Band which was touring the eastern and southern States of America in a drive to raise funds for the new scholasticate. In 1912 Fr Kelly set off for the USA and for the next 16 years he spent himself generously in the pulpit and the confessional as a member of the Mission Band. He was known to write out all his sermons, correcting and honing them to perfection. He then typed them out and committed them to memory. The final stage, the actual delivery, was always a work of art and highly appreciated by his audience, be they priests, religious, or the laity of the parishes where they gave their missions in State after State. With Fr Kelly were Frs Richard Harnett, Nicholas O'Loughlin, Andrew Sheridan, etc. He was appointed Director of the Mission Band in 1925. One of this team was conferred with the LLD by Duquesne University and when asked in later years was that an honorary degree he replied in all simplicity: "No. I got it for preaching!". This was considered a good joke, but if a member of the Mission Bank lived up to the standard set by Fr Michael Kelly, his life was no joke. Fr Kelly's success might have led to feelings of vanity. Instead as time went on he was haunted by a sense of emptiness and failure. Perhaps it was a classical case of burn-out. He toyed with the idea of joining the Trappists in order to convert to himself. He was dissuaded from taking this course, however. Eventually he persuaded the Superior General, Mgr. Le Hunsec, to allow him return to a more regular religious life where he would have time to reflect and pray. He was transferred to the American province and appointed to Duquesne in 1927. He was put in charge of the Department of Journalism. This post seemed to be what he was best suited for by his gifts and experience. So his students felt immediately. His flair for English, his style, his enthusiasm and vivacity, his sense of fitness in word and act won him unstinted admiration. He took to the new field of activity with wholehearted zest and literally worked himself to death. As he finished his lectures Saturday 23 May 1931 he complained of feeling very unwell. He was rushed to the Mercy Sisters' Hospital where he died a few days later to the consternation of his students and all who had benefited from his retreats and missions. Fr Kelly was 50 years of age when he died 31 May 1931. He was buried in the USA. *BG* XXXV 460ff; *SpWW* 377.

**KELLY, Fr Michael J. 1866-1923**



Born 11 July 1866 in Feakle (or Glendree, Tullagh) Co. Clare, Michael was eighteen years when he entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1884. He completed his secondary studies in four years. He then went direct to the Senior Scholasticate in France where he was ordained in 1893. His first appointment was to St. Mary's, Rathmines, but after a few months he was transferred to St. Mary's, Port of Spain, as teacher of mathematics. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in 1899 when he was re-assigned to St. Mary's. In 1902 he was changed to Blackrock where he again taught mathematics, and after the death of Fr Ebenrecht, 1914, he busied himself with collecting used stamps to make money for the missions. His extensive mathematical copybooks, written in copperplate script, which perished in the 1984 fire, gave evidence of a painstaking teacher. Having suffered from tuberculosis over a long period Fr Michael Kelly died unexpectedly 8 August 1923 aged 57 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange BCArch; *BG*, 31, 729f; *SpWW*, 105.

### **KELLY, Fr Peter Joseph 1909-1985**



Born 11 November 1909 in Charleville, Co. Cork, with an address Castletown, Ballygrane, Co. Limerick, Peadar was a student at Rockwell, 1924-28. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1928 and after his philosophy studies he was appointed to Rockwell as prefect in 1931. Having contracted tuberculosis he was sent to Montana, Switzerland, to do his theology. After his ordination there in 1935 he was appointed directly to Kenya where he was to spend the next forty-nine years being District Superior from 1950 to 1959. He was engaged in teaching at Kabaa, 1935-39, at Mangu, 1939-42 and at Bura 1942-46. He then spent two years in the USA on a fund-raising mission. In 1948 he returned to Bura for pastoral work and was appointed District Superior of Kenya in 1950. For the following 25 years he was engaged in parish work, especially in the parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, at Nairobi, 1969-79. Due to ill-health he retired to Kimmage in 1984. Fr Peadar was recognised as a pioneer missionary and a leader. Outgoing in temperament and a cheerful companion he was a great teller of stories, even against himself. He died in Spain 30 January 1985 as he was replacing a chaplain for ministry at a holiday resort. He was aged 75 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* February and May 1985.

### **KELLY, Fr Timothy 1928-1977**



Born 11 August 1928 in Cork City, Tim studied at Rockwell and entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1946. He then studied at Kimmage and UCD and did his one year prefecting as assistant to the bursar. Ordained in 1955 he was assigned to Nigeria in 1956 where he worked for 12 years, first as editor of the Catholic newspaper - '*The Leader*'. Later he worked in education the Owerri diocese and then in at various high schools in the Owerri-Umuahia diocese at Thilte, Ohafia and Osu. Due to the Civil War he returned to Ireland in 1968. He did parish work in Hove, Sussex, and then suffered a heart attack from which he never fully recovered. In 1972 he went to Canada where he served as Provincial bursar in Ontario and later as assistant pastor in Alberta at Crowsnest and Holy Spirit, Edmonton. Because of ill-health he retired from active ministry in 1977 and died a few months later at the Holy Spirit Rectory, Edmonton 3 July 1977. He was aged 48 years. *IPNI* No. 28, August 1977; *SpWW* 1032.

### **KELLY, Mr Thomas 1878-1904**



Born 16 November 1878 in Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary, Thomas came to Rockwell as a boarder, and after having done Senior Grade he joined the Juniorate in September 1896. He studied for the Matriculation, which was then a separate year under the RUI, and was clothed with the habit of the Congregation in 1897. He began his prefecting at Rockwell that same year and was to feature regularly on the Club team where he had as team mate Joseph Shanahan. He went to the novitiate in Grignon, France, in 1903. The onset of tuberculosis made it impossible for him to stay long in Grignon. By November he was sent to a sanatorium near Paris but, as that institution closed for Christmas, he was sent to Langonnet far away in Brittany. The long journey worsened his condition, hastening his death. He died more suddenly than expected 12 January 1904. It is on record that he had received the Sacrament of the Sick but there is no evidence of his having made his vows. An interesting letter from him while in France to Michael Smithwick, then a lay teacher at Rockwell, throws much light on the life

of prefects and lay teachers at Rockwell. It also underlines the contrast between life as experienced by a prefect and the regime in the senior scholasticate in France. *BG IX* 466.

#### **KENNEALLY, Fr Martin 1850-1927**



Born 17 October 1850 in Ballylanders, Co. Cork, Martin entered the French College, Blackrock, in 1865. After his secondary studies and prefecting (1865-71) he did his studies for the priesthood in France, mostly in Langonnet, the former Cistercian monastery acquired by the Congregation in 1857. Ordained in 1875 he taught Philosophy for one year at Langonnet before being appointed to Trinidad. Feeling that he had a vocation for the contemplative life he applied to be released from his vows in 1882 and entered the Cistercian order in Mount Melleray where he was known henceforth as Fr Joseph. Appointed secretary to the Procurator General he was transferred to Rome in 1889. In 1903 he was assigned to the recently reopened abbey of Citeaux where among his many duties he taught theology. In 1911 he was appointed Prior - a post he held until his death 20 September 1927. He was revered as a saintly monk. *BCA* 1962 p.170; Fr Joseph Kenneally - Monk of Mount Melleray, Prior of Citeaux Mount Melleray by Fr Uinseann O Maidín OCSO, 1998.

#### **KENNEDY, Br Agricola (Thomas) 1849-1926**

Born 15 August 1849 in Connolly, Kilmaley, Ennis, Co. Clare, Thomas was apprenticed to a master carpenter and worked at this trade until he was 28 years. He entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1877 and was professed in 1880. Fr Larry Healy, his fellow countyman, who had known him in the early years at Rockwell, wrote of him later in life as follows: "He was a carpenter who did his work with ease and despatch. In everything he designed or accomplished you saw evidence of the skill and training of the master tradesman. Spinal trouble made him cease carpentry but his intelligence and his organising ability were put to use in other functions." We find him listed in the *Etat* as prefect in charge of the study and of the book shop, as receptionist and infirmarian. In 1904 he was transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, and three years later we find him at Blackrock where he served in the Castle, which was still a hostel for university students. Finally, he moved to Clareville to replace his fellow county man, Br Rumold, the master tailor. He served the Congregation well, not least by his good example and, though prone to throwing a fit of temper at times when over pressed, all knew he had a kind heart and that struggling with his temper had been a life-long matter. His biographical *notice* in the *Bulletin Général*, written by German Fr Ferdinand Senger, stressed that he was a native Irish speaker and loved to use the many Irish blessings for various occasions. Br Agricola Kennedy died 4 October 1926 aged 77 years. He was buried in Deans Grange. *RBR; État; BG XXXIII, 34; LH, 269.*

#### **KENNEDY, Br Mary Cronan (Thomas) 1901-1962**



Born 15 September 1901 in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, Thomas trained as a carpenter, took part in the War of Independence and then travelled extensively before settling for some years in Australia. Returning to Ireland he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Kilshane where he was professed in 1945. He remained on for several years at Kilshane,

operating the sawmill there in conjunction with George Corbett. Later he transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he found to his exasperation that much of his time was spent repairing broken windows! He did, however, get a chance to use his skills to better advantage in some work incorporated into the new church. His last years were dogged with ill-health. Br Mary Cronan died 10 March 1962 aged 61 years and was buried in Kimmage. *StMRCA*, 1962, 31.

### **KENNEDY, Fr Denis      1898-1984**



Born in Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary, on 20th December 1898, Denis did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1912-16. Having prefectured at Rockwell from 1916 to 1919, he entered the Novitiate in Kimmage, making his profession in 1920. He studied Philosophy at UCD while residing at St Mary's, Rathmines, and obtained a BA (1<sup>st</sup> Cl. Hons.) in 1923. He did Theology in Kimmage, the Castle (Blackrock) and the Gregorian University, Rome, where he was awarded a DD. Ordained to the priesthood in Rome, Fr Denis was sent in 1928 to Nigeria where he taught in the Seminary for four years. Having been involved in an accident where he injured his eye, he returned to Ireland and from 1932 to 1934 he taught at St Mary's College, Rathmines. In this period he obtained a H.Dip.Ed. and MA in Education at UCD. Next, he was appointed bursar to the new novitiate house in Kilshane. He returned to the Seminary in Nigeria for a further four Years. From 1938 to 1940 he was once more studying in Rome, and was awarded a Licentiate in Canon Law. Between 1941 and 1945 he was a military chaplain with the Allied forces. In 1946-47 he was professor of Moral Theology in Kimmage. After a year in Blackrock he was sent by the Provincial in 1948 to South Africa on a fact-finding mission with a view to a possible involvement there. The Congregation was asked to take charge of a general senior seminary there but the great need for all available personnel in Nigeria blocked such a project at that juncture. From 1949 to 1952 Fr Denis was Director of the International Scholasticate in Rome. In 1962 he returned to Blackrock College, where he taught French and in his spare time developed skills in painting. He was to remain on in Blackrock till within a few months of his death. When Fr Denis taught Moral Theology in Kimmage after the war, the scholastics soon discovered that under a cloak of apparent severity he was a very kindly man, ready to champion the underdog. They also appreciated his volcanic eruptions in the face of certain hidebound approaches to life, theological thinking and ecclesiastical practice. As a teacher of secondary students he found it difficult to restrain his temper at times when dealing with the unco-operative student, but it was fascinating to see how quickly younger children related to him as he walked the grounds at Blackrock in his later years. Fr Denis, a private and prayerful man, was much respected by his confreres for his intelligence, uprightness and clarity of teaching. He cut through obfuscation and held to the simple basics of moral and religious life. Fr Denis Kennedy died at Kimmage 26 May 1984 aged 85 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No 58 Sept 1984; *BCA* 1984 168.

### **KENNEDY, Fr John A      1913-1980**



Born 23 June 1913 in Kilcommon, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, John did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1928-33. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate at Kilshane where he was professed in 1934. He did Philosophy in Kimmage during the following two years and was then appointed prefect in St Mary's, Trinidad. Returning to Kimmage, 1939, he

began Theology and was ordained in 1942. Fr John was appointed to East Africa in 1943 being stationed for a period in Zanzibar. On leaving Zanzibar he and Fr Peter Lydon opened the new missions of Mboni and Kaumoni in Machakos District. He served at the Brothers' juniorate in Kimmage and Kilshane, 1960-62, and then he returned once more to Kenya. He was assigned to Eastleigh Parish in Nairobi City. He was the first parish priest of the new mission at Ruruka from which he moved next to St Peter Claver's Parish, Nairobi. This was to be his final assignment. While there he was diocesan director of the Legion of Mary and did a lot to promote the Legion throughout the diocese. His death came unexpectedly, dying in his sleep Christmas Night 1980 after a brief indisposition. Fr John Kennedy was 67 years of age. The attendance at his funeral of the Cardinal, four of Kenya's bishops and a large number of clergy and of the laity was a sign of the appreciation people had of a quiet, unassuming man - a man of God. *IPNI* 45, Feb. 1981; *RCA*, 1981, 115

**KENNEDY, Fr Michael 1896-1977**



Born 2 July 1896 in Bloomhill, Ballinahowen, near Athlone, Michael entered the juniorate at Blackrock in 1911 where he had as director, Dr Jim Murphy. Michael secured honours in all the public examinations culminating in Senior Grade and Matriculation in 1915. He was then called on to do two years prefecting at the college before going to the novitiate in Kimmage. He attended UCD from St. Mary's, Rathmines, and secured a scholarship and first Class Honours in his B.A. degree in 1921. There followed another year as prefect at Blackrock during which he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. Sent to Rome to do his theological studies at the Gregorian University, he resided at the French seminary where he had as confrere for a period, Fr J.C. McQuaid. Both were to obtain Doctorates in Theology. While in Rome Fr Kennedy took an active part in the Sistine choir where he perfected his knowledge of and proficiency in Polyphonic Singing and Plain Chant. Ordained in 1924 he was appointed the following year to the Senior Scholasticate at The Castle, Blackrock, with the duties of Professor of Moral Theology and Assistant Director. He was also given charge of Liturgy and direction of the Choir. It was as choirmaster that he made his immediate impact, starting a tradition in fine singing that was to be the hallmark of the senior scholasticate of the Congregation for many years. Fr Kennedy was co-opted as a member of the Priests' Choir for the Eucharistic Congress and was appointed Examiner in Chant for the schools the archdiocese of Dublin. In 1933, when the students in theology transferred from the Castle to Kimmage which had been vacated by the novices, Fr Kennedy remained on at Blackrock as Director of Philosophy. From 1926 to 1931 he was called on to teach Ethics. In 1935 he transferred to Kimmage to be more closely associated with the theologians as professor and bursar of the community. Then, as the major building operation was started to provide adequate accommodation for the increasing number of vocations, Fr Kennedy was appointed Provincial bursar with special responsibility for supervising the planning of the buildings and the landscaping of the grounds. He proved an ideal choice for this post. His first major suggestion was that the proposed church be sited facing the main avenue rather than between the new and old buildings backing on to the connecting corridor - 'The Venerable Libermann', as it was called. The church owes much to the strong sense for architecture he had acquired during his years in Italy and his innate artistic sense guided his choice in the interior decoration, the superb stained-glass windows from the Harry Clarke Studios, the Oppenheimer mosaic with the appropriate Pentecostal theme, the Stations of the Cross by Richard King, etc. And as



Fr Kennedy attended to his multiplicity of duties within and without he carried his burdens lightly and with a gentle air of simplicity. It was with some shock then that his transfer to Blackrock as President in 1942 was learned by the students, who had come to appreciate his humanity and caring approach to their needs. His departure could not have come at a more critical juncture when the austerities imposed by the World War II called for the exercise of skills of organisation and a humane approach on the part of the Bursar. Kimmage's loss was Blackrock's gain. Every aspect of the educational life profited from his skills and vision. The economies imposed by the Emergency-Years in the matter of providing material improvements were not allowed to cramp Fr Kennedy's style in areas that mattered. Typical was his call for the resumption of the College Annual which had been axed in the economy drive, 1940 & 41. The various aspects of a broad cultured formation for students received an impetus from him. Games were not overlooked: in 1945 he sponsored the erecting of an ample Sports pavilion for the Past Students' RFC on the college grounds. He realised its importance for fostering a tradition of loyalty among the alumni to the College. His administrative talents and his vision later led to his being elected chairman of the Catholic Headmasters' Association on two separate occasions: 1954-50 and 1957-62. His major extension of the college complex was the purchase in 1944 of St Michael's, Ailesbury Road, as a site for expanding the preparatory school operating at Willow Park since 1935. When his term as president expired in 1950 he was appointed to St. Mary's, Rathmines, where he returned to the class room, 1950-52, and then served as bursar 1952-7. Appointed superior in 1957 he was to serve for six years. During these years he enlarged the school premises and provided a chapel adequate for the needs of the expanded school. This chapel in its amplitude and finish remains his fitting monument. During the years 1957-62 he also acted as assistant Provincial superior. In spite of his many achievements and heavy burdens, Fr Kennedy always appeared totally relaxed and imperturbable. If at times he appeared to some to lack verve and enthusiasm for any particular cause it was perhaps but the symptom of his deep inner peace which did not allow him to be troubled by the excitements of the moment. And when he had to face the burden of suffering in his later years, he did so with the same undaunted courage based on his reserves of inner peace. Fr Kennedy left the Irish province deeply in his debt as he answered the Lord's call for the last time 19 May 1977 in his eightieth year. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr Kennedy was an uncle of Fr Paddy Joe Heneghan CSSp. *BCA* 1942, 18f, 1977, 87f; *IPNI* 1977 No 28; *StMRA* 1977.

### **KENNEDY, Fr Patrick Anthony 1910-1955**



Born 11 February 1910 in Townsend St, Inchicore, Dublin, Patrick received his early education from the Christian Brothers. He seems to have spent some time as a trainee motor mechanic as he was much in demand for servicing community cars during his student days. Having decided to go on for the priesthood he did his studies at Rockwell , 1926-31, where he was remembered for his maturity of outlook, his dedication to work - academic and manual. He was the backbone of Fr J.N. Müller's band and was prominent in the choir. Professed in Kimmage in 1931, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, 1932-34. He was a steady and solid student having to work hard because he was not particularly gifted academically. He was known as a no-nonsense type - and a plain Dubliner. Once again he was to the fore in the orchestra and choir. He prefectured at Rockwell for one year, 1934-35, where he was remembered for his sterling performance on the Rockwell club team and his maintenance of the two college motor-cars. He resumed his senior studies in 1935. Ordained in 1938 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. His first missions were all in Owerri Province, then part of the single Vicariate Apostolic of Onitsha-Owerri, first at Umahia, then at Mbuta Okhia and Ahiara. He was later transferred to Onitsha Province, where he worked in Enugu, Dunukofia and Maku. His ability for organising teams, choirs and bands helped him immensely in the main work of evangelisation. Though of an athletic build his health had never been really robust. He suffered much from varicose veins and was subject to bouts of fever. A few weeks before his death he was admitted to Enugu hospital suffering from severe pains. It was first thought that it was some form of malaria but later it was diagnosed that he was suffering from leukaemia. After a few weeks of intense suffering borne with edifying fortitude Fr Patrick Kennedy died 31 July 1955 aged 45 years. *Missionary Annals*, November 1955

### **KENNEDY, Fr Thomas 1903-1973**



Born 21 November 1903 in Limerick, Tom did his secondary studies at the CBS before entering the novitiate at Kimmage in 1921. Professed in 1922 he studied at St Mary's, Rathmines, and at UCD, obtaining the BA in 1925. Then followed three years prefecting at Rockwell where he was remembered as a hard worker, good at everything he was asked to do. He had a good manner with the boys and had little problems in maintaining discipline. He was recalled as being uncommonly enterprising during his years in the senior scholasticate as exemplified by his having introduced base-ball and having procured equipment for games. He was ordained in 1931 and the following year was appointed to Trinidad. Strangely, in spite of his known qualifications, he confided to a confrère later that he found the place and the system almost unbearable at first. He obviously overcame this initial impression - the rest of his life was spent at St Mary's as a teacher, but his activities once more ranged far beyond the classroom. He became the heart and soul of the school's first sea scout troop and generated enthusiasm for whatever cause he took up. During World War II he was active as local chaplain for the troops stationed on the island. On one occasion he boarded the ship in pursuit of his pastoral duties and when the ship left at short notice taking Fr Tom with it, he had to be flown back to his school duties from the first port of call. Endowed with a sense of humour he could get along with anyone and

usually manage to turn things to good. Even when on holidays in Ireland, 1956/7, he set about organising matters in favour of the Hungarian refugee children stationed in Co. Clare. Not known to have ever been ill even for a day in his life, Fr Thomas Kennedy died suddenly while on his next holiday in Limerick, 13 September 1973 aged 69 years. He was buried at Rockwell. He was a brother of Fr Walter Kennedy CSSp. *SpWW* 952

### **KENNEDY, Fr Walter 1913-1996**



Born 1 December 1913 in Limerick, Wat did his secondary studies in Rockwell College where he starred on the Senior Rugby team and was an automatic choice as captain of the Munster Schools Interprovincial side. Professed in Kimmage in 1933 he did Philosophy in the Castle, and after securing the BA he prefected in Rockwell, 1936-38. Ordained in 1941 Fr Wat was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he was to spend all his active priestly life. Active certainly he was. "The first 35 years of his life spent in St Mary's were years of joy and success in the apostolate of education. Fr Wat immersed himself in the ministry of education. He brought to the service of the boys all the energy and all the great qualities of mind and heart that God ad generously blessed him with. His dedication, his sincerity , his affectionate nature, his cheerfulness, his genuine interest in each boy, endeared him to the hearts of all. For the boys, the past pupils and the rugby club, Fr Wat was the most popular priest in St Mary's. He was himself a living sermon on Christian joy and friendliness and gentleness, which he made contagious . this first part of his life was crowned with success - success as a faithful and committed priest, success as a dedicated teacher of religion and science, success as an able and competent rugby trainer, success as a most loving and loveable human being." The suddenly and unexpectedly he began to enter what could only be described as the Dark night of the Soul. He was gripped by the dreadful disease of depression in its most acute and painful form, and for many a long year his life was a crucifixion of spirit with periods of intermission that were few and brief. For some 20 years Fr Wat staggered around under the dreadful weight of sadness and fear, of guilt and of loneliness." Removed to the shelter and care of Marian House early in 1994 it was noticed that the dark clouds began to break up and like Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony the rays of the setting sun were seen to suffuse Wat's life and countenance. Some of the old cheerfulness, the smile, and even the laughter were in evidence again. The on July 27 1996 when the Lord called Fr Watt by name he answered his last '*Anseo*' with his youthful enthusiasm. Fr Walter Kennedy was 83 years of age. He was a brother of Fr Thomas CSSp. *IPNI* No. 4 1996

### **KENNY, Br Andrew (James) 1913-1984**



Born 24 October 1913 in Ballbeg, Ferns, Co. Wexford, James studied at Gorey CBS. He then worked at farming and as a post office assistant. In 1947, at the age of 34, he entered the Congregation, making his profession at Kilshane in 1949. Br Andrew's first appointment was to Kimmage where he spent from 1949 to 1956 working as receptionist, gardener and assistant bursar. *From 1956 to 1971?* he was stationed at Ardbraccan. By then his health had seriously deteriorated and he had a hard struggle due to his diabetes and occasional attacks of epilepsy. Yet he was an outgoing person with many friends among the laity wherever he was

stationed, and he was caring towards the sick. After sometime at Kilshane Br Andrew Kenny retired to Kimmage where he died 25 February 1984 aged 70 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNL* 57 May 1984

### **KENNY, Fr Desmond Joseph 1927-2000**



Born on 26 June 1927 at Leinster Road, Dublin, Des did his secondary studies at Synge St CBS. Following in the footsteps of his uncle Fr Bertie Farrell and his brother Milo, Des joined the Congregation in 1944. Professed in 1945 he studied at Kimmage and UCD, qualifying for the BA in 1948. He professed in Trinidad for three years, 1948-51, and was ordained priest in 1954. Appointed the following year to Sierra Leone he served for a year at Gerihun and then was transferred to St Edward's secondary school in Freetown. He was editor of *Freeman* from 1958 to 1963 and in 1960 he was named to administer the cathedral parish of the Sacred Heart in Freetown. The parish counted 4,292 Catholics and 350 catechumens, a staff of four priests, one Brother and five Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny while operating four primary schools in which fifty teachers instructed over 1,900 students. In his spare time he served as port chaplain at Freetown, bookshop manager and district procurator. From 1961 to 1968 Des was Director of Catechetics in the Diocese of Freetown and Bo. From then on he served as Parish priest of Freetown for six years. From 1974 to 1980 he served as Chancellor of the Diocese of Freetown and Bo, and from 1976 to 1981 he was Secretary General of the Episcopal Conference for Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, and also National Director of PMAS. In 1982 he returned to Ireland for health reasons. Again from 1983 to 1985 he was Assistant Director of PMAS, and then for two years as Director of Promotions. He then served for three years as Assistant Superior of Kimmage Manor. The last of his many appointments came in 1996 when he became Director of Marian House. His gentle disposition and non-threatening manner made him ideal for this post. Unfortunately after three years service there he was obliged by ill health to retire. Fr Des died in St Vincent's Hospital on 3 June 2000 aged 72 years. He was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. IprArch;

### **KENNY, Mr Michael J. 1891-1916**



Born 27 September 1891 in Ballygarry, Bangor-Erris, Co. Mayo, Michael came as a boarder to Blackrock in 1906 and joined the Juniorate the following year. He professed 1910-1914 in Blackrock. He did his novitiate at Kimmage in 1914, and after his profession in 1915 he was sent to the USA under the Mother Katharine Drexel deal to do his studies at Ferndale with a commitment to working in the special parishes for the blacks entrusted to the Congregation. Unfortunately Michael became a victim of typhoid fever and died 25 June 1916 aged 24 years. *BG* XXIX 392; *BJR* 800; *SpWW* 235.

### **KENNY, Fr Myles 1923-1998**



Born 7 November 1923 in Waterford Milo attended Synge St. CBS, Dublin. Following in the footsteps of his uncle Fr Bertie Farrell he joined the Congregation and was professed in 1941. He studied at Kimmage and UCD, gaining a MSc. Ist Class Honours in 1945. He prefected at Blackrock for two years and qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. Sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, to do Theology he was ordained priest in 1951 and graduated summa cum laude the following year. Appointed to Owerri district he served at Nsu, Ahiara, for three years and then taught for one year at Holy Spirit Teachers Training College in Umuahia before transferring to Stella Maris Secondary School in Owerri. Three years later he was appointed to teach in the national secondary school at Arondizougu. He was then called on to serve at the Spiritan seminary in Isieniu and at the Bigard Memorial Seminary in Enugu. When the Biafran war broke out in 1967 he was seconded to relief work at Orlu and at Libreville, Gabon. In 1970 he left Nigeria and served for one year in the USA. He then went to Brazil working in the Sao Paulo area but was forced by illness to return to the USA. After one year at Florida he joined the Spiritan group in New Orleans and served in several parishes. Fr Myles was diagnosed in 1997 as suffering from a tumour on the brain and he died 26 January 1998 aged 74 years. Fr Myles was a brother of Fr Desmond. IPArch.: IPrNI No.1 1998

### **KEOGH, Br Brendan (Vincent) 1924-2000**



Born 13 October 1924 in Florence St, S.C.Rd, Dublin, Vincent did his secondary studies in St Mary's College, Rathmines. Due to his having suffered from meningitis at the age of five his hearing was badly impaired. In spite of this disability he was always keen on sport. A good rugby player, he was a formidable opponent in the front row of the scrum and fearless in his total commitment to a tackle. He entered the Congregation in 1943, taking the same name as his elder brother, Brendan, and made his Religious profession in Kilshane in 1944. His first appointment was to Kilshane where he remained until 1946. From 1946 to 1967 he served in Kimmage Manor where his main function was in charge of the furnace and central heating system after Br Patrick had been transferred to Blackrock. Brendan was closely associated with the seminarians, playing occasionally on their teams and hosting some for a surreptitious and forbidden cigarette. When challenged about this by the Director of Theologians, Fr Pat O'Carroll, Brendan pretended he could not hear a word that was being said. Finally Fr Pat said: "You rogue!" and then handed him a box of cigarettes! Life in a furnace room was no picnic, so a change was called for. Brendan then spent five years in Templeogue College where his main function was to attend to the gymnasium and swimming pool. In 1972 Brendan received what was to be his final assignment, namely to Willow Park School. There his main functions were chauffeur to the school and community and official courier. Brendan liked social life but had to suffer much because of his defective hearing. He had a great sense of humour and a quick wit. As he loved going to football matches he looked forward to the age when he could avail of free travel. This was heaven for him, but it was short lived as the onset of heart trouble cut short such activity. As the years went on his ailments increased but he never allowed that to get him down. He had planned a pilgrimage to Fatima when he took seriously ill and after several bouts of surgery he

died unexpectedly in Marian House on 18 July 2000 aged 75 years. Br Brendan was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 2 2000

**KIERNAN, Fr Thomas 1855-1884**

Born 3 November 1855 in Killenagh, Tullintanty, Co. Cavan, Thomas came to Rockwell in 1872 and was transferred for some months to Blackrock in 1876. Ordained in 1881, Fr Thomas was appointed to the College of the Immaculate Conception, Pondicherry, India, the following year. The school was struggling for recognition by the local authorities at the time and Fr Kiernan's arrival on the staff was welcome. Within two years he succumbed unexpectedly to what seemed but a mild attack of fever which he thought to shake off while still attending to his duties in the school. Fr Thomas Kiernan died 4 December, 1884, aged 28 years. His brother Robert, who was in the senior scholasticate in France, left the Congregation after he had been ordained because his family feared that he might meet with the same fate as Thomas in the event of his being sent to "one of those murderous climates." *BG* 13 505,1174; *BCA* 1962,208.

**KILGANNON, Fr Patrick . 1924-1976**



Born 11 February 1924 in Greenville, MountBellew, Co. Galway, Paddy was a student at Blackrock, 1938-43, as was his younger brother, Peter, *qv*, and his uncle, Fr Bill Carroll, *qv*. Patrick won his place on the college senior rugby teams in 1942 and '43. Professed, 1944, he prefectured for two years at Blackrock, 1945-47, and qualified for the BA, 1949. Ordained 1953 Fr Paddy was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he spent ten years serving at Njala Komboya. After the death of his brother, Fr Peter, in Nigeria (*qv*), Patrick was transferred to Owerri in 1963. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in 1966. Partially recovered, he took up duty as curate in his home diocese of Tuam in Williamstown, Co. Galway, and later in Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo, where his presence was very specially appreciated by the parishioners and they complained bitterly to the Archbishop about his removal on the plea that there was not sufficient work for him to do. He became very seriously ill shortly after and had major surgery for cancer. Fr Patrick Kilgannon died 31 October 1976 aged 52 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1977 No. 25; *BCA* 1977 94.

**KILGANNON, Fr Peter 1925-1962**



Born 28 June 1925 in Greenville, Mountbellew, Co. Galway, Peter entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1938 together with his elder brother, Patrick, they being introduced to the Congregation by their uncle, Fr Bill Carroll. After his profession in 1945 he studied at Kimmage and at UCD where he took the B.A. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1948-50, where he had charge of the juniors and trained the JCT. He was a particularly successful prefect, highly thought of by the students. Ordained in 1953 he was appointed to Owerri, Nigeria, where his uncle was working. Peter worked first at the parish of Mbutu-Okohia, then at the Junior Seminary of St Peter Claver at Okpala. Later he served as parish priest at Ahiara and then at the minor seminary at Obowo. After a period in Ireland he returned to Ugiri parish from where he moved to his last appointment, the Annunciation Secondary

College at Isuikwutao in the newly erected diocese of Umahia. While looking after his own buildings he took over the completing of the buildings for a hospital in a nearby parish when the pastor was on leave. Meanwhile he took his own classes and looked after the busy weekend ministry in the parish. He never spared himself and was always a cheerful companion. Involved in a motor accident, he died 17 April 1962 aged 36 having received the last sacraments with cheerful resignation from his uncle Fr Bill. BCArch; *BCA* 1962 77.

### **KINGSTON, Fr John      1870-1939**



Born 28 August 1870 in Birr, Co. Offally, John entered the boarding school at Rockwell in 1885, and in February 1887 he was among seven who joined the Juniorate under the influence, it is said, of Br Paulinus Colgan, the college baker at the time. When the Juniorate was closed the following year the scholastics were transferred to Blackrock, where John studied for the Matriculation, then a separate year after Senior Grade. He went to the Senior Scholasticate in 1889 but was recalled to Rockwell as prefect the following year, and he was to serve in that capacity for the next eight years, playing a significant part in the revival of Rockwell's fortunes at various levels under the leadership of Dr Edward Crehan. In 1898 he was at last free to go to France to do his novitiate but after his profession he was sent back once more to Rockwell, this time to complete his theology at the senior scholasticate in Lake House. Ordained in Ireland, 1900, Fr John's first appointment was to St Mary's, Rathmines, where, apart from being Dean of studies, he is given as teaching English, French, Italian, Celtic (Irish) and commerce. During this period he published a text book for schools entitled, *The Ideal Book of Poetry*, the name being suggested by Professor O'Donovan of UCD, who wrote the foreword. It remained for many years a favoured text book in use not merely at home but also on the missions. When the secondary school at St Mary's closed its doors in 1916, Fr Kingston was transferred to Rockwell, where he served as Dean of studies for another two years. In 1918 he took over as bursar from veteran Fr James Cotter and he was to fill this post during troubled times for Rockwell from 1918 till 1935. These words appear in an appreciation published after his death: "His work was always efficiently done, and always unobtrusively. He sought no praise and was uncomfortable when his work was referred to in public. He was strong, but not ungentle; dignified, but unpretentious. In his dealings with others he was eminently broad-minded, listening courteously to what they had to say, ready to admit a mistake if he had made one - the perfect type of the Catholic gentleman. In all the fifty years I knew him I never heard his voice raised in anger with anyone. The humble workers in the college or on the farm he treated, not as servants, but as "men, brothers in Christ Jesus", as St Paul had it. It is little wonder, then, that one and all regarded him with a respect that bordered on love." He was noted for his kindness to the poor, and one of them remarked when Fr Kingston took ill: "Wisha, 'tis a pity anything to happen to poor Fr Kingston." Fr Kingston came to Dublin for treatment and he stayed at Clareville for some months, being cared for by his nieces, sisters of Cathal Brugha of War of Independence fame. Fr John Kingston died in Clareville 23rd December 1939 aged 69 years. He was buried in Rockwell. PS. Fr Kingston was responsible for Padraic O'Conaire and others coming to the Juniorate in Rockwell from Miltown-Malbay where Fr Kingston's uncle was the Parish priest. *RCA*, 1940, 34; *État*

### **KILLIAN, Fr Nicholas 1915-2000**

Nicholas was born on 15 May 1915 in Ballybrian, Fahy, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.



Having opted for service as a diocesan priest, Nick entered Maynooth College where he secured the BA degree and had begun his theology when he opted to serve as a missionary priest. On deciding to enter the Congregation he was professed in 1939 and resumed his theological studies, this time in Kimmage Manor.

Ordained priest in 1941 his first appointment was to Rockwell College where he served for one year, 1942-43. Assigned to the Vicariate of Zanzibar he had to face the perilous voyage at a time when submarines posed a deadly threat to ships. His first year in Kenya was spent in pastoral work in the Holy Family Church, Nairobi. Then began a long stint in educational work: first in St Mary's School, 1945-49, then in the junior seminary in Kilimanbogo, 1950-54, Mangu High School, 1954-57, the seminary at Ngong, 1959-65, and finally at Kilungu's secondary school, 1960-69. Thereafter he did pastoral ministry at Mboni till 1973, and at Makueni in the Diocese of Mombasa till 1979. He is mentioned as having served also in Thomeandu, Mbone, and Tala. In 1980 he moved to the mission of Kilungu where he remained in active retirement. He was seen to be a man totally dedicated to the will of God, even when it came in the form of being told that his active career was over because of cancer being diagnosed. He thanked God for his years in Kenya and asked all present for forgiveness for any offence he might have caused anyone. He went back to Ireland for treatment and when sufficiently recovered he returned to help out as best he could in active retirement in the company of two African priests many years his junior. Serious ill health obliged him finally in July 1996 to call it a day. He returned to Ireland and was cared for in Marian House where he bore patiently the increasing infirmities of old age. He died on 28 January 2000 aged 84 years. Fr Nicholas was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin. *IPN* No.1 2000; *KEASM* No. 484;

### **KINNERK, Fr Patrick J.J. 1915-1981**



Born 8 March 1915 in Ennis, Co. Clare, Pat did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1929-1933. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate under Fr J.J. McCarthy in Kilshane. Professed in 1934 he went on to take an honours BA at UCD in 1937 and profected for two years at Rockwell. Ordained in 1942 he was appointed the following year to Onitsha Vicariate in Nigeria where he served for the next twenty years, mainly at the College of the

Immaculate Conception at Enugu and at Holy Cross College at Akwa. In 1963 he was transferred to USA where he was to serve for a further twenty years, again in the interests of Nigeria as he took on the task of fund-raising for the new Spiritan province in the land of the Igbo people. He continued in that function and in pastoral work with meticulous care from the Long Island Irish Spiritan community. From 1972, however, his failing kidneys and the need for dialysis handicapped his activities. Death, which had been so close to him for so long, came in the early morning of 24 June 1981. Fr Patrick Kinnerk was 66 years of age. *IPNI* 47, July 1981; *SpWW* 1102.

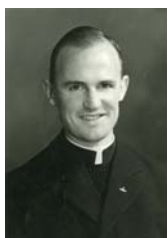


### **KINSELLA, Fr Edward 1984-1980**



Born 21 April 1984 in Cranmore, Kildavan, Co. Carlow, Ned came to Rockwell in 1908 as a boarder and immediately made his mark in sport securing his place on the senior rugby team in 1911 and 1912. Having opted to join the Congregation Ned was professed in Kimmage in 1913. He was despatched to Trinidad as prefect in the company of 'Miko' Neenan. Always forceful and sometimes abrasive he was not the students' favourite prefect. One day a group of students were heard laughing loudly between classes as one of them held up a map of Ireland pointing to what he read as "Old' head of Kinsella" (Kinsale, i.e.). Returning to Kimmage in 1917 Ned attended UCD from St Mary's, Rathmines, securing the BA in 1920. Ordained in 1923 Fr Ned was assigned the following year to Sierra Leone. He served at St Edward's, Freetown and at St Anthony's Parish, Brookfields, where he built a very fine church. On returning to Ireland in 1932 he was appointed to Rockwell where he succeeded another missionary from Sierra Leone, Fr Michael Sexton, as bursar, 1935-39. He had some amenities built at the college but these were soon to be demolished by Fr V.J.Dinan to make way for more ambitious expansions of the college plant. The students of those days retained vivid memories of Fr Ned singing with such verve and control the Narrator part of the Passion story in the Holy Week ceremonies. From 1940 to 1945 Fr Ned was frequently on the road throughout Ireland showing films as part of the effort to raise funds for the missions and the senior scholasticate. It was not an easy task to keep the show on the road during the war as he made do with improvised fuel tanks burning charcoal. In 1945 he was brought back to Sierra Leone by Bishop Ambrose Kelly who appointed him Vicar Delegate. He was also Religious superior for the mission, 1948-51, and in that capacity he attended the General Chapter of 1951. He was by then Vicar General as well. After the untimely death of Bishop Kelly and the appointment of a new administration, Fr Kinsella was transferred from Freetown to Bonthe. He had made his personal contribution to the mission as well as having built the church and residence at Ascension Town. His memory was kept alive there by having a small street named after him there. Fr Ned spent his retirement years at Kimmage. Fr Edward Kinsella died in hospital 8th October 1980 aged 86 years and was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *SpWW* 1090

### **KNOX, Fr Ian 1926 -1999**



Born on 8 September 1926 in Trinidad, Ian did his secondary studies at St. Mary's College, Port-of-Spain, and his novitiate at Lac-au-Saumon in the Province of Canada, where he was professed for the Irish Province on his 20th birthday, 8 September 1946. The following nine years were spent in Kimmage, where he did an honours B.Sc. in botany and zoology at UCD, followed by 'home philosophy' with the H.Dip.Ed. His comprehensive notes of the H.Dip.Ed. lectures were bound and proved of good service to those who followed. He was ordained at Clonliffe on 11 July 1954. The following year he was appointed to Trinidad, where he taught science and was a dean of studies at St. Mary's College, as well as directing the school choir. Though he played golf only one afternoon a week, he was a good enough player to be picked to play for the national team on one occasion. In 1970 he moved to Canada and took up teaching at Neil McNeil High School in Toronto, eventually joining the Trans-Canada province. During a sabbatical leave he earned a

Ph.D. in religious education at the University of Notre Dame and in 1976 published *Above or Within? - The Supernatural in Religious Education* (Religious Education Press, Mishawaka, Indiana), with a foreword by Fr. Richard McBrien. He was then appointed to a lectureship in the pastoral theology department of the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and was later a special lecturer in theology and religious education in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Education. He also served as a consultant for the Metropolitan Separate School Board of Toronto. In 1994 he published *Theology for Teachers*, a handbook of modern theology for those preparing to teach religion in Catholic schools. Ian had previously had a bypass operation, and it was a sudden heart attack that called him to the Lord on 28 February 1999 at the age of 72. If asked to sum up his character in one word, most of those who knew him would probably come up with the word 'perfectionist'. In all that he did, whether in the spiritual life or in the classroom or on the golf course, he aimed at perfection. None of us can be perfect, but most would be happy to get down to a handicap of four as he did.

### **KOEBERLÉ, Fr Joseph**

**1838-1865**



Born 15 January 1838 in Schlestadt, Bas-Rhin, Alsace in the diocese of Strasbourg, which was to give a record number of vocations to the Congregation, Fr Koeberlé's first appointment was to the French College, Blackrock. His primary task was to master sufficient English to be of some help in the school. Having no main job while he was being groomed to take over as bursar he was soon burdened with all the small, time consuming jobs others wanted to be rid of. He was so gentle he could not say no. In 1862, Fr Frederick Le Vasseur made his first and only visitation of the Irish foundation which then consisted only in Blackrock. For ideological reasons he committed the Congregation to taking care of the orphanage for boys being conducted by the Society of St Vincent de Paul at Glasnevin. Fr Koeberlé was appointed director. He had not the qualities required for this demanding post and he was not provided with a staff sufficiently qualified. The students presented problems of discipline, and the former directors from the St Vincent de Paul kept interfering. So did the authorities from Paris. After one year it was decided to abandon the project which was taken over by the Christian Brothers. Père Leman thought that Koeberlé might then be allowed to go the USA to quest for the Juniorate after the example of Fr Herbert Vaughan, future founder of the Mill Hill Fathers, but an urgent call came for personnel to work in Sierra Leone which had been entrusted once again to the Congregation by Rome after the disaster which befell the Society of the African Missions there. Fr Koeberlé joined Fr Edouard Blanchet at Bathurst (Banjul) and they both set out for Freetown in February 1864. One man who was overjoyed at his arrival was Br Floretin Mathews who had appreciated him as his spiritual director at Blackrock. With his knowledge of English, Fr Koeberlé was welcomed as chaplain by the Europeans at Freetown, but he also was involved in the pastoral care of the native population. Normally all personnel on the missions depended directly on the central administration in Paris, but we find Père Leman taking a special interest in the needs of Fr Koeberlé. An extant letter from Leman shows that he had filled him in with the latest news from Ireland in an unaccustomed, gossipy style; he also promised to send him books he has asked for, and expressed his regrets that he could not yet spare a Brother to act as his helper as requested, due to all the demands from elsewhere. Letters from Fr Koeberlé about life on the missions were read in public during meals for the scholastics. And so was forged the first link

in the chain binding Sierra Leone closely with Ireland over the years. It was to be the first mission to which an Irishman, Fr James Browne, was to be appointed superior. But living up to its reputation as 'the White Man's Grave', it was with shock that Leman was to learn so soon of the news of Fr Joseph Koeberlé's death: he died in July 1865, aged only twenty seven years, a victim of yellow fever. It was, in fact, an earnest of what was to come. GenArch; BG IV 786; *Père Leman* 142ff; Hamelberg, Fr Edward, *Centenary Souvenir of Holy Ghost Fathers in Sierra Leone*, pp33ff.

### **KROMER, Fr Berthold 1900-1960**



Born 28 September 1900 in Sollstadt-thuringen, Germany, Bert did his studies in Fulda and Dusseldorf. In 1918 he did his military service with the 39<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers and joined the Congregation the following year at Knechtsteden. Professed in 1920, he was ordained priest in 1924. His first appointment was to Broich where he taught German and helped at the Mission Aid Centre in nearby Aachen. He made a special study of film production and went to West Africa where he compiled a record of the life and customs of the native population in former German colonies. Returning to Germany he published a book in 1933 on his findings and it received favourable notice in reviews. He also produced films on mission life in the Cameroons and Angola. He used these films to advantage in his work for mission propaganda. Several vocations to the Congregation were inspired by these films. He incurred the disfavour of the Nazi party who had expected him to follow a party line in his films of former German colonies. Alerted by friends to an impending arrest he escaped to Switzerland. Later he attended lectures on ethnology by the noted Professor Schmidt who wanted him to join his research project. But on the take over of Austria by the Hitler government Bert had to flee once more. Arrived in France 1938 he was seconded to the Irish Province in reply to Dr Dan Murphy's request for a teacher of modern languages. His first appointment was to Blackrock where he taught German and engaged in other projects including bookbinding, an art he taught to the junior scholastics. On the outbreak of the war he was transferred to Rockwell where he gradually became an institution as he initiated several extra curricular activities, wood work, tree planting and clearing the overgrowth in the lake. Like the first French Fathers, he found the Irish boys *espiegles* or given to practical joking when he was bent on serious work. He was not strong on community life but proved popular among the local clergy. He spent some time in the holiday house run by the Congregation and as he had become very involved in the study of comparative languages he spent much time in conversation with the native Irish speakers. At this period he got deeply involved with those who were trying to prove that all languages stemmed from a common source. When he returned to Germany in 1948 he supervised several volumes of the researches done in this area. The whole concept was not well received in academic circles. Fr Bert also got involved in pastoral work in Munster in the Hufferstiftung and while acting as assistant to Professor Ohm he revived a periodical dealing with mission work from an academic point of view. He taught in a private school for a period in Münster and served as chaplain to Sisters Hochstadt bei Dillingen near the Danube. Suffering from diabetes he found he could no longer continue his work. He retired to Knechtsteden in 1958 and when he suffered from a stroke he was cared for in a convalescent home in Neuss where he died 12 May 1960. *Rath* No. 584.

**KUHRMANN, Fr Frederick 1854-1890**



Born 25 November 1854 in Münster, Westphalia, Germany, Frederick was directed to Blackrock in 1874 to do his secondary studies because Bismarck had suppressed the houses of the Congregation in Germany. Other students who came to Blackrock that year were the future Spiritan priests, Peter Leimann, John Desnier, Hubert Putz, and Emile Allgeyer, future bishop. Frederick prefect at Blackrock, 1878-80, while studying philosophy under Fr Michael Hyland and Père Leman. Ordained in France, 1883, Fr Frederick was appointed the following year to Trinidad where he was to spend the rest of his short life on the staff at St Mary's College. He also was of valuable help to another community as we learn from the press report of his death, 15th November 1890: "The college staff lost an able and devoted member in the Rev Fr Kuhrmann. To the saintly life of a zealous priest and the duties of an able professor, he united rare abilities as artist and architect. The ornamentation of the sanctuary of the old college chapel was due to his artistic work and, for similar services rendered at the Holy Name Convent, a slab was erected to his memory in the convent chapel". Fr Frederick Kuhrmann died of a stomach haemorrhage. He was 36 years of age. He was buried in Trinidad. *BG XV 880; BCA 1962 201; Rath 9; SpWW 99; CIC 1863-1963 43.*

**LACY, Fr James 1874-1925**



Born 25 November 1874 in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, James was a student at Blackrock, 890-95, together with his neighbours, Phil and Ned O'Shea. He was prefect at Blackrock, 1895-99, and then went to Grignon, near Paris to do his novitiate. He suffered from ill-health while doing his senior studies, and fearing that he might not then be allowed to go on the missions he suggested that he could at least teach mathematics, his favourite subject, in some mission school. He was ordained in 1903 and the following year was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where in spite of his indifferent health he was to give maximum service. In 1920 he succeeded Dr Crehan as superior. He proved a capable administrator and added a new wing to the College. He was highly appreciated by Archbishop Dowling for his contribution to the life and work of the diocese as an expert on liturgical matters and as a member of the Education Committee. He was called on to act as diocesan consultor and examiner, and was regarded by the Archbishop as the most learned priest in his diocese. His health, which had always been delicate, began to deteriorate towards the end of 1924. While recuperating at San Fernando he was found to have developed typhoid fever. His death came unexpectedly 14 January 1925. He was 50 years of age. He was buried in Trinidad. *BG XXXII 98; SpWW 316.*

**LAENGST, Fr Charles 1858-1899**



Born 5 April 1858 in Meckelbeuren, Wurtemberg, Charles commenced his secondary studies in a Cistercian junior seminary at Mehrerau near Bregenz. When he opted for the Congregation he had, because of the Kulturkampf, to join the group of German students who transferred to Ireland for their secondary studies. He spent three years at Rockwell, 1876-79, during which time he was described as being 'pious, studious, intelligent and very devoted to Our Lady'. In

1879 he went to Chevilly to begin his studies for the priesthood being ordained in 1884. The following year he went to Sierra Leone in company with his fellow Rockwellian, Fr Patrick Frawley. Together they set out to continue the good work so ably started by Fr Thomas Coyle who had been carried away prematurely by yellow fever. Fr Laengst struggled heroically in spite of recurring illness but he was forced to return to Europe. Stationed for a period at St Ilan, Brittany, he often dreamt of his beloved mission, imagining that he was back there once again in search of souls in Freetown and Murraytown. There was no question of his returning to Africa. Instead he was sent to the USA to minister among his own compatriots. He laboured zealously at St Mary's, Sharpsburg, St Mary's, Detroit and in Conway, Arkansas, where his ill-health finally caught up with him. He had at his side in his final weeks Fr Matthew Heizmann who had once been stationed in Rockwell (1873-74) where he learned enough English to undertake pastoral ministry in the States. Fr Louis Laengst died 5 September 1899 aged 44 years. *BG* 20 231f; *Rath* 57; *SpWW* 137.

**LAFFAN, Br Silas (John) 1839-1922**

Born 13 July 1838 in Killaloe, Co. Kilkenny, John entered the Congregation at Blackrock 6 Aug. 1866. Later he transferred to the novitiate conducted by Fr Pierre Huvéty's at Rockwell. Professed in 1868, Br Silas was appointed to Rockwell where he was to spend the rest of his long life, leaving that community deeply in his debt. Though he had little academic training he was possessed of a fund of natural ability and sound common sense. Fr. Huvéty's appointed him auxiliary in charge of the Brothers' community, and the success of the novitiate at Rockwell was due in great measure to Silas' firm but gentle control as he initiated the young Brothers in mastering a particular function, in devoting themselves wholeheartedly to the service of the college and community, and in appreciating the value of their religious exercises in common. His patience and charity were untiring. And he could turn his own hand to any trade from baking to building. He supervised the building of the main north wing which housed the dormitories and chapel, i.e. where the science rooms are today. In later years, when unable to do heavy work, he learned the art of shoemaking which he plied almost to the end of his days. It is as the shoemaker that Br Silas is mentioned by Liam O'Flaherty in his rather unfavourable account of the Rockwell Brothers in his '*Benedicamus Domino*' where he features Br Silas as being at that stage the object of ridicule because of his problems in reading in public during meals. Silas, who had been so physically fit all his life and had been such a wise counsellor to others, had to endure extreme physical suffering in his later years and was afflicted with scruples. Still he tried to maintain his cheerful disposition remarking that it was all the doing of the Lord. Br Silas Laffan died at Rockwell 5 Feb. 1922 aged 82. He was buried in Rockwell. *BBR*; *RBR*; *BG* XXXI, 255; *Liam O'Flaherty's Ireland*, 1996, Dublin, p.24.

**LAHIFFE, Fr George****1914-1993**

Born 6 September 1914 in Gort, Co. Galway, George did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1928-34. Professed in 1935 he studied for the BA in the Castle, Blackrock, and at UCD and profected at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1936-37. Ordained in 1942 he was appointed to Nigeria. He served at NSU along with Fr Frank Howell and Fr Mick Liddy ministering to over 31,000 Catholics and catechumens in 115 outstations. He was later Vicar General of the Owerri Diocese, while serving at Maria Assumpta. During two years spent in Ireland, 1950-52, he served as bursar in St Mary's. During the Biafra war he was arrested for illegal entry into the country. Forced to leave Nigeria he worked for a period in the USA before being appointed in 1971 to Brisbane, Australia, where he worked for twenty years and built a church. He worked at Enoggers and Pine Rivers. Obligated by ill health to give up active ministry he returned to Ireland in 1992 and spent his last months in Marian House where he died 7 April 1993 aged 78 years. He was buried in Kimmage. Fr George was an uncle of Fr Ruairé O'Connor CSSp. BCArch; *IPNI*, No.3 May 1993; *État*.

**LAHIFFE, Mr William 1846-1868**

Born 15 May 1846 in Limerick, William was a student at Blackrock, 1862-66 being accepted as a titular scholastic in 1864 with the right to wear the religious habit of the Congregation. He was called on to teach mathematics and French to junior students at the French College and had a reputation as a talented budding poet. On medical advice he was sent to Trinidad as a prefect in the hopes that the warm climate would help cure his tuberculosis. It seems he spent some time at the college in Cellule in France en route. Too ill to take the English classes assigned him in Trinidad, he rendered what little services he could. A few of his letters are preserved in his dossier in the General Archives. He died at St. Mary's, 5 August 1868 aged 22 years, and was buried in Trinidad. BCArch; Gen Arch.; *BG* 6, 1087; *SpWW* 17

**LANE, Fr Michael 1878-1908**

Born 7 June 1878 in Carrigahorig, North Tipperary, Michael studied at Rockwell and joined the Congregation in 1899. Professed at Grignon in 1902, he was ordained in 1906. The following year he was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad. After but two years service and without any former signs of ill-health, he caught fever and died within days. The local paper, *The Catholic News*, wrote about him: 'A pious and good priest and an excellent religious he had a great love for Holy Scripture; the Old and New Testaments he practically knew by heart and he often delighted his confrères by his aptitude in applying them to the most ordinary events. A giant in size and strength, he was looked upon by his pupils and confrères as a model of patience and gentleness. Of a genial disposition, and blessed with a more than ordinary share of true Irish wit, he was a companion whom it will be difficult to replace. He had a knack of seeing the bright side to everything and even the visitors to his sick-room were treated to flashes of wit which made them almost forget that they were in the presence of a sufferer.' Fr Michael Lane died 29 September 1908 aged thirty years and was buried in Trinidad. *BG* XXIV 727; *BCA* 1909 127; *SpWW* 181; *CIC Centenary Record* 68f.

**LAUGEL, Fr George****1843-1925 712**

Born 27 May 1843 in Hochfelden chief town of Bas-Rhin canton, Alsace, George worked as a rent collector and later in a bank in Strasbourg. At the age of 25 he was advised by Abbè Simonis, a cousin of Fr Schwindenhammer, to enter the Congregation. As he vowed to avenge the death of his brother at the hands of the Prussians during the Franco-Prussian war it was decided to send him to Blackrock as prefect. He served there from October 1871 to April 1874 and despite some initial worries about his egregious behaviour, he seems to have taken to life in Ireland - too much so as he was criticised on his return to the senior scholasticate where habits like having his hands in his pockets occasioned a directive that this unclerical demeanour be forbidden to the Irish scholastics as from then! In the first ever separate photograph taken of the Irish senior scholastics at Langonnet in 1874 George proudly took his place among them! Though he was ordained he was not allowed to make his profession as he was considered unsuited to religious life being too independent in his manner of behaviour. He went to the USA as a diocesan priest where he proved a remarkable success as a pastor, scholar and builder while still being recognised as a most unusual if saintly and scholarly character. He kept in close contact with the Congregation over the years. When he heard of Père Leman's death he wrote that the 'longanimity' displayed by Père Leman in dealing with his unbalanced behaviour at the time reminded him of the patience of Almighty God himself! When he retired to France at the age of 80 he asked to be allowed to end his days in the Congregation. The veteran Msg Alexander Le Roy invited him to do his novitiate in the Mother house where Le Roy acted as his Master of novices. This combination amused the confreres but all were very edified by the unusual novice. Shortly after his profession Fr Georg Laugel took seriously ill and died 7 December 1925 aged 82 years. He was favoured with a very generous notice in the *Bulletin Général* written by Fr Joseph Oster, who had known him in Blackrock and in the USA. BG 32 (1926) pp 484ff

**LAVELLE, Fr Michael 1925-1982**

Born 5 August 1925 in Liscarney, Westport, Co. Mayo, Mick was a student at St Jarlath's College, Tuam, 1939-44. Professed in Kilshane, 1945, he studied Classics at UCD, taking 1st Class Honours in his BA, followed by the MA. He did his studies for the priesthood at Fribourg, being ordained in 1955. The following year he took the STL '*Summa cum Laude*' and then was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, from where he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. In 1957 he joined the Rockwell community where he was to serve with great dedication and success until his untimely death 25 years later. He was an energetic and excellent teacher - the ancient Classics being his main sphere. His students secured such high marks that a Department Inspector remarked that the golden age of Classics had returned. For Michael, work seemed to begin only when he finished in the classroom He was possessed with endless energy and an insatiable zest for work. One recalls him during his years in Kimmage as continually busy with his scythe trimming the grounds and responding to the remarks of passers by with a quip and a hearty laugh. In Rockwell he was to become a legend for his devotion to excellence in athletics among the students. He specialised in training for the pole-vault, shot and discus, while also training the Junior Rugby Cup team. Between 1958 and 1982 Rockwell's success in these fields, especially athletics, was unique, winning

the College of Science Cup three times in a row on two occasions; also the Munster All Round Cup for athletics without a break from 1958 to 1968, and many times thereafter. It was not Rockwell alone that profited from his expertise and enthusiasm: he was at the forefront of the development of Irish athletics for more than twenty years, being in fact one of the best coaches this country had known at schools' level. His versatility extended to all the disciplines, - sprints, middle distance running, jumps and hurdles. He held the position of National Events coach from 1971 to 1980. But he was no mere dry professional. One was immediately conscious of his warm personality, his utter straight-forwardness; his quick temper was always balanced by a warm dimension of human feeling. His priestly life was deep but of the rugged manly type. Yet his great cross was his inability to face a public congregation. He had a natural charm, and candour and remained unimpressed by his own achievements. One was conscious of his continual pursuit of the highest standards at all levels, and as if he had a presentiment that his life was to be shorter than average, he worked at full-throttle, never wanting to waste time. To those close to him, and indeed to the wide circle of those who benefited from his charisma, his death on 18 January 1982 at the age of 56 came as a shock. He was buried in Rockwell RCA 1982 (which was dedicated to Fr Michael) p.5; *IPNI* 50 March-April 1982.

#### **LAW, Mr William 1903-1924**



Born 1 January 1903 in Main Street, Charleville, Co. Cork, William began his secondary studies at CBS Doneraile and entered the juniorate at Blackrock in 1918. Professed in Kimmage in 1922 he began his Philosophy in St Mary's, Rathmines. As he developed a chest complaint, he spend six months convalescing at home. When he thought he had regained his health he was appointed to Rockwell to help as a prefect, 1923-4. It became apparent, however, that his illness was incurable. He returned home, once more, and as death approached he wrote to his former confreres in the novitiate asking them to remember him when they were raised to the altar and promising to pray for them when in heaven. William Law died at home in Cork 25 May 1924 aged 21 years. He was buried in Rockwell. His brother, Denis, who was in the juniorate at Rockwell and a prefect at Blackrock, joined the SMA. BJR; *BG* 1924, 736

#### **LAWLESS, Fr Edward**

**1900-1996 593**



Born 2 September 1900 in Leeson St , Dublin, Ned worked in Insurance business from 1918 to 1924. He saw action in the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence and this necessitated a special dispensation when he advanced to Major orders for the priesthood. He also took an active part in the St Vincent de Paul Conference and the Legion of Mary, Frank Duff in the running of a club for disadvantaged boys. On deciding to join the Congregation he attended Blackrock for one year, 1924-25. Professed in Kimmage in 1926, he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, followed by one year's prefecting at Rockwell. Returning to the Castle for Theology he was ordained priest in 1932 and the following year he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar where he was to spend the rest of his long active life, serving in turn at St Peter Claver's, Nairobi together with Frs Con McNamara and Tom Meagher. After a short period there he transferred to Zanzibar and Pemba. These were predominantly Muslim areas and Fr Ned built up friendly relations with the Muslims as he worked tirelessly for his



closely knit Catholic community. After some years he was appointed to the mainland of Mombasa where he built up Makupa Parish. As well as pastoral work he was involved in education at Kabaa High School and was for a period a member of the municipal council with a brief on education. Later he moved back up again to Nairobi where he became Education Secretary for the Diocese which was a demanding job. During his time as Procurator the bishop asked him to look for a plot in or around Nairobi for a national seminary for Kenya. After much searching he was able to secure a very good plot at Laganta where the new national seminary was launched. Fr Ned was appointed as the first Catholic chaplain to prisons in Kenya. He was the Liaison Officer between the Catholic bishops and the government in matters concerning prisons. Based in Nairobi he had to travel all over Kenya to see that the prisoners in the various prisons had facilities and that the different Fathers were attending to their special pastoral needs. During his long stint as Prison Chaplain, circa thirty years, he assisted very many inmates as they faced execution. Fr Ned was always the life and soul of the get-togethers held by the confreres on special feast days as he contributed songs and anecdotes about life and people he had met over the years. He went back to parish work for some time before semi-retirement in Kilimambogo. Failing eyesight in particular forced him to return to Ireland in 1988 and he spent his final years in the care of Marian House where he passed to the Lord 8 October 1996 aged 96 years. He was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. BCArch; IPArch; *IPNI* No. 7 1996; *BCA* 1997 272

#### **LEAHY, Fr John 1908-1951**



Born 28 April 1908 in St Ignatius Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin, Jack was a student at Blackrock, 1931-33. After his profession in 1934 he did Philosophy for one year at the Castle, Blackrock, followed by a year on the Propaganda team. In 1936 he resumed his studies for the priesthood and was ordained in 1940. Jack, being an excellent singer and a comedian, enlivened life in the scholasticate, especially in the sketches staged for festive occasions. Appointed to Kenya in 1941 he served at Lioki, in Kyamba, and later at Holy Family Church, Nairobi, which was destined to become the Cathedral parish. A few days before he was due to leave for a holiday in Ireland he was found to have contracted typhoid fever. He died 25 January 1951 - the anniversary of his arrival in Africa. He was 42 years of age. IPArch

#### **LEE, Fr George 1852-1921**



Born 18 March 1852 in CastleConnell, Co. Limerick, George had served as a junior school teacher before entering the French College, Blackrock, in answer to a circular for vocations addressed by Père Leman to priests and schoolteachers. George was a student at the college from 1872 to 1877 and prefectured there for the next three years. During this time he did his philosophy course under the guidance of Fr Hyland and Père Leman, who had previously taught philosophy in the senior scholasticate at Notre Dame du Gard; they were now preparing the way for the introduction of a philosophy course under the new Royal University. George went to Chevilly in 1880 to do his Theology, being ordained in 1883. His first appointment was to Blackrock where besides teaching class he was Dean of the Day-school, 1884-87. In 1887 he succeeded Fr Botrel as Director of the Juniorate, being the first Irishman to be entrusted with that function. His tenure was relatively brief; he was called on, late 1890, to go to Ballarat,

Australia, to replace the ailing Fr Reffé as superior of the newly-opened college there. He found the community in some disarray, and within a few months he decided that he was not capable of putting matters straight. Instead he withdrew from the society with the intention of joining the Cistercians at Mountmelleray. For family reasons he took on pastoral work in the USA but in 1895 he applied for readmission to the Congregation. He was then attached to Pittsburgh High School where he proved an excellent and valued teacher. In 1908 he was appointed pastor of the parish conducted by the Congregation at St Ann's, Millvale, Pa. In his spare time he wrote a life of the Venerable Libermann to mark the occasion of his being declared Venerable by Rome. It was also seen as part of the movement in the American province to get its members more actively involved in the pastoral care of the black race. Fr Lee published a work on Fr (Blessed) James Laval CSSp. He also produced a book, telling the story of Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Several articles appeared from his pen in defence of the Catholic faith and he was asked to contribute articles to the Catholic Encyclopaedia. Finally, he published the first translation in English of the Rule of the Congregation. Affected by a stroke in 1918 he joined the community at Pittsburgh once more and after a recurrence of his illness he died 23 January 1921 in the hospital conducted by the Mercy Sisters in Pittsburgh. He was 68 years of age. *BG* XXX 71f; *BCA* 1962 194f; *SpWW* 282.

**LEECH, Fr Gerald Patrick                      1936-1995**



Born 4 November 1936 in Drogheda, Co. Louth, Gerald did his secondary studies with the Christian Brothers, Drogheda. and entered the novitiate in 1954. Professed in 1955 he did his studies at Kimmage and prefectured at Blackrock (Willow Park) 1957-59. Ordained in 1962 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. He worked in Blama and Kenema till 1969 and then he developed an illness due to a swim in the Moa river which ended his missionary career in Sierra

Leone After a year in Clonskeagh parish, Dublin, he went to California where he spent the rest of his active ministry. He did an MA in Counselling, 1975, and a Master's Degree in Theology, 1979. He was Associate Pastor of St Gregory's Church, San Mateo, 1979-83, and Hospital Chaplain at San Jose, 1981-83. He was Provincial Delegate and Superior of the San Mateo Community, 1979-83. He continued to work as Councillor to the Provincial Delegate, and also again as Hospital Chaplain in San Jose. He was for a short time pastor of St Athanasius parish until ill health forced his retirement in 1994 when he had by-pass surgery. It was said of him: "He was a hard-working, upright, generous and loyal...He is fondly remembered for his constant availability, his compassion, his prepared homilies, his silent work among the Mexicans whom he served for thirteen years while chaplain to the Mexican Hospital in San Jose." Fr Gerald died rather suddenly 3 May 1995 aged 58 years. IPArch: *IPNI* No. 3 1995

## LEEN, Archbishop James 1888-1949



Born 1 January 1888 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Jim was a boarder in Rockwell for six years before entering the Juniorate in 1905. He was the fourth member of the family to join the Congregation: Jack, who died 3 August 1903 after having done three years as a prefect in Rockwell, Dan and Edward. (qv). Jim was influenced in his vocation by hearing his mother reading passages from Fr Prosper Goepfert's life of Fr Libermann, which Ned had received as a prize in Rockwell. Jim was to win Exhibitions and medals in all grades in the public examinations during his secondary studies and he was also to feature on the college teams. He played with the Rockwell club team while prefect, 1907-11, and in later life he loved to recount the escapades of those days as they travelled to out matches. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kimmage, 1911-12. He then went on to pursue his university course at UCD. Sent to Rome in 1915 he studied at the Gregorian University securing doctorates in both Philosophy and Theology. Ordained in 1920 Fr Jim served as *repetiteur* at the French Seminary while continuing his own studies at the Gregorian. Recalled to Ireland in 1922, he was appointed to the Moral theology faculty in Kimmage, transferring to the Castle, Blackrock, in 1924 when the senior scholasticate was located there. When Bishop John T. Murphy asked for a coadjutor for the see of Port Louis, the most obvious choice might have been Fr Edward Leen, Dean of studies at Blackrock. He had, however, come under a cloud in the eyes of the Irish hierarchy due to his unapproved writings on the Eucharist. His younger brother Jim was nominated. He chose Blackrock for the ceremony of his episcopal ordination, which organised by Fr Jim Burke, and called on his brother, Edward, to preach at the ceremony which was attended by President W.T. Cosgrave and Eoin McNeill, Minister for Education. In the farewell speeches at Blackrock, the new Provincial, Fr Richard Harnett, also from Abbeyfeale, stressed the loss to the Irish province. Years later that loss was described in these words: "Those of us who were privileged to be his students will remember with gratitude his inspiring professorship, his power of interpretation of the deepest things to less facile minds, his infinite forbearance with our blunders, above all his power to unbend and to be to us not merely a Father but a confrère. His simplicity too, his gaiety, brilliance, unremitting application to duty, the impression of unfathomed depths of strength, the calm dignity of his bearing and especially the strange awe-touched sense of the supernatural mystery around him." One thing he lacked, however, was any experience in pastoral work. He succeeded Dr Murphy as bishop the following year and was to serve the diocese till his death. One of his first major achievements was to build a new cathedral when the old one had been badly damaged by a storm. On 1st August 1933 the Holy See nominated him Titular Archbishop of Phasis by the Holy See "in recognition of personal distinction." Of his work as bishop it was said: "His own spiritual life was deep and immense. Yet in his administrative business he was quite practical and remarkable for his unerring judgement of men and things. In dealing with human weakness he was divinely understanding. He could stoop with divine sympathy to the level of the lowliest." He restarted the *Collège du Saint Esprit* with Dr Daniel Liston, former Principal at Blackrock, as Rector. He gave his enthusiastic support to the Legion of Mary and invited Edel Quinn to visit Mauritius in her capacity as Legion envoy. She found him very supportive. On his return from the General Chapter in 1938 he accompanied Bishop Shanahan setting out for the Vicariate of Zanzibar, and he invited him to stay in Mauritius for some time.

He published a book of his conferences which was judged to be a great success in the English translation done by his brother, Dr Edward, entitled, *By Jacob's Well*. There were those who thought he spent too much time at his desk and not enough out among the people. But there can be no doubt that he genuinely loved his people and tried to serve them with all his talents. This he tried to express in his letter of farewell in mid-November 1949: "My heart is filled with the deepest sorrow of a loving father about to leave his dear children. Great is my sorrow at having to depart from this isle where I would like so much to sleep my last sleep. Farewell, till we meet in heaven." His Grace's wish was unexpectedly fulfilled. On 15 of November, before the letter had been read to the faithful, Archbishop Leen was attacked by an illness which prevented his departure for Europe. Archbishop James Leen died 19 December 1949 aged 62 years. *RCA*, 1950, 246; *Edel Quinn* by Fr Desmond Forristal pp 176ff; 'Before the Golden Cord has snapped' by Sr Brigid Ryan HRS, p6f.

### **LEEN, Fr Edward 1885-1944**



Born 17 August 1885 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Ned followed in the footsteps of his brothers Dan and Jack in coming to Rockwell where he was a student from 1896 to 1904. He excelled at studies and games, winning a scholarship each year once he was of the required age, and gaining his place on the Club team while yet a student. When the juniorate was suppressed at Rockwell in 1898, he was among a few promising students who were retained in the boarding school while the rest were transferred to the juniorate at Blackrock. His admiration for Bishop Joseph Shanahan was nurtured during these early years when he knew him as a prefect, 1897-99, and later as Dean of Discipline, 1900-02. He also got to know Dev very well having played on the same team with him when a prefect. After completing his secondary studies he followed the Matriculation course which was then an extra year under the RUI system. While prefecting, 1905-8, he sat for 1st Arts, having to make up the course in private as had the other prefects. Several of those he was to work with later in Nigeria and in Ireland were either students or prefects at Rockwell then. His brother Jack died in August 1902 while a prefect in Rockwell. Ned, as he was known, went to France for his novitiate year, 1908. It was during that year that he learned to appreciate the greatness of Fr Libermann as a master of the spiritual life. Professed in 1909 he did a year's Philosophy at Chevilly and was then recalled to Ireland to do a fourth year as prefect in Rockwell, mainly teaching Greek. He was then called on by the provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, to resume his university course at the new university college, UCD. He secured his BA degree with First of 1st in 1912. Realising his special potential, Fr Murphy then sent him to Rome to pursue his theological studies at the Gregorian University. When it was rumoured the following year that he was to be recalled to Ireland once more, he wrote a letter to the Superior General protesting. His director Fr Voegtli added a note to the letter saying that he agreed with the substance though not approving of the tone. Fr Leen was allowed to continue with his studies in Rome where he was awarded the DD, summa cum laude, in 1916. Returning to Ireland he was stationed at Kimmage while doing a post graduate course at UCD. He presented his thesis for the MA, taking as his subject Kant's Theory of Duty, and though his novel approach raised some eyebrows, he was awarded the MA 'with special distinction'- a rare commendation. With the opening of the separate house for Philosophy students at St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1917, Fr Leen was appointed director and professor of ethics and psychology. It was not the happiest time for Fr Leen, nor for the students, as he was seen to be rather rigid and too

demanding in his standards, inside and outside the classroom. As his health gave grave cause for concern, he was advised by his life-long friend, Dr Jim Magennis, to take a complete break from his duties for a year. While recuperating, he joined his brother Fr Dan in Rockwell and helped again there in various areas. In 1919 he was one of the small team who launched the first issue of the *Missionary Annals*. The contributions from his pen made the publication an instant success. When Bishop Shanahan was trying to assemble his team for Nigeria in 1920, he suggested to Mgr Le Roy that the best cure for Fr Leen would be a period in Africa far removed from academia, and that he could be replaced on the Promotions team by Fr Thady O'Connor, who could not return to Nigeria because of his health condition. The suggestion was acted on. Fr Leen was among those who were Shanahan's special guests at the episcopal ordination in Maynooth and he travelled with him to Nigeria late 1920. A new era in mission awareness among the public was ushered in by the articles Fr Leen contributed to the *Annals* about his first impressions of Africa. The two years spent with Shanahan in Nigeria marked a new beginning in his own life and outlook. He mellowed somewhat in his temperament and was inspired with the Shanahan vision of evangelisation through an education that was essentially Christian and permeated with the doctrine of sanctifying grace. Recalled to Ireland after two years, he was appointed to Blackrock as professor and Dean of the Day-school. Appointed Dean of Studies at Blackrock in 1923 he found Ireland in the process of restructuring the educational system and he endeavoured to ensure that it be given a core that was Christian. He also called for a manliness that was to be fostered in all areas of education and inspired by the ideals of the faith. He enshrined his vision in the new motto '*Fides et Robur*' - Faith and strength of character. These were the qualities that he had learned to admire in Bishop Shanahan, who now entrusted to his care the religious formation of the recently founded missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. Fr Leen revived many aspects of school life that had been allowed to lapse at Blackrock, revitalising the college at all levels. He was aided in this by Fr Bertie Farrell, Fr John Heelan and, from 1925, by Fr John McQuaid. In his published statements he tried to promote this vision of Christian education and was seen to be critical of the thrust enshrined in parts of the Maynooth Catechism. This was said to have annoyed some members of the Hierarchy. Later, when he put forward novel insights on the Eucharist in his efforts to make it a more personal experience for mass-goers, he was called on by the Ecclesiastical authorities to make a public retraction of these views. This put him under a cloud, but he was still in demand as a retreat giver and spiritual director, especially among Sisters. They sensed that there was a new wind being blown by the Spirit in his teaching. During these years he was busily engaged in the foundation and development of the society of Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary founded by Bishop Shanahan. Appointed President of Blackrock in 1925, he was in due course chosen as chairman of the Catholic Headmasters' Association. His public statements on education were widely reported in the press as he was seen to have the ear of both President William.T.Cosgrave and the Minister of Education, John Marcus O'Sullivan. He was host to the Hierarchy in 1929 for their Garden party marking the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation. Having given the necessary kiss of life to an ailing Blackrock College, and feeling called more to third level education and to the ministry of the pen, he surprised many by tendering his resignation as President in December 1930. He was, in fact, once again so drained of energy that he felt it impossible to continue the supervision of the school. He moved to the senior scholasticate by then located in the Castle, Blackrock, and with the publication of his work *Progress through Mental Prayer* he was soon to be

recognised at home and abroad as an authority on Christian spirituality. A series of major works on the spiritual life followed and were eagerly read throughout the English-speaking world. In spite of having suffered a serious illness, he responded to a request for a lecture tour of the USA in 1939. For five months he toured the States, giving on average two lectures a day. The demand kept up, but on the outbreak of World War II he had to return home. Soon after, he was appointed superior of Kimmage community and scholasticate. He resumed his lectures in philosophy and, though meant particularly for those doing 'home philosophy', they were eagerly attended by students attending the university. With reverence it could be said, 'Never did man speak like this man'. Dynamic in delivery and always seen to be probing for the truth rather than handing on what others said, he captivated his listeners. He never feared to challenge what had been accepted in philosophy and relished being challenged himself. He was working also on his last major book, *What is Education?*, a work which was to encapsulate much of what he had striven to inculcate over the years on education. There he defined education as follows: "To the Christian, 'education' is that culture of the mind, the will and the emotions, which, whilst adapting a man for the exercise of a particular calling, disposes him to achieve an excellent personal and social life within the framework of that calling." Over the years he had kept up his contact with Killeshandra, going there regularly to give conferences which were later to appear in print. The story of his influence on this society founded by Bishop Shanahan does not belong here, but it was recognised that his austere brand of asceticism was in contrast with Shanahan's more humane approach. Indeed, Fr Leen was seen by many as lacking the human touch as he lived rather aloof on an intellectual plane. By late autumn 1944 Fr Leen seems to have had a premonition that his work was done and that his life-span was ending. The scholastics were pleasantly surprised to see that he became more affable in his relations with all. He made a visit to Killeshandra to give what proved to be his last conferences to the Sisters. Having put all his affairs in order, he then entered hospital for a check up. There he suffered a stroke from which he died the following day. The news of his death was greeted with dismay by all those who had learned to appreciate his real worth. His passing was deeply felt by the leaders of both sides in the great political divide in the wake of the Civil War, former President William T. Cosgrave and An Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera. Both men had been close to him. Fr Edward Leen died 10 November 1944 aged 59 years and was buried in Kimmage. *Edward Leen CSSp*, by Fr Michael O'Carroll; RCA 1944 p.11f BCA 1945,5ff; Gen. Arch; *Blackrock College 1860-1995* 173ff.

### **LEEN, Fr Daniel 1882-1941**



Born 8 July 1882 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Dan was one of four brothers who came to Rockwell to join the Congregation: John, who died as prefect in 1902; Edward, future superior of Blackrock and Kimmage; James, future Archbishop of Port Louis. Daniel entered Rockwell in 1894 and qualified for prizes in the public examinations. When the juniorate closed in 1898 in favour of a senior scholasticate, Daniel was transferred to Blackrock whereas his more talented young brother Edward was retained in the boarding school at Rockwell.

Daniel prefect at Rockwell where he was a contemporary of Dev, who was then on the staff. He did his novitiate at Prior Park, Bath, and his senior studies at Chevilly where he was ordained in 1910. From 1911 to 1916 he was on the staff of St Mary's College, Rathmines, and when the school closed he was transferred

to Rockwell where he filled the post of Dean of discipline for a period. When St Mary's reopened in 1926 he was appointed bursar there and later served for a period on the Irish Mission Band in USA. He then returned to teach in Rockwell. He was remembered for taking up a leisurely attitude to class but was a strict disciplinarian outside of class. In 1934 he was transferred to Blackrock where he taught for a few years. The cross of indifferent health which he had to bear over the years became more pronounced and his last years were clouded with serious illness. His patience in suffering was edifying at all times and his droll sense of humour and unfailing kindness made him always a congenial confrere. He died at Blackrock 9 June 1941 aged 58 and was buried in Rockwell. *RJR*; *RCA* 1941 21; *BCA* 1942 55; *État*

**LEEN, Mr John                      1881-1902**



Born 29 March 1881 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Jack came to Rockwell in 1893 and received the habit of the Congregation in 1897 together with Richard Harnett and James Murphy (the Doc). When the Juniorate was discontinued at Rockwell in 1898 to make room for the Senior Scholasticate, Jack was transferred to Blackrock though his more academically gifted young brother Edward was retained in the boarding school. He returned the following year to Rockwell where he was to serve as a prefect until his untimely death due, it is said, to his having eaten the pods from poisonous *laburnum anagroides* tree. John Leen died while on holidays 3 August 1902 aged 21 years and was buried in the family cemetery. He was one of four brothers to enter the Congregation the others being Dan, Ned and Jim. Another brother, Paddy, died tragically. After his studies in Rockwell and Blackrock Paddy volunteered in 1916 for service at the Front. While undergoing training he was called on to report for duty to help suppress the 1916 Rising. Accidentally shot in the leg at close range by a colleague he died later in the Meath hospital while undergoing an operation to amputate his leg. *RJR* and *BJR*.

**LEHANE, Fr Richard            1918-1999**



Born on 22 December 1918 in Crossmahon, Lisarda, Co Cork, Dick did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1931-35. Having joined the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1937. He prefected in Rockwell, 1939-41, and was ordained in 1945. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, he first served in the Owerri region at Adazi, a place famous for the marvellous devotion of its people and the number of priests that came from the parish. Dick was a great trainer of mass servers and one of the boys he had as an altar server was Francis Arinze, later to be appointed Archbishop of Onitsha, and Cardinal. Dick was transferred to Obolli-Eke, and later worked in the Diocese of Enugu at St Michael's, Enugu. While home in Ireland he was appointed farm bursar in Kimmage in 1969. He returned to Nigeria while the Biafra war was in progress and when he and others had to quit Nigeria at the end of the war he was appointed to St Mary's College, Rathmines, where he served on the staff and as bursar until 1975. Feeling the call to mission life he returned to Africa, this time to Sierra Leone where he worked until 1981. He then joined the Rockwell community where he spent the next four years before going back to St Mary's, Rathmines. Renowned during his active years in Africa for his physical strength, he had to endure the cross of ill health in his final years. Suffering from heart trouble he was eventually moved to Marian House and later to hospital where he died 13

September 1999 aged 80 years. Words used to describe Fr Dick were 'single-mindedness, generosity, energy, even stubbornness'. He loved his religion and he loved games, especially rugby, and he had no trouble in combining the two. He taught religion through rugby and rugby through religion. He found no difficulty in explaining the Blessed Trinity through the front row: they were a unit, one, but they were separate individuals, Dick had been recognised as a great rugby player himself as he played for St Mary's Club, and he was selected to play scrum-half for a representative Irish side during the War. People applied to him the words used to describe the legendary Irish Fianna: "*Neart in ár lámh, Glaine in ár gcroí, agus Beart do réir ár mBriathar* - Strength in our arm, single-purposeness of heart, and deeds according with our word. Fr Dick died on 13 September 1999 and was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No.4; *KNSM* No. 217.

**LEIMANN, Fr Peter 1862-1933**



Born 9 February 1862 in Burtsheid, Rhineland, Peter came to Ireland as a student with several others who were to serve to the Congregation well in various stations later, among them future bishop, Emile Allgeyer, and John Desnier, one of the directors of the first senior scholasticate at Rockwell. Peter was to excel at Latin and Greek and made his mark also in Music and Art under the guidance of Frs Ebenrecht and Botrel, and Herr John Jos.Stein. On completing his secondary studies in 1880 he was retained as a prefect, 1880-81, and again, 1883-85, at Blackrock, and, 1885-87, at Rockwell. Apart from his contribution as a teacher he proved a useful member of the Blackrock RF Club XV. Ordained in 1889 he was appointed to Rockwell in 1890 where, together with Dr Edward Crehan and Fr Cornelius O'Rourke, he helped to revitalise the school after Rockwell had gone through a lean period that threatened its survival. He brought over his young nephew, Leonard Graf, whose feats in the academic world were to continue to make news for the next sixty years in Trinidad. Fr Leimann was himself transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, in 1895 where he was to continue his splendid work in the classroom as well as making his contribution to the artistic and musical life of the school. In 1913 he returned to Germany for surgery and was in the country when the war broke out. His services were gladly availed of at Knechtsteden and Heimbach, but in 1923 he returned to Trinidad to continue where he had left off at St Mary's. His return was much appreciated by his former students who kept up their contact with him. In spite of the onset of cancer Fr Peter Leimann kept working almost up till his death 8 September 1933. He was then aged 71 years. He was buried in Trinidad. *BG* 36 567ff; *BCA* 1962 201; *Rath* 128f; *SpWW* 403.

**LEINIGER, Fr Louis 1862-1933**

Born 25 August 1862 in Lichtenberg, Alsace, Louis studied at Langonnet from 1878, moving on later to Chevilly where he was ordained in 1887. His first appointment in 1888 was to Rockwell where he set about learning English while teaching French and Latin. He also taught the piano and was to be active as a musician wherever he went during his life. In July 1889 he was called on to set off for Ballarat in Australia where the new college was already encountering difficulties. When the Congregation decided to abandon the school and parish in Australia, Fr Leiniger returned with Fr Christian Schmidt to Rockwell. He was assistant director of the juniorate 1891-2. After one year he was posted to Merville, where he taught mainly English for two



years. Appointed to Martinique he helped at St Peter's college and at Morne-Rouge parish. He was in Morne-Rouge when the volcano erupted causing devastation at the college area. Having escaped death he helped the victims of the disaster for some months. Then he moved to the USA, helping in St Mary's parish, Detroit. Within a short time he moved again, this time to France where he worked for periods at Cellule college and later at Suze in Italy when the schools were suppressed in France. In 1912 he was back again in parish work in Martinique. Ill-health was to be his cross and his rather obstinate and headstrong temperament did not make life easy for others. Fr Louis Leiniger died 26 July 1933 aged 71 years. *BG XXVI 453ff.*

### **LEMAN, Père Jules 1826-1880**



Born 30 June 1826 in France, in Deulemont, Nord, beside the Belgian border, Jules was educated in his father's primary (boarding) school. His mother died when he was young and his father remarried. As the Lemans and Lecomptes (his mother's people) were in the teaching business for generations, it was expected that Jules would follow suit. When he opted for the priesthood he was sent to Cambrai junior seminary, which proved to be a very progressive school. As he greatly admired a Jesuit who gave the school retreat, Jules opted to join the Jesuits at St Acheul near Amiens. After nine months, when it was realised that he was going through a spiritual crisis, he was taken to see Fr Libermann, who was living nearby. From their first meeting Jules fell completely under Libermann's spell. He felt he had arrived home and was determined to remain. That was 27 May 1847. In 1848 he saw the beginnings of the merger between Fr Libermann's Society of the Holy Heart of Mary and the Society of the Holy Spirit headed by Fr Alexander Monnet whom he had known at Cambrai. Moved to rue Lhomond from Notre Dame du Gard, Jules was one of the scholastics relied on by Fr Libermann in the revival of plain chant and the adoption of Roman usage in liturgy. After his ordination in 1851, Fr Libermann appointed him to the senior scholasticate as professor and sub-director. Fr Schwindenhammer also thought highly of Leman at this period. He called on him in 1853 to go to Rome as Vice-rector of the French National Seminary being launched by Fr Louis Lannurien. Leman was to act as tutor for the students attending the Gregorian university, a post in which he was not very successful due to his lack of sufficient preparation in theology. He was called on to act as bursar and on the tragic death of Fr Lannurien in 1854, Leman found himself holding the fort until a new director and tutor were appointed. He was then recalled to the senior seminary in Paris to rejoin the staff as professor, bursar, subdirector etc. He was also called on to start work on editing the writings of Libermann and making them available through their private printing equipment. In 1856 he was again asked to go to Rome as bursar in the French Seminary, supervising the transfer from the old Irish College, the Ludovician in Via degli Hibernesi, to the new site at Sta Chiara. He was also commissioned to start work on the introduction of the cause of Fr Libermann. Once again in 1857 he was recalled to Paris to continue his work in the senior scholasticate and in the Colonial Seminary, with other duties, as chaplain to the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny etc. In 1858 he was appointed Director of the central novitiate for Brothers being set up at Langonnet in Brittany. Till then he had served as a 'Jack of all trades', and, as he added, was 'master of none'. In 1859, as a decision was made at last to open an Irish foundation, Père Leman was chosen as the leader even though he knew no English. His brief was to find vocations willing to work in mission territories committed to the Congregation where a knowledge of English was necessary. The nearer to ordination

these candidates were the better, as it was envisaged that there was to be little involvement with formation in Ireland itself. Very soon Leman saw that this plan would not work. The nearer students were to ordination the less they were interested in working in the missions for blacks. He formulated a new policy as follows: 'If we want to have big trees we must foster them from the start, and we must make some return to Ireland for what we expect to get'. A juniorate was called for and the only way to make the juniorate succeed was to operate it in conjunction with a college. And what Catholics in Ireland badly needed were good secondary schools. Leman decided to operate the French system that he had known in Cambrai and at Langonnet but, as he lacked sufficient staff, he gradually had to employ lay-helpers. After a painful start due to lack of finance, adequate playing grounds and premises, he gradually built up what was to become one of the leading schools in the thirty-two counties. In 1862, under the influence of Fr Le Vasseur, provincial and first assistant, the care of an orphanage was taken on at Glasnevin. This project had to be abandoned after one year. In 1864 the direction of 'The Scotch College' at Rockwell was offered to the Congregation. Leman advised acceptance and parted with his right hand man, Fr Peter Huvéty's, to take charge of it. Leman was urged to have his school take part in the examinations being conducted for secondary schools by the Catholic University. Very soon his students made a name for the French College by their remarkable successes. For him, however, the main work of the college was the development of the juniorate and the Brothers' novitiate. He found, however, that there was little enthusiasm among parents or clergy for the foreign missions, and that Irish students were on average less likely to opt for mission life than their continental counterparts. After the Franco-Prussian war and the introduction of the Kulturkampf by Bismarck, Père Leman arranged that students from Alsace should come to Ireland to do their secondary studies. As he saw the Irish Spiritans having difficulties with their French confreres overseas, he advocated the allocation of a special mission for the Irish rather than have them serving as second fiddles to Frenchmen. When he saw that the Catholic University examinations were of little advantage to the students in their efforts to secure jobs, he started a third level Civil Service College. Realising that Catholic secondary schools were being stunted for lack of public funds he advocated the acceptance by church and state in Ireland of the system operating in Trinidad whereby schools would be financed on the basis of results achieved in a common public examination while retaining complete freedom in their internal management. As he got little support in ecclesiastical circles he submitted a memorial on the scheme to the House of Commons. This scheme formed the basis of the secondary education system in Ireland for many years. It also formed the basis of the Royal University. Leman was continually mulling over projects to help at home as well as abroad: he negotiated the introduction into Ireland of the missionary sisters of St Joseph of Cluny and the Brothers of St John of God. He encouraged some of the non-Spiritans on his staff to write good books and tried to launch a Catholic book club. To say that many of his initiatives were not appreciated or supported by Fr Schwindenhammer would be an understatement. He feared Leman's growing involvement in the Irish scene, his penchant for going into debt in his efforts to develop the college and further the interests of Irish students as they suffered from unfair competition with their Protestant counterparts. Père Leman was always ready to defend the Irish confreres and openly challenged the creeping authoritarianism of the Generalate and the severity of Fr Schwindenhammer's treatment of people, pointing out that such behaviour was opposed to the spirit of Fr Libermann. Relations got more and more strained between Leman and the central administration. On the other hand,

those who worked close to him in Ireland appreciated him very much. He avoided public appearances because he was basically a shy man. He was loved by the students and revered by all as a saint, even by those with whom he was severe in his reprimands when he saw that they were slipping from the highest ideals. He had been in increasing ill-health for the last few years of his life but his death 3 June 1880 came as a shock to all who knew him. A leading educationalist, Sir Patrick Keenan, with whom he worked in the preparation of the scheme for introducing public examinations said on hearing of his death that his passing at that juncture was a national calamity. Père Jules Leman died 3 June 1880 aged 54 years and is buried in a vault under the high altar in the Chapel of Blackrock College; there is a plaque on the exterior wall. *Père Leman*, Paraclete Press, 1988.

### **LEMIRE, Fr Achilles Emile Joseph      1860-1894**



Born in France 10 June 1860 at Vieux-Barquin, Nord, Achilles' his mother died when he was young and his elder brother, L'Abbé P. Lemire, who was later to be elected to the French parliament, took special care of his education. Achilles studied at the junior seminary of Hazebrouck where his brother was professor and when he expressed the desire to be a missionary priest he introduced him to his friend Fr Van Haecke CSSp, Superior of the college committed to the Congregation at Merville. Achilles was impressed by 'the simplicity and humility' of the Spiritans. He entered the Congregation at Merville, Nord, and in 1879 he moved to Chevilly where he was ordained in 1882. He is described in official records as being 'very good, rather timid, lacking in self-confidence'. He had a flair for writing and was gifted with an artistic temperament. On completing his course he was appointed to Blackrock even though he had scarcely any knowledge of English. After four years on the teaching staff he was transferred to Rockwell in 1887 as director of the juniorate. In 1888 he was called on to join Fr Edward Reffé's team setting out to open the new foundation at Ballarat, Australia. At the request of his brother, Achilles composed a series of long letters in French covering every detail of the journey from Rockwell and Blackrock to Ballarat. These letters were published by his brother in book-form under the title: *D'Irlande en Australie*. The new foundation at Ballarat comprised a college and a parish at Maryborough. Care of the parish was entrusted to Fr Lemire. Within a short period he was joined by one of the staff of the college, Fr Carroll Griffin, who was already critically ill. Fr Griffin's death was the first of a series of adverse events which were to lead to the abandonment of the Australian project. Fr Lemire had compiled a series of letters for his brother covering the history and the current state of the church in Australia. These accounts were again published by L'Abbe Lemire in a volume entitled: *Le Catholicisme en Australie*. When the whole team withdrew from Ballarat and Maryborough parish in 1892, Fr Lemire received his obedience for Trinidad where he was called on to take over the duties of superior in succession to Fr James Browne who had been appointed Pro-vicar Apostolic in Sierra Leone. Fr Achilles arrived at St Mary's College, Port of Spain, in November 1892 and though he admitted privately that he was overwhelmed by the challenges of his post he quickly won universal respect and embarked on extending the college grounds. He mounted a public campaign for a more equitable subsidy from the Government for the school. His well documented memorial left the authorities convinced of the need for action in spite of opposition from those who did not favour giving such assistance to Catholic schools. When a yellow fever epidemic struck he was one of the first victims. He was removed to St Francis' rectory to avoid the spread of the contagion.

Fr Achilles Lemire died 30 June 1894 aged 34 and was buried in Trinidad. *BG* XVII 465ff and 408; *CIC* 1913 42ff; *BCA* 1989 10.

**LENNON, Fr Seán; 1924-1989**



Born 14 April 1924 in Derrynose, Co. Armagh, he entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1944. After finishing Philosophy in Kimmage he professed for two years at Blackrock, 1947-9, and then began Theology. It was said of him at this period: "He was attentive in class, conscientious in study and more than useful in his spare time, most of which he gave over to work about the place. For he was a skilled carpenter and had a way with machines, from watches to tractors. Ordained in 1952 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. He spent the next fifteen years mostly in the Enugu area. His work at first was to care for a backward part of Ogui mission where numbers were few, travel difficult and accommodation primitive. A motor-cycle accident resulted in his apostolic activity there being reduced. But with time on his hands it was decided to make more use of his gifts as a builder. The magnificent cathedral in Enugu was his work as was the equally striking church of St Patrick. He was always ready with advice and help for fellow missionary builders less expert than himself. And he rendered considerable assistance to the Owerri mission technical school by allowing apprentices to get their building experience while working with him. He was also noted for being kind and considerate with all his workers. He was like one of themselves in his ordinary relations with them. He made sure they were well paid and never asked them to do anything he would not be willing to do himself. When in later years he was appointed to Kimmage he was given charge of the farm. By then, however, he seemed to have lost much of his zest for practical management. He spent lengthy periods in his native Armagh trying to regain his health. Aged 65 Fr Seán Lennon died suddenly while at home 23 October 1989 aged 65 years, and he was buried in the parish of Derrynose, Co. Armagh. *IPNI* No. 9 1989.

**LEONARD, Fr Patrick Joseph 1937-2001**



Born on 11 March 1937 in Killasolan, Mountbellew, Co. Galway, Patrick did his secondary studies in Blackrock, 1951-56. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he made his first profession in 1957. After Philosophy in Kimmage he professed in Blackrock, 1959-61. Ordained priest in 1964 he was appointed the following year to Kenya and from 1965 to 1980 he worked in the parishes of Makupa, Kereita, Riara and Kiambu. In 1980 Patrick took one year sabbatical and did a Mission Studies Course. In 1987 Patrick was appointed District Superior in Kenya and continued in this post until 1993. He then returned to Ireland due to illness and was given three months to live. After medical treatment he returned to Kenya and continued to serve there until April 2001.

Paddy was always well known for his hospitality. Quoting from his funeral homily: "We recall his years in Makupa in Mombasa; the fridge was never empty, this was especially true of his years in Peter Clavers in Nairobi Archdiocese. Peter Clavers is a parish in the heart of Nairobi. It has the Railway Station on one side and the Bus Terminal on the other-side - people constantly on the move day and night. The doors at Peter Clavers were always open...When we elected Paddy as our Superior in Kenya in 1987, hospitality was his chief concern, with special regard for the elderly and the sick. Paddy's final hour of glory was the manner in which he organised the

centenary celebrations of St. Austins last year. The vestments that we are wearing at today's Mass were especially made for that occasion by the Carmelite Sisters in Nairobi. Fr. Paddy was a fluent Swahili speaker - Karibu Sana was his favourite word. It is a word of welcome. I am sure the Lord will say to Paddy "Karibu, enter the Kingdom prepared for you".

Serious illness obliged him to return to Ireland. He retired to Marian House where he was cared for till his death on 20 May 2001. Fr. Patrick was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown, Dublin.

### **Leonard, Father Patrick 1929-2005**

Paddy was born at 6 Castlehill Tce, Coalisland, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone on February 7<sup>th</sup> 1929. After his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 1948. During 1948-'50 he studied philosophy at Kimmage Manor and then perfected at St. Mary's College in Trinidad until 1953. Paddy studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1956 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1957. In 1957 Fr. Patrick's first appointment was to **Ireland** where he served on the *Promotions Team (Propaganda - Burse)* for thirteen years until 1970. In 1970 he was appointed as *Bursar of St. Michael's College*. He remained at this post until 1983 and during this period he was also chaplain to St. Anthony's Hospital. Fr. Patrick was keen on updating and on-going formation. He did the Chaplain's Course in Elm Park in 1980; he studied Labour Law at the Irish Management Institute in 1981 and did computer programming at Cara Data Processing in 1982. Over the years he used his talents and experience by serving on the Board of Directors of: Geriatric Research Foundation, Catholic Housing Aid Society, St. Anthony's Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Development Studies Centre Kimmage Manor and SPIRASI. In 1986 Fr. Paddy took over as *President of the World Mercy Fund* after the death of Fr. Tom Rooney its founder. In this post Fr. Paddy showed, where possible, very practical solidarity with his confrères on mission. He was tireless in his efforts to promote in an honest and sincere way the principles of Justice and Peace.

He died 17<sup>th</sup> July 2005 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **LEROUX, Fr Charles 1856-1915**



Born 1 March 1856 at Toule, Brittany, he studied at the diocesan seminary in Quimper where he was ordained August 1880. He had intended joining the White Fathers in order to work on the missions but, on doing a retreat at the Spiritan community in Langonnet in 1885, he applied for admission to the Congregation. Professed at Chevilly in 1886 he was appointed to Blackrock where he served for the next ten years. He taught French at third level in the University and Civil Service College in the Castle. He also acted as chaplain to Linden Convalescent Home, walking there every morning in fair weather and foul to say the 7 am Mass. When he was leaving Blackrock due to ill-health in 1896, the Superior, Fr. Botrel, wrote to Paris: "Fr. Leroux is seriously ill... He was an excellent teacher, very dedicated to his work, and his absence will leave a noticeable gap." He subsequently spent periods at the colleges in Merville and Beauvais, teaching English. When these schools were closed, due to the persecution of the church under the Combes regime,

he was appointed to the USA where he taught in the college at Pittsburgh for two years. Later he went to Belmead, VA., as chaplain of the schools and convent of Rock Castle. Illness forced him to retire to Philadelphia in 1911 for treatment. He died there of heart failure 1 May 1915 aged 59. BCArch; *SpWW* 227

### **LEVEY, Br Laurence (James) 1835-1912**

Born 15 June 1835 in Ratoath, Co. Meath, James entered the Congregation at Blanchardstown 25 June 1860, he being the second aspirant for the brotherhood in the Irish province. The first was Br Vincent de Paul McNally from Co. Monaghan. Both began their novitiate at Blackrock 23 September 1861 and left for France 15 August 1862 to complete their novitiate at Langonnet in Brittany. Père Leman had been Master of Novices there before being appointed to Ireland, and when he was informed that the Irish novices were considered to be rather backward, he had no hesitation in putting this down to the language barrier. Being convinced of their potentialities when placed in their own environment, he was very glad to have them appointed to Blackrock after their profession in October 1862. Br Vincent was to work in various places at home and abroad in the years to come; Br Laurence was to be attached to Blackrock for the rest of his life - serving under eight successive superiors. He was a man of sound common sense and Père Leman was known to rely much - too much, some said - on his counsel. He was also Fr J.M. Ebenrecht's right-hand man during the planning and constructing of the main college wing in 1872-3. For almost thirty years he lived very much the life of a hermit farmer when he was in charge of the farm acquired by the college in Ryebrook, Leixlip. There he lived a frugal, laborious and prayerful life, seeing little of the community or students, except when they came to spend the holidays there. When this farm was disposed of in 1905, Br Laurence took charge of the college farm at Nutley, Merrion, where he was to be succeeded by Br David Doran who had spent many years in Nigeria. Br Laurence died 1 February 1912 aged 77. Forgotten by most during his lonely life, he was not honoured in death with an obituary notice of any sort, not even being mentioned in the *Bulletin Général* as having died. And when his death did get into the Necrology he was given as dying 1<sup>st</sup> of January instead of February! Fr Ebenrecht, who had taken care of such official records for over half a century, was by then showing signs of his own approaching death. Br Laurence Levey was 77 years of age. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BR, Nos. 1 & 2; LH, p.263.

### **LEWIS, Fr James Jos 1925-1999**



Seamus (Jimmy) was born 20 September 1925 in Elphin, Co. Roscommon. After his studies in Mungret College, Limerick, he joined the Congregation in 1943 and was professed in Kilshane. He did his university studies at UCD gaining the MA in 1949. After one year as prefect in Blackrock he was sent to Fribourg to continue his studies. He completed his BD in 1953 and was ordained that year. After gaining the STL in 1954 he was appointed to Mauritius where he was to serve mainly in Holy Spirit College teaching literature until 1964. Transferred to Kenya that year he was to teach in various high schools and in the Teacher Training College. During his stay at Kitela he was given the task of translating the new Roman missal into the local language Kikamba. His facility in learning languages had enabled him to become fluent in that language and this new task was one suited to his talents. He compared the Latin text with the new English and French missals, and with the help of some

teachers and students, translated the Sunday collects, prayers and psalms, and then typed them himself on a battered manual typewriter. People who used the texts for many years marvelled at how easily the prayers read and how clearly the teaching of the Church came out of them. One could use many of the Sunday collects as the basis for the homily. He worked in Tala in the Diocese of Machakos and later at Shamba Hills in the Diocese of Mombasa. He returned to Machakos diocese in 1982 and served at the Ikalaasa and Kalawa missions. His last missions were in Kibaoni - a remote part of Machakos, far from towns. It was famous for its powerful witchcraft. Jimmy lived among the witchdoctors there for twenty years and came to no harm. His infectious laugh, which was his hallmark since his days in the seminary, must have proved to all that he was a man of good heart. He was described as a faithful teacher of the gospel, and an affable confrere who welcomed all who came to visit him. He loved the annual retreats when he could get together with confreres and enjoy their company. As a missionary priest he was very zealous, built many churches, brought many to Christ, baptised them, married them and worshipped with them for thirty years. In 1993 Seamus was transferred to Ireland and was later appointed to serve in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England. There he worked mainly in the Holy Cross Hospital, Haselmere, as chaplain and it was there he died on 26 June 1999 aged 75 years. He was buried in the Holy Cross Hospital Cemetery. *IPN* No.3 1999; *KEASM* No.745.

#### **LEWIS, Fr Patrick Joseph 1935-2001**



Born in Sandymount, Dublin City, on 18 July 1935, Paddy did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1947-53. Professed in 1954 he did Philosophy in Kimmage the following year. In 1955 he was stricken with polio and was hospitalised until 1960. During 1961 he convalesced at Kimmage Manor. He was ordained to the priesthood on 19 December 1964. Having studied for 1st Year Commerce at UCD in 1954-55, Paddy returned to UCD and was awarded the degree B.Soc.Sc. in 1967.

During 1967 he spent some time in Nairobi, Kenya, and then returned to join the teaching staff at the Scholasticate in Kimmage Manor. He taught Sociology there until 1974. During 1972 he went on a round the world trip. In 1974 he went to the United States and was awarded an M.A. in Social Work from the University of St Louis, Missouri. From 1976 to 1981 he worked with Catholic Charities in St Louis, and was also assistant Chaplain at St Mary's Hospital. In 1974 Fr Paddy was appointed to the San Francisco Regional Community. He was appointed Vicar for People-with-Special-Needs. He played a leading part in organising for People-with-Special-Needs to attend the papal mass in Candlestick Park, San Francisco. Up to 1992 he continued to be prominent in Catholic Charities, and made arrangement for wheelchair access to churches and other buildings in the Archdiocese. Health reasons forced Paddy to return to Ireland in June 1992. He retired to Marian House where he died on 6 October 2001. Fr Paddy was buried in Mount Jerome cemetery.

#### **LICHTENBERGER, Fr Francis-Xavier 1869-1921**



Born 2 December 1869 in Guberschwihir, (Haut-Rhin), Alsace, F.X. received his early education at an orphanage conducted by the Congregation at Chevilly, and in 1879 transferred to the newly acquired college at Mesnières. 'F.X.', as he was known to distinguish him from his brother Joseph, was sent to Blackrock in 1881 to begin his secondary

studies and to become sufficiently fluent at English in order to be able to work in a mission in the British colonies. He spent seven years at Blackrock before returning to France, 1888, to begin his studies for the priesthood. Ordained 1892 he was assigned the following year to Fr Joseph Lutz's team for Nigeria, which included Br David Doran of the Rockwell community - the first Irish Spiritan to work in that mission. Fr F.X.'s first appointment was to a mission station at Onitsha-Noube. From 1895 he was in charge of the mission at Agouleri where he got involved in promoting a network of schools, this work being restricted only by the shortage of funds. After seven years of unremitting work he was forced by ill-health to return to Europe. While recuperating he engaged in fund-raising activities and mission propaganda. He called to Blackrock where Fr Hugh O'Toole fitted him out with lantern slides to illustrate his talks at Blackrock and Rockwell. Fr James Mellett recalled in his book *If any Man Dare* the galvanising effect that his lectures had on the students in Rockwell. It has been suggested that it was these talks which influenced Shanahan to urge once again that he be allowed to go to Nigeria. Fr F.X., being unable himself to return to his mission, set off on a tour of the USA, collecting for Nigeria. He did return there in 1908 but had to withdraw in January 1912. He then returned to the USA where he took part in the pastoral work for the blacks in the special parishes assigned to the Congregation. He served at New Iberia and later at St Joachim's, Detroit. It would appear that Nigeria did not receive the expected financial contributions from his work, and Fr Shanahan expressed his disappointment in his correspondence with the Generalate at a time when the mission was in dire need of financial aid. Dogged by ill-health - liver trouble which he contracted in Nigeria - Fr Francis-Xavier Lichtenberger died 14 October 1921 aged 51 years. His elder brother, Fr Joseph, who also served in Nigeria and at Castlehead juniorate, decided to part company with the Congregation and went to work as a pastor in Canada. *BG* 30, 517ff; *SpWW* 286; *If any Man Dare*, Mellett, p.5.

### **LIDDANE, Fr Cornelius**

**1879-1961**



Born 24 December 1879 in Carrigaholt, Querrin, Kilkee, Co. Clare, Con was a student at Blackrock, 1897-1903. He spent four years as prefect in Rockwell before going to Grignon to do his novitiate and his senior studies at Chevilly. Ordained in 1913 he was appointed to Nigeria just as the Great War had been declared and he was to spend the next 46 years there working chiefly in two stations, Ozubulu until 1932 and Adazi from then till he retired in 1956. When Bishop Shanahan returned to Nigeria in 1920 after a long absence, he found Fr Liddane very run down. He wrote: "He was overworked and underfed at Ozubulu where he was all alone last year...". It was feared then that he might not be able to continue in Nigeria. He was always a very active and successful organiser of schools, a policy which under Bishop Shanahan had become a very important aspect of missionary apostolate. Fr Con. had as his priority the training of suitable teachers for his many schools. When he retired in 1956, in his area alone there were 43 schools with about 9,000 students being served by 250 teachers. This represented an average for the 80 or so districts in which the Onitsha and Owerri dioceses were divided. The extent and perfection of the organisation required to achieve this level of progress was the result of the sacrifice and dedication of men like Fr Con who remained on at his post till over eighty years of age. The last five years were spent in Dunakofia Mission but in his final illness he came to Adazi Mission Hospital where he died 25 January 1961 aged 81. Fr Con was an uncle of Fr Pat Liddane CSSp. *BCA* 1960 214f.



**LIDDY, Fr Michael**                      **1917-1979**



Born 26 November 1917 in Rossroe, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, Mike did his secondary studies at Rockwell. Professed in 1937 he did one year of Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, moving to Kimmage with the general body the following year. He prefectured for one year at Blackrock, 1939-40, and then began Theology. As he tried to grapple with some of the more abstruse niceties of philosophy and theology he afforded a welcome laugh on occasion, as when Fr Edward Leen, in his efforts to contrast transient and immanent action, asked Mike what was the difference between the action of a greyhound and a racing car. Mike's spontaneous reply was: "It would be a very fast greyhound that could match a racing car." Each newly ordained priest was expected in those days to sing at least one High Mass, with or without notes. Fr Mike's attempt was so off-key that it was classified as "Mixed Lydian mode." Fr Mike was appointed to Nigeria in 1944 and from then on he was at the top of the class. His secret was to be always on the job and ready to cope with any conditions no matter how primitive or demanding. For 1947 we find him located at Nsu where there were 20,506 Catholics and 10,777 Catechumens to be catered for by the team of three - Frs Frank Howell, George Lahiffe and Fr Mike. The figures given for the same station in two years time are: 31,006 Catholics and 13,123 Catechumens. In 1952 he was stationed at Okigwi where he is given as the director in 1961 with three priests assisting and two Holy Rosary Sisters in charge of the girls' school. The 1968 *État* gives his last posting in Nigeria as Mbutu Ngwa, where he was on his own with 15 primary schools to look after, apart from his parish duties. Having to forsake Nigeria in 1969 due to the Biafra war, he took on the unaccustomed work of Missions Promotion in the USA. He volunteered for service in Papua New Guinea but he was reappointed to Africa, but this time to begin at the bottom, learning the language and the missionary methods of Machakos in Kenya. Once again, though speaking this time through an interpreter, he was to amaze people with his total dedication and success. He wrote in July 1972: "In Iboland we had very many Catholics. Consequently most of our activity was limited to taking care of their spiritual needs. Here the Catholics are few; there are but two Catholic-sponsored schools out of 28 County schools in my parish. ..I have built up good relations with teachers, parents and children, so that all schools are open to me...I have made it a point of establishing a church centre where ever there is a school, as a result of the understanding I have achieved with the staff and the parents I am not only given the Catholic children to teach but all the others as well...I have recently broadened my apostolate to instruct the teachers on how to teach religion. What, you may ask, do I hope to achieve? For the present - good will, good relations, understanding - and later, conversions..." In September 1979, as he prepared to return to his mission at Kibwezi, he became ill. On his return home a medical examination revealed that his illness was terminal. Fr Michael Liddy died in St Luke's Hospital 4 December 1979 aged 62 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 5 1972 and No. 41 1980.

**LIKELY, Fr Joseph**                      **1910-1964**



Born 10 June 1910 in Mullinasole, Laghey, Co. Donegal, Joe did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1926-31. Professed in Kimmage 1932 he did one year in Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, the following year. An urgent call from Rockwell for an extra prefect in September 1933 was the occasion for a celebrated telegram from the Director of the Senior

Scholasticate, Fr John Kearney, that made Rockwell stand to attention. It read: "Likely arriving tonight, Kearney." Joe Likely profected for one year at Rockwell, 1933-34, and then resumed Philosophy. Ordained in 1938 Fr Joe was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar where he was to serve for the rest of his active life apart from one year, 1959-60, spent in the Brothers' Juniorate. Among his appointments in Mombasa-Zanzibar he was director at Kanzalo mission in 1947. He served later in Kilungu. Affected by leukaemia in his later years Fr Joe retired to Kimmage for a period, 1961-63. Fr Joseph Likely went back to Kenya for a year but was forced by ill-health to return home for further treatment at St Luke's Hospital, where he died 31 December 1964 aged 54 years. He was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; L.25.

### **LIMBOUR, Fr Amet 1841-1915**



Born 10 January 1841 in Port-Aven, Brittany, Amet he joined the Congregation after he had been ordained priest and he was professed 27 August 1865. He worked at the Providence social work centre in Reunion till it had to close because of local riots and in 1870 he was posted to St. Louis College in Mauritius. Returned to France in ill-health he was soon put in charge of the newly founded apostolic school at Beauvais conducted in connection with the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph. Br

Adelm Walsh from Ireland was attached to the community and he arranged that his nephew, Joseph Shanahan - future apostle of Nigeria - be taken into the school, 1886-89, as part of Limbour's drive to help give the project an international dimension. Due to disagreement with the local bishop about the direction the school was taking, Fr Limbour ceased to be director in 1889. He was then appointed to Rockwell, replacing Fr Prosper Goepfert as Superior. Rockwell was going through a very difficult time and was threatened with closure but Fr Limbour together with the new Dean of studies, Dr Edward Crehan, reversed the tide. Once again Limbour was out of line with local attitudes, so he was transferred in 1894 to supervise an ambitious project in Haiti. That project also met with serious difficulties and Fr Limbour returned to France where he helped in setting up the first house of the Congregation there. He then joined the staff of the Colonial Seminary and edited the *Annales*. He was posted to Canada where he acquired a site for the Congregation to open a province there in 1905. Returning to France he was editor of the *Bulletin Général*, published some historical studies on the Congregation and taught in the Colonial Seminary. In 1912, at the age of 71, he was appointed to Senegal where he died four years later. A man of vision and energy, even if the achievement did not measure up to the grand plans, he served the Congregation and the Church well. Fr Amet Limbour died at St. Louis, Senegal, 12 August 1915 aged 74 years. Jules Groehl, *Le R.P. Amet Limbour*, 2619; SpWW, 81; Forristal, *Shanahan*, 176 *et passim*.

### **LISTON, Bishop Daniel 1900-1986**



Born 14 April 1900 in Foynes, Co. Limerick, Dan did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1912-17. A brilliant student, winning exhibitions in the public examinations, he also played on winning JCT and SCT teams. He profected at Blackrock, 1917-19, and at Rockwell, 1919-21. Professed at Kimmage in 1922, he went on to take his B.A. with 1st Class Honours at UCD. Sent to Rome in 1925, he was awarded the B.C.L. and the D.D. by the Gregorian University. Ordained in Rome in 1928 he was

appointed dean of studies at Blackrock in 1930 in succession to Dr. J.C. McQuaid, who had been appointed superior. During the Holy Year, 1933-34, he and Fr Walter Finn organised the Blackrock pilgrimage to Rome during which they presented Pope Pius XI with a de Burgho chalice and an Irish-wrought monstrance. They assisted at the canonisation ceremony for St John Bosco. In 1937 Fr Liston was seconded to Mauritius where he was rector of the revived Quatre-Bornes Seminary College founded twenty years earlier by Bishop John T. Murphy. Under his ten years rectorship it became one of the leading schools in the island. In 1947 Fr Liston was appointed co-adjutor to Archbishop James Leen, and in 1949 he succeeded him as Bishop of Port Louis. He saw Mauritius become an independent State, the number of the faithful doubled, and the local clergy increase from 18 to 48. He presided over marked developments in the church, especially in implementing the directives of Vatican II. In 1955 he suffered a partial stroke as a result of a heart attack, but he had the resources to remain at the helm till 1967 when he retired from Mauritius. He still remained active as chaplain to a convent of Sisters in England where he also gave a helping hand in their pastoral ministry. Infirmity forced him to retire to Kimmage in 1983 where he died 3 May 1986 aged 86 years. He was buried in Kimmage. Bishop Daniel Liston was always noted for his kindness, gentleness, thoughtfulness, courtesy, intelligence and efficiency. *BCA* 1934 14ff, 1938 34f, 1986 207; *IPNI* 63, 1986.

**LITTLE, Fr Seán L                      1931-1980**



Born in Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, 3rd February 1931, Seán entered the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock in 1944 and after completing his secondary studies in 1949 he went to the Novitiate at Kilshane where he made his first profession in 1950. He attended University College Dublin where he took a B.A. in 1953 with first class honours in Philosophy and was awarded the Pierce Malone Scholarship. While prefecting in Blackrock (St Michael's), 1953-55, he also studied for the H.Dip.Ed. In 1955 he went to Rome, to the Pontifical Gregorian University to study theology, and he was awarded the S.T.L. in 1959. Ordained to the priesthood in Rome, 1958, his first appointment was to The Gambia where he replaced the late Fr Mike Frawley in St. Augustine's High School, Banjul. Besides teaching a variety of subjects he trained athletics and football teams for present and past students, produced school plays and concerts and put on a special performance of "Antigone" for the Independence Celebrations in 1965. He put a lot of work into his teaching, and his classes were noted for their excellent results. Besides this school work he was involved in pastoral work at Brikama at week-ends, saying Mass and teaching catechism. He also did a lot of work as port chaplain in Banjul. Fr Seán spent the year 1969-70 teaching in England before joining the staff of the Senior School of St. Mary's College, Rathmines, where, besides teaching Latin and Religion, he tutored Senior Debating teams very successfully. In 1972 he took over as Dean of the Junior School, a post held until his death. From 1975 he edited the College Annual. He was actively involved in the Legion of Mary in Dublin, and among his many pastoral activities he gave retreats to non-Catholics. It was then with dismay that Seán's many friends gradually realised that the illness which unexpectedly affected him was, in fact, terminal. Fr Seán Little died 13th May 1980 aged 49 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1980, 43; *BCA* 1980, 182; *StMRA* 1980 p..

### **LLOYD, Fr David J 1885-1958**



Fr. David J. Lloyd O.S.B.

Born 18 November 1885 in Caherline Ho., Co. Limerick, Dave studied first with the Jesuits. He came as a boarder to Rockwell in 1898 and in 1903 joined the juniorate. He perfected there, 1906-8, and then went to France to do his novitiate, 1908-9, and senior studies. Ordained priest, 1913, Fr Dave was appointed to Sierra Leone the following year and he was to give the next 44 years in the service of that demanding mission. His first appointment was as assistant in Mobe; the following year he was appointed Director at Pujehun; from 1916 to 1933 he served at Bonthe, from 1933 to 1936 he was at Freetown, as Administrator, 1936-38, and as Director, 1939-43, and from 1940 to 1947 he was Principal superior. What was written about Dave by his director in the senior scholasticate could be written about his whole life; "Balanced, reliable and sociable". As one reflects on his long life in challenging circumstances in one is forced to recall the earliest missionaries from Ireland who went to Sierra Leone and were called by the Lord within a year or two. Père Leman, once when pondering on the designs of God, remarked after one such early death: "God's designs? God is admirable and incomprehensible in all his ways, and one can but submit to them. The moment of mercies has not yet arrived; without doubt these victims will hasten that moment. Our Lord has not willed to convert the world on his own. He was content to die; he left the work of conversion to the apostles. When the moment has come for Africa, one missionary will seem to do more externally than twenty do now. God has no need of us; that is a thought which consoles..." (*Père Leman* p.276). Fr Dave had the reputation of being an excellent teacher. One of his pupils became Prime Minister. Fr Lloyd was appointed the first Religious Superior of Sierra Leone and ministered at that time at St Anthony's, Freetown. After two years in retirement in Ireland he asked to be allowed to return to Sierra Leone. He was attached to Sacred Heart Cathedral parish where he died peacefully 10 April 1958 aged 72 years. He has been described by those who worked with him as of gentle disposition and a thorough gentleman. RJR; GenArch; *État*

### **LODGE, Fr Seán A. 1919-2000**



Born in Sandymount, Dublin, on 7 June 1919, Seán attended Belvedere College for a short period before transferring in 1933 to Blackrock as a day student. His father, Science teacher at St Columba's College and a member of the ASTI, was well known to Dr McQuaid who was Chairman of the Catholic Headmasters Association. Dr McQuaid remarked of him: "He is like Nelson Pillar: you may climb up it and get round it, but you will not get through it." Seán was to inherit some of his father's intransigent approach to the problems of life. After completing his studies in 1938 Seán served for a year in an accountant's office before deciding to enter the Congregation. Professed in 1940 he studied at UCD qualifying for the BA in 1943. He then perfected for two years in the Burse. Ordained in 1948 he was appointed the following year to St Mary's College, Trinidad, but while qualifying for the H.Dip. he taught at St Michael's, Ailesbury Road. Returning to Ireland in 1956 he was appointed Superior of the Juniorate and community at Castlehead, Lancs. In 1961 Seán joined the teaching staff at Blackrock College. He taught English, French and Religion, and to update himself in these disciplines he attended various courses, including a summer course at the *Institut Catholique* in Paris. He also took an active part as chaplain to the Legion of Mary in the school and in the inner city. Gifted with

a splendid tenor voice he was a member for a period of Our Lady's Choral Society. He was also an excellent homilist. Though he was very well qualified as a teacher he lacked the patience to cope with students' laid back approach to learning. He embraced with enthusiasm the changes in the liturgy and catechetical studies that came about in the wake of the Vatican Council. Later he was to become a dyed-in-the-wool conservative. This pattern was to be repeated in other spheres of his life. In 1980 he took on pastoral work, helping out for periods in parishes in England, the West of Ireland and even in Canada. An excellent cook, he catered for himself on such occasions. In 1988 he returned once more to his Alma Mater and engaged in chaplaincies in the locality. Fr Seán's most permanent ministry was his regular visits to a hospital where a school friend lay paralysed. He read to him extracts from the books he knew he appreciated. He also was very devoted to his invalid sister. Seán's favourite hobby was hill walking; he loved the hills and lakes of Co. Wicklow, and often headed out in their direction at the crack of dawn. Being something of a character many stories were told about him; the best were told by himself. Just one: He was well known to Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary and they were not always of the same mind at meetings. Seán said that whenever he rose to speak or sing Frank was seen to adjust his hearing aid to blot him out! Seán suffered recurring bouts of depression, which made life difficult. He died in St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, on 21 August 2000. He was 81 years of age. Fr Seán was buried in the family grave in Deansgrange Cemetery. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 2 2000

#### **LONERGAN, Fr Joseph 1903-1952**



Joseph was born 10 June 1903 in Brooklyn, N.Y. His father took him back home to Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary, to be reared when his mother died soon after Joseph's birth. He entered the juniorate at Rockwell in 1918 and was professed at Kimmage Manor 1923. After Philosophy he was sent to Ferendale, CT, USA, where he did Theology and was ordained in 1927. He taught for a brief period at Cornwells Heights juniorate and then went to work among the blacks. He served as assistant at St Mary Magdalen's, Tualoosa, Ala, and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Philadelphia, till 1936. In 1938 he was pastor at St Edward's in Louisiana, New Iberia, and in 1945 he served at St Paul's, Lafayette. He was very successful in his ministry among the impoverished blacks in the deep south and 'had the knack of accomplishing big things in such a way as to make them appear simple'. In 1946 the doctor diagnosed a circulatory disorder which left him at most six years to live. He calmly accepted the verdict and kept on working till his death 1 April 1952 aged 48. RJJ; *SpWW* 608

### **LONG, Fr William**

**1890-1956**



Born 12 April 1890 in Cloncrippa, Feenagh, Co. Limerick, William did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1904-11; he also studied for the University examinations. Having entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor he was professed in 1913 and was among those sent to USA as part of the Drexel-Murphy plan to provide personnel for pastoral work for blacks in the States in return for money to set up a senior scholasticate in Ireland. William did Philosophy and Theology at Ferndale being ordained in 1917. Fr William was assigned to the special parish for blacks at Holy Spirit, New Orleans, in 1920 and was pastor of St Peter Claver, Charleston, S.C., 1922-35, where he built a school. In 1935 he became pastor of Holy Spirit, Opelousas, LA., where he built a new church. Due to illness he took leave of absence for a year and then returned to the same parish. In 1947 he was transferred to St Gabriel, Hot Springs, Ark., and became its pastor in 1949. Here again he built a church and a school. Illness forced him to retire in 1954, but he continued to serve as assistant there and in other parishes. Finally, in 1945, Fr William was confined to hospital where he died Palm Sunday 1956 aged 65 years. It was written of him: "A hardworking priest in health and in sickness. He died as he had lived, cheerfully and full of gratitude to God." BCArch; *BCA* 1956, 56; *SpWW* 652.

### **Lord, Father Gerald Arthur 1923 - 2004**

Gerry was born in Tydavanet, Monaghan on October 31<sup>st</sup> 1923. After one year in C.B.S. Monaghan he joined the Irish Christian Brothers and spent one year in Baldoyle and two years in Bray. In 1941 after completing the Leaving Certificate he came home and remained mostly at farming until February 8<sup>th</sup> 1944 when he entered the Junior Scholasticate in Rockwell. After four months spent in Rockwell mostly studying Latin he did the Matriculation Examination and then entered the novitiate in Kilshane, at the age of twenty-one years. Gerry made his first profession on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1945. He studied philosophy at Kimmage from 1945 until 1947 and theology from 1947 until 1950. Gerry was ordained to the Priesthood on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1950. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1951. In 1951 Father Gerry's initial appointment was to the *Diocese of Onitsha* in **Nigeria** but due to health reasons he was detained in **Ireland** and appointed to *St. Michael's College*. In the period 1952-'55 he served as *Provincial Secretary*. He was appointed to *St. Mary's College* in 1956 and remained on there for the next twenty-three years until 1979. During this time he completed the B.D. in 1977, the H. Dip in Ed. in 1978 and a Dip in Catechetics in 1979. In 1979 Father Gerry was appointed to work in the **United States**. He worked in parishes in **East U.S A.** during the 1979 – '84 period and then in *Staten Island*, New York until 1986. He was then transferred to the West Coast and worked in *San Diego, California* from 1986 until 2002. Fr. Gerry celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination in 2000. For the last few years Fr. Gerry had failing health. He retired to live with his sister in Pennsylvania in 2003 and returned to Marian House earlier this year. He died 28<sup>th</sup> June 2004  
He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **LYDON, Fr Peter 1915-1966**



Father Peter Lydon.

Born 6 April 1915 in Main St, Passage West, Co. Kerry, Pete did his secondary studies at Rockwell. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane, 1934-5. As his health gave cause for anxiety he was sent to Montana, Switzerland, 1936-7 to continue his philosophy course. From 1938 to May 1940 he, together with a number of other Irish scholastics, followed their theology course at Louvain at the request of the Provincial, Fr Dan Murphy.

They succeeded in getting away before the German occupation of Belgium and finished their studies at Kimmage. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed to East Africa the following year. He served at Nairobi and Kilungu and later, 1949, at Mbitini. While at Mbitini he picked up the Kikamba language with great precision from listening to the old women. and he composed a catechism in that language. Seen by all to be a lovable character he was known as 'Kitombo' because of his obesity. A very dedicated and active missionary he built several missions one of which was damaged by a hurricane just as the VG arrived to open it officially, and another was destroyed by fire while he was away arguing his case with Bishop Butler for a replacement of his very battered car. He was seen to be accident prone but Peter took all these contretemps in his stride as if it were part of the days work and his sense of humour served as a tonic among the confreres and his lay folk. For long he was seen to face all kinds of hardship and deprivation. He transferred to Mombasa in 1959 and from this period his health deteriorated. Fr Peter Lydon died 22 October 1966 aged 51 years. *MA* Jan. 1967, p.31; *SpEA* 475

### **LYNCH, Fr Daniel 1871-1916**



Born June 1871 in Carigaline, Co. Cork, Dan entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in February 1888 and went to France in 1892 to pursue his senior studies. He returned to Blackrock to do four years' prefecting, 1893-97, and was professed in 1898. Ordained in 1902, he was appointed to Sierra Leone and while preparing for his departure he met Fr James Browne, the Superior of the mission who was then in Ireland

on what was to prove to be his last holiday. Within a few months Fr Lynch was to assist him in his final illness. Fr Lynch was put in charge of St. Edward's, Freetown, and served as assistant superior of the mission and as Vicar-general under Bishop John O'Gorman. When home ill in 1908 he went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. He was forced to return home again in 1913 for another period of recuperation but he spent much of his time touring the country giving illustrated talks on his mission. He was called on to address the staff and students in Maynooth, the topic chosen being initiation ceremonies in Africa. The pictures to be shown called for some judicious censorship, Fr John Kearney being the censor much to the amusement of Fr Jim Burke who had to draw the lines. Fr Daniel, having returned for service in Sierra Leone, was just about to return once more to Ireland when he died unexpectedly. He was a brother of Fr Austin and an uncle of Frs. Jeremiah and Austin jr (q.v). Fr Daniel Lynch died 15 August 1916 aged 46 years. *BJR* No. 523; *État*

### **LYNCH, Fr James B 1913-1986**



Born 1 March 1913 in Doonshean, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Jammie was a native Irish speaker. He came to Rockwell as a boarder and later, 1931-33, joined the Juniorate. Professed in 1934 with the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane he had as Master of Novices Fr J.J. McCarthy under whom he was to serve in East Africa. After Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he profected in Rockwell where he was very well liked by the students. He commenced his Theology in Kimmage in 1938, and was ordained in 1941. Appointed the following year to East Africa, Fr Jammie taught first in Mangu High School and in 1945 he was called on to join the staff at Kibosho Senior Seminary for Tanzania. He was back in Mangu in 1947, this time as headmaster of the school. In 1949 he established the famous Pugu High School in Tanzania where Julius Nyerere, later President of the country, was a staff-member. In 1957 he taught at St George's High School, Giriama. From then on he was to be involved in parish work in Malindi, Shimba Hills, Chonyi, Marafa, Makupa, Kongowea, and Changamwe. At the end he was an Instructor and Spiritual Director of the Novices of the Sisters of St Joseph in Kwale. Fr James Lynch met with his tragic death in a car accident on December 8th 1986 as he travelled to Nairobi for his annual retreat in the company of his confrères, Fr John Ryan and Fr John Noel O'Rourke, and a priest from the diocese of Kildare-Leighlin, Fr Donal Deady. In his homily Bishop Kirima of Mombasa said of Fr James: In his pastoral work "Fr Lynch has revealed to us the mystery of God as Creator. He educated men who have participated effectively in our total liberation from Colonialism, and pastorally he built the Catholic Church we are today. He has used things, money, his own body, friendship, companionship, and his religious commitment, to the service of the love of God for us. We shall always remember him for this. He was liberated from things; he liberated us a great deal from the evil one". Those who had known Jammie as a teacher of Irish in Rockwell recalled him as the gentlest and most kindly of teachers. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal ceannsa. IPNI, 64, March 1987.*

### **LYNCH, Fr Jeremiah Jos. 1899-1973**



Born 16 November 1899 in Fort Richard, Nohoval, Co. Cork, Jerry was a nephew of Frs Austin, 1907+ and Dan, 1916+, and an elder brother of Fr Austin, Jr, 1975+. Jerry did his studies at Blackrock, thus following in the footsteps of his uncles. He won his place on the college JCT in 1914-15, and all his life he was to be a keen participator in sport. On passing Senior Grade in 1917 he profected for three years at Blackrock before going on the Kimmage to do his novitiate. His university studies were done at Kimmage and St Mary's, and he took the BA in Philosophy in 1924. Having done Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, he was ordained priest in 1927 and was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. He served at Moyamba for two years. He had then the misfortune of being struck down and seriously injured by a car, necessitating his removal on a stretcher to a hospital in Dublin. He was met at the boat by a hearse but he had no objection to that mode of transport! All he wanted was to be fit enough to return soon to his post. While convalescing he taught for a year at Blackrock, returning to Sierra Leone in 1932. He was then attached to St Anthony's church, Brookfield, near Freetown. In 1933 he was called on by grateful parishioners to unveil a window in memory of his uncle Fr Dan, who had been VG to Bishop



O'Gorman and was highly esteemed. From 1933 to 1935 Fr Jerry was Vicar Delegate for the Sierra Leone mission. Then he was involved in another road accident as he travelled with a confrere on a combination motorcycle - an American model intended for right-hand drive. After a period of convalescence in Ireland he was back again in Africa in 1937, but this time in Kenya. Stationed at Mombasa port all during the war he was very helpful to missionaries in transit and was noted for his hospitality while attending to his duties as rector of Mombasa church. In 1945 he was appointed to Bura secondary school where, as well as being in charge, he taught Mathematics. He was a good teacher of Mathematics - painstaking and sympathetic, and he was happy with his school post. His health, however, demanded a change from the tropics. In 1948 he was posted to Blackrock where, with the exception of one year, 1949-50, when he acted as college bursar, he taught Mathematics till 1956. Faithful in his duties, charitable and companionable, he was a man of peace and loved by all. Fr Jerry was a keen Bridge player and also relished his game of golf in the company of a group of close friends. As his health began to deteriorate badly he was confined to Linden nursing home where he calmly awaited death as if it were but another appointment in his life. He died 1 June 1973 aged 73 and was buried in Kimmage. PS His Mathematical mind was active to the end: as he said his last farewell to a confrere he asked him to move the vase of flowers to the dead centre of the mantelpiece facing his bed! BCArch; *BCA* 1973 275f.

#### **LYNCH, Fr Joseph            1853-1885**

Born 28 April 1853 in Dundee, Scotland, Joseph was a student at the 'Scotch College' Rockwell, and intended for the Scottish mission. He was one of three (the others being McLaughlin and McGlinchy) who opted to join the Congregation. This understandably added to the dissatisfaction of the Scottish bishops were experiencing about the whole 'Scotch College' project initiated by M. Thiébauld, the wealthy French businessman living in Dundee. Some of the senior Scottish students transferred to the Colonial Seminary in Paris to finish their course when the 'Scotch College' was discontinued in 1874; Joseph Lynch went to Langonnet and Chevilly. After his profession he was appointed to Chandernagor, India, without being allowed home to visit his parents whom he was never to see again. Though he was a successful teacher his letters from India show that he was less than happy with conditions there and that he was of a very sensitive disposition. On the closure of that mission, he was appointed to Mauritius, September 1880. Later he was posted to Angola to partner Fr John Hogan in place of Fr Gerald Griffin who returned to Europe after a severe dose of culture shock. This mission, opened by Fr Charles Duparquet and manned by Frs Hogan and Lynch, aided by Br Onuphre Cooney, promised to be an answer to Père Leman's request that the Irish be given a mission apart where they would not feel that they were but second fiddles to Frenchmen. The site chosen for their station even reminded them of the Rockwell lake. Suddenly disaster struck in 1885. Fr Hogan and Br Onuphre contracted fever when caught in the heavy rains as they travelled a long distance to collect provisions from the central depot. They managed to return to their mission but Fr Hogan succumbed to the fever, and Fr Lynch, who was never robust, died soon after. Br Onuphre managed to hold out till assistance eventually came from headquarters. Fr Lynch died 6 April 1885 aged 32 years. *BG* XIII 1007; GenArch.

**LYNCH, Fr Joseph****1911-1992**

Born 6 May 1911 in Browneville, Kilconly, Tuam, Co. Galway, Joe completed his secondary studies in Blackrock, 1929-31, and was professed in Kimmage in 1932. He began Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, but a year later he took seriously ill and was sent to a sanatorium in Switzerland where he completed his studies. Ordained in 1938 he was appointed to Kenya where he served for the next 37 years. In 1975 he returned to Kimmage where he spent the last seventeen years of his life. During his active years he was noted for his good humour, hard work, hospitality and a deeply religious sense. His alert mind was quick to see the funny side of a situation. He loved to tease and banter and enjoyed nothing better than getting as good as he gave. His sharp tongue on occasion suggested to a confrere that his motto should be "Tongues of fire." But perhaps he is best remembered for his care of the sick on the mission and during his years in retirement. Retirement for him did not mean withdrawal from life. He grew in spirit and humanity. His creative spirit blossomed like the blossoming of the roses, the flowers and the shrubs he tended so lovingly in a garden he reclaimed from a dump. He also provided many services to the members of the community, lighting fires, preparing breakfast while attending to his garden and the sick. He often asked for things for others but rarely for himself. He enjoyed those holidays in Kilkee with a group of confreres during the last years of his life. The Lord called Fr Joseph Lynch home 19 August 1992 aged 81 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* No.4 Oct. 1992.

**LYNCH, Fr Joseph Neptune****1880-1933**

Born 15 January 1880 in Carrowbeg, Belclare, Co. Galway, Nep came to Blackrock as a boarder 1896 and entered the Juniorate the following year just as Fr John Kearney was taking over as director from Fr John Neville. Nep was a bright student and was allowed to continue his studies at the Castle for a BA in Classics at the time when Dev was concentrating on Mathematics. He prefectured at the college, 1902-06, before going to France to do his novitiate. Ordained in 1911, he was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Rathmines. As he was in ill-health from suspected tuberculosis, he was transferred to the Holy Ghost college at St Alexandre de la Gatineau in Canada. There he spent thirteen happy years where it was said that he left his heart and got rid of his detested name, Neptune, henceforth being known as Joseph. He loved Canada, its heat and its cold, and above all its people. So it was with regret but with no protestations that he was transferred to St Mary's College, Trinidad, in 1925, as professor of Greek. His health deteriorated there with the added complication of blood pressure. He returned to Ireland in 1931 and was stationed for a period at Kimmage. He asked to be allowed take up teaching again at Blackrock. He found he was not able to work and for the last three years of his life he was unable to do more than say Mass. We find these words in his obituary in the *Blackrock College Annual*: "But it was a pleasure to have him in the community. If you looked only on the surface of things, you saw a man with a keen sense of humour telling good jokes or yarns and getting the humorous aspect of everything; if you looked more deeply, you saw an invalid, suffering considerably, but hiding his suffering so completely under so gay a cloak that you even forgot that he was an invalid. He had only one regret - that he could not continue his priestly labours, but his great spirit of faith

showed him that God did not want his work but his sufferings." The Lord called Fr Joseph N. Lynch home 13 November 1933 aged 53 years. *BG* 36 606; *BCA* 1934 118f; *SpWW* 406

### **LYNCH, Fr Timothy Augustine 1907-1975**



Born 24 April 1907 in Fort Richard, Nohoval, Kinsale, Co. Cork, Austin came to Blackrock, 1921-26, in the footsteps of his brother Jerry q.v., and his uncles Daniel and Austin. q.v.. He was one of several from the Juniorate who figured on the 1925 SCT team that won the Leinster Cup for the 25th time. After profession in Kimmage in 1927 and two years in Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, he was appointed prefect at St Mary's, Rathmines. During this two-year period he was selected to play for the 1st XV of the Blackrock College Club. The St Mary's Club had ceased with the closure of the secondary school, 1916-26. A period of illness during his theological studies at the Castle influenced his superiors to send Austin to Switzerland to finish his course there. He was ordained, 1934, in Paris by the Superior General, Mgr Louis Le Hunsec, who had known his uncles in the senior scholasticate in France. Appointed the following year to the mission in Kenya, Fr Austin's health improved and he was able to take up with energy an exacting round of duties in various parts of Kenya. He became a master of Kiswahili, Kilamba and Kikuyu, and gave special attention to training an African clergy. He started several junior seminaries and became director of the Seminary in Kilima Mbogo near Thika. When the Congo suffered the disastrous loss of many of its missionaries, Fr Austin offered his services during the effort at reconstruction of the mission work. He hoped that his knowledge of French and Kiswahili together with his mission experience might be useful. He served at Lubunda mission station, north Katanga. After a year he returned to Kenya where he worked at various stations until, when he was at Ngarariga Mission, 1969-70, his health forced him to retire. Fr Austin Lynch came home to Kimmage where he died 9th October 1975 aged 68 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No. 18, Oct. 1975; 1976 173

### **LYNCH, Fr Timothy Austin 1875-1907**



Born 28 October 1875 in Gurtygrinnane, Minane Bridge, Carrigaline, Co. Cork, Austin was one of five from that family who entered the religious life, three of his sisters becoming nuns and his elder brother, Dan, having preceded him to Blackrock to join the Congregation. Austin studied at Blackrock, 1890-97, and though he never shone at studies he was among the most popular students because of his happy and open disposition and because he excelled at sport - cricket and rugby in particular. He played for the SCT, getting the winning score in 1897. While prefecting, 1897-1901, he played for the Blackrock Club and won a Leinster Medal in 1898. He did his novitiate in Grignon, being professed 1902. He features with his brother, Fr Dan, in the group-photo taken of the Irish scholastics in September 1901. Austin was the soul of the senior scholasticate as he organised games and took a special interest in the younger Irish confreres. After his subdiaconate he was discovered to be suffering from tuberculosis when he was injured in the course of a game of football. Using an iron brace on his leg due to an old injury he lost his balance on the sanctuary as he took part in the Solemn Benediction after he had been ordained deacon. The others went to his aid but as they

were wearing copes they tripped over one another and provoked such an outburst of hilarity that the ceremony had to be abandoned. It was the last time poor Austin featured in any form of game; he had even to be provided with a chair during most of the ordination ceremony for the priesthood. After his ordination he was sent to Switzerland for treatment. He spent some time at Leysin where he at first showed signs of impatience as he found himself for the first time so restricted physically and threatened with serious ill-health. Gradually his good spirits revived and from then on, in spite of very intense pain from the treatment he had to undergo, he was once again the soul of the establishment. Doctors and patients were amazed at his patience and good humour in such circumstances. He was transferred to a sanatorium in Bligny in France where he had to undergo very painful surgery, which, because of a mishap, had to be repeated. He offered all up for conversions on the missions. After the General Chapter in 1906 several of the delegates, including Bishop John O'Gorman, travelled to visit him. When it was clear that there was no hope of recovery or much relief from his pain, one of his sisters came over to nurse him and got permission to have him taken home to Cork. He summoned up sufficient strength to face the journey but died soon after on November 7th 1907 aged 32 years. Fr Austin Lynch was laid to rest in the family burial place. For his brother, Fr Dan, and his two nephews, Frs Jeremiah and Austin, cf. their obituaries. BCArch; B.111, 175ff.

#### **LYONS, Fr Bartholomew 1917-1999**



Born in Dublin 5 May 1917 Bertie did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1930-35. Having opted to join the Congregation he was professed in Kilshane in 1936. He studied at Kimmage and UCD qualifying for the BSc. in 1939. He was then called on to go to St Mary's College, Trinidad, as prefect. Due to the war situation he served there for four years. Having done his Philosophy at Kimmage he was among the first group to be sent to Rome after the war. He was ordained priest in 1948 and qualified for a licentiate in theology in 1949. Appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar his first post was working among the peoples of Riruta, Kenya, 1949-50, and in Kilimanbogo, 1950-53, St Mary's School, Nairobi, 1954-55, in Pugu, Tazania, 1956-70, Shimba Hills, 1971-72, Malindi, 1973-79, Changamwe, 1979-96, before retiring in ill health to Mikindani, Mombasa, where he died 29 October 1999 aged 82 years. It was said of him in the homily preached at the funeral mass celebrated in Kimmage: "Those who knew Bertie in his early ministry will remember him as an outstanding teacher. He arrived in Africa just as the stage of mission was demanding missionaries to be involved directly in education. His greatest educational achievement must have been the role he played in the establishment of Pugu High School in Tanzania. Bertie spent fourteen years there, 1956-70, with Jamie Lynch, Liam O'Connor, Liam O'Sullivan and Michael McTiernan. It was a very important time when a generation of African students was being prepared for leadership in the newly emerging African nation. It is generally recognised that the Spiritan college at Pugu had an enormous influence over the first generation of leaders who were formed there. There Bertie worked with Julius Nyrere, before the latter moved on to occupy a centre-stage role in African post-independence politics. Nyrere is recognised as an outstanding example of the high motivation and integrity which Christian conviction can bring to the snakepit of politics. Bertie's legacy as a teacher is probably best summed up in the words of John Henry Newman: 'The most useful men are not the leaders of the church but its teachers, whose memory endures not so much in their writings as in the school of pupils which trace their moral parentage to them'. In Malinda parish Bertie lived his

golden years with continuing fidelity to his Spiritan mission. He insisted that he wanted to live in international community and his final years were spent in Mikindani parish with a former parishioner, by then a Kenyan Spiritan confrere, Fr Pius Onyango. He never ceased to praise the kind consideration he received from Pius. In 1972 there were 42 Irish Spiritans in Mombasa with two African priests running the diocese. When Bertie died he was the second last Irish Spiritan in the diocese, with 48 African priests running it - a fitting testimony of how Bertie's and the Irish Spiritan mission in Mombasa had been blessed. The Lord called Bertie home on 29 October 1999. He was buried in the cemetery in Mombasa. *IPN* No. 5 1999; *KSEAM* No. 578.

### **LYONS, Fr Clement 1931-1979**



Born 1931 in Ardee, Co. Louth, he attended CBS Carlow and CBS Drogheda, Clem played football on the minor team for his native county and for some years he worked in a hardware store in Drogheda. On deciding to enter the Congregation he was advised to go to Rockwell for a year to catch up on his studies, 1951-52. The following year he was professed in Kilshane and went on to Kimmage to do his philosophy and theology. Ordained in 1957 he was appointed the following year to Owerri, Nigeria, where he worked till 1967. He served at Christ the King, Mbieri and at Ndizuogu parish. Bishop Whelan wrote of him in tribute after his death: "I remember him as pastor of the parish of Ndizuogo during the 1960s. The parish had 7,900 Catholics and 980 catechumens. The pastor managed 17 primary schools with 48 teachers and 2,700 pupils. Every school was a Mass centre; some very small and difficult of access, especially in the wet season. Mutual love prevailed between pastor and people. His house was open to all. He was truly a dedicated missionary". Forced with 300 other missionaries to leave Nigeria as a result of the Civil war, 1967-70, he served as pastor for two years at Knaphill near Woking in Surrey in the diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Naturally he found the change somewhat of a challenge for awhile. He was noted for his special dedication to the patients in the local psychiatric hospital at Brookwood. On the appointment of a new pastor at Knaphill, Fr Clem reported for duty in the diocese of Kilaloe where his contribution was highly appreciated. Later he helped out at Donore Parish, Dublin, before being appointed to the Promotions Team in 1971. He gave several years of dedicated service in that demanding ministry. A plain blunt man he remained always totally reliable and courageous. He died unexpectedly 15 January 1979 as he and his confrères were planning their next engagement. He was 47 years of age and was buried in Kimmage. *IPN* No 36, February 1979; *RCA* 1979

### **MACAULEY, Fr Donal Niall 1912-1997**



Born 14 March 1912 in Bangor, Co. Down, Niall came to live in Dublin where his family opened a shop dealing in religious goods. He was a boarder at Blackrock from 1922 to 1930 where he was Prefect of the senior Sodality. He then entered the novitiate in Kimmage where he was professed in 1931. Having done Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he profected in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1933-35. He did Theology in Kimmage being ordained in 1938. Appointed Master of Novices to the brothers in Kilshane he served there until 1945 where his presence was readily availed of by the clerical novices as confessor. In 1946 he went to Kenya

where he worked in parish ministry. Over the years he held the following posts: Rector of the Junior Seminary, Kilimambogo 1946-52, Education Secretary, Diocese of Machakos , 1953-59), Principal Superior, 1959-69. From 1989 to 1996 he resided at St Mary's School, Nairobi, where he continued to assist in the pastoral work of St Austin's Parish. He was remembered as a confrere who was always understanding and fair-minded in his dealings with others, and always gave the impression that he was a contented person in himself and in the carrying out of his various ministries. Ill health forced him to return to Ireland in 1996 and he took up residence in Marian House. Fr Niall was called to the Lord 4 May 1997 aged 85 years. BC Arch.; IPArch 1997 *Obituaries*

**MACKEN, Fr James F. 1905-1974**



Born 10 January 1905 in Tullaghmelan, Knocklofty, Co. Tipperary, Jim studied at Rockwell, 1918-22, and was professed in Kimmage in 1923. After one year's Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines, he was appointed as prefect to St Mary's, Trinidad. Returned to Ireland in 1928 he completed Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, where he also did Theology. Ordained in 1932 he was re-appointed the following year to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he was to serve till 1961. He taught mainly Latin and English, and later served as bursar of the college. He also filled the post of chaplain at St Joseph's convent where he was much appreciated. On his return to Ireland in 1961 he served for a period at Templeogue College and later at the Brothers' Novitiate at Ardbraccan. Fr James Macken retired to Kimmage in 1974 and died a few months later 10 November 1974 aged 69 years. He was buried in Kimmage. He was a brother of Fr Tom CSSp who served in Nigeria. *Outlook* 1975; *SpWW* 979.

**MACKEN, Fr Thomas J. 1902-1986**



Born 12 November 1902 in Knocklofty, Tullaghmelan, Co. Tipperary, Tom began his secondary studies at Rockwell in 1916 and went to the novitiate in Kimmage in 1921. Ordained in 1929 Fr Tom was appointed to Nigeria. One of the pioneers of St Charles' Teachers' Training College, in Onitsha, he served in the famous mission of Eke and was in charge of Maku mission which was a very poor area with few roads and much inter-village rivalry. Tom loved these struggling farmers and they understood him and accepted his rather abrasive approach as they knew he wanted to improve their lot. He spent himself in their service going from village to village on foot. He organised school building and saw to it that the children were sent to school. He had a great respect for his teachers and catechists. His life-style was in keeping with the poverty of his people; he was not choosy about what he ate, but he was known to be hospitable to visiting missionaries. He was a great talker, if not always logical. He was available at all times to his flock for confessions and counsel. He helped them build roads, initiated water schemes and gave advice on better farming methods. Later he moved to city areas where he could and did embark on building schemes, the most noted being the church he provided at Fegge. His own life-style, however, remained as simple as ever. He was forced to quit Nigeria as a result of the Biafra War. But he still remained a missionary in the patient bearing of suffering and loss of sight and in the continuous recitation of the Rosary. All recognised Fr Tom as a man totally committed to the spread of God's Kingdom in the way he knew best. Fr

Thomas Macken died 10 March 1986 aged 83 years and was buried in Kimmage. His brother Fr James (CSSp) died 10 November 1974 q.v. *IPNL* 1986, 62.

### **MACKEY, Fr Michael C. 1899-1982**



Born in Gracedieu Road, Waterford 11 April 1899, Michael did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1914-17. Professed in Kimmage in 1918, he professed in Rockwell and studied philosophy at UCD. One of the songs he sang at the *soireé* attended by visiting de Valera as the Civil War was about to break had the prophetic refrain "Seán O'Duibhir a' Ghleanna, you were worsted in the game." Having done Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, he was ordained priest in 1927. His first appointment was to Blackrock College where he worked from 1928 to 1934. He had a wonderful tenor voice and used it with great control and judgement. One of the thrills of those days was to hear him singing in church. It was he who composed the 'Rock Song' - "Rock boys are we..." He was assistant Dean of studies, assistant editor of the Annual and took an active part in the extracurricular life of the students.. In 1934 he was sent to Sierra Leone. There he taught in St Edward's Secondary School in Freetown. In 1938, Bishop Ambrose Kelly, who had been ordained Bishop the previous year, put him in charge of St Anthony's parish and made him his Vicar-General and his educational adviser. Being somewhat abrasive in manner, it is generally agreed that this did not always make for peace and harmony in the mission. In 1946, he travelled to the USA to visit two of his brothers who had followed him to the priesthood. He remained there for two years, collecting funds for the erection of a new St Edward's School in Freetown. He returned to teaching in Blackrock College from 1948 to 1950. Then he went to Nairobi where he was notably successful in establishing a secondary school for the Goan community. In 1962, he joined those who were establishing a Spiritan presence in English-speaking Canada. From Woodstock he travelled widely, preaching retreats to priests and sisters. In 1974, he moved to Long Beach, California, where his brother was pastor, and where he was engaged in parochial work which continued until his death. Fr Michael was a man of great charm, and with his remarkable gift for singing he could be the life and soul of a party, even if at times he tended to monopolise the occasion and be somewhat over rumbustious. As the years passed he became more mellowed and was second to none in the interpretation of his chosen songs. To hear him sing 'If I can help somebody as I pass along' was to realise that it had become a rule of life for him. Indeed he was a very apostolic man. At the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood it was said of him: 'A man of humour and holiness, a missionary in two worlds, a labourer who heeded not the waning day, and a singer of the sweetest songs.' On the occasion of his final visit to Ireland he agreed to record a few of his party-pieces. He sang very well for a man of seventy five. Someone remarked: 'But you should have heard him twenty years ago.' Another chimed in: 'You should have heard him fifty years ago when there was question of his standing by at the Eucharistic Congress when it was feared that John McCormack's voice might not be at its best for the great Mass in Phoenix Park.' Fr Michael Mackey was active in the ministry up till his sudden death in California 27 July 1982 aged 83. His brother James died in the novitiate in 1922. . *IPNI* No 52, March 1983; *BCA* 1983 153.

**MACKEY, Mr James 1902-1922**

Born 20 July 1902 in Gracedieu Road, Waterford city, he was a brother of Fr Michael CSSp, q.v. Educated at Blackrock, 1916-21, he went to the novitiate in Kimmage in September 1921. After a few months he took suddenly ill and was removed to Cork St Hospital, Dublin, where he died 2 March 1922 aged 19 years. He was professed on his death bed. He was buried in Deansgrange? *BG XXX, 868; BJR.*

**MADIGAN, Fr Michael 1913-1994**



Born 8 October 1913 in Derragh, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, Mick received his secondary schooling in Rockwell, 1929-32, where he distinguished himself in both rugby and hurling. Professed in 1933 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock and profected in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1935-37. Affected by tuberculosis he was sent to Montana, Switzerland, where he began his Theology while receiving treatment. Sufficiently recovered he was among the small group sent to Louvain to continue their studies. Shortly after the outbreak of World War 2, they were forced to return to the senior scholasticate in Kimmage. Ordained in 1941 Fr Mick was appointed to Kenya where he was to serve for the next 52 years. His first appointment was to the Bura Mission in the beautiful Taita Hills. He spent many years there, in Bura and Lushangonyi where he became fluent in the local language, Kidawida. Later he worked in Nairobi, Kallimoni and Muthade in Ulcambani. Back again to the Coast where he worked tirelessly at Marfakani, MwabayaNyundo and finally at the Holy Ghost Cathedral, Mombasa, where he spent the last few years of his life in active retirement. Fr Mick was gifted with an acute and incisive mind and proved a good spiritual guide not merely to his flock but also to his fellow priests. He related very well with people and respected the differences he saw in them. Always a keen sportsman, he believed in the confreres enjoying a game of golf together as a morale booster. In spite of his rapidly declining health he endeavoured to take part in pastoral work to the end. After a short illness Fr Michael Madigan died in Mombasa February 21 1994 aged 80 years. He was buried in Kenya. *IPA; IPNI No. 2 1994*

**MADIGAN, Fr Robert 1914-1998**



Born 20 March 1914 in Cobh, Co. Cork, Bob did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1931-33. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1934. Having done Philosophy he profected for two years in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1937-39. Ordained in 1942 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he worked in Gerihun and Njala (Komboya) until 1950. In the seven years he remained there he evangelised some 5,000. Returned to Ireland in 1950 he was appointed assistant Novice Master in Kilshane for a short period in 1950-51, and then returned to Sierra Leone for two years. Taken seriously ill at one period it was taken for granted that he was certain to die over the weekend so a coffin was ordered. Fr Aloyse Scheer was reported as having prayed to the Lord to spare the young priest because of their needs and to take him instead. When Bob made a 'miraculous' recovery and the coffin was being returned, Fr Scheer asked that it be kept in case needed in the near future. He even secretly got into the coffin to see if it would fit himself! But as coffins were not designed for enabling one to get out of them poor Fr Scheer had to call for assistance! Bob was to survive for many years in Ireland where he served in various communities. In 1953 he was appointed Director



of Junior Postulant Brothers in Kimmage until 1955. He was appointed Novice Master of the Brothers at Ardbraccan when it opened in 1956. In 1964 he was appointed superior there and later he served as bursar for two years. In 1971 he was appointed to Rockwell where he served as bursar with special duties as farm manager. In 1979 he was appointed to assist in the financial administration of the College, a function he performed until 1994. Due to failing health he transferred to Marian House in January 1997 where he died 6 January 1998 aged 83 years. Fr Robert Madigan was a nephew of Bishop Bartholomew Wilson; both are interred in the Rockwell cemetery. IPArch; *KSWAM* 250

**MAGUIRE, Br Salamon (James) 1843-1920 32**



Born 16 May 1843 in Portaferry, Co. Down, James came to the French College, Blackrock, in December 1866. In 1868 he went to the Brothers' central novitiate in Chevilly where he made his profession in 1869. His first appointment was to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he profected for 12 years. He then spent some time at Langonnet as a teacher. In 1883 he decided to join the Marist Brothers, and having done his novitiate with them he was employed as a teacher for a year in their school at St Joseph's Drumfries, Scotland. His new name in religion was Br Aquinas. In 1889 he went to Breuil in France to do a 30 days retreat in preparation for making his final commitment. Instead of going ahead, however, he asked to be accepted back in the Holy Ghost Congregation. He was accepted, did his novitiate in Trinidad and resumed his work as prefect there until 1901. He was then transferred to Blackrock where he served on the teaching staff until 1909. Afflicted with 'cerebral anaemia' he retired to Langonnet in Brittany where there was provision for the sick and aged. As the years passed he became progressively more demented and afflicted with other bodily ailments. Death came as a release for him 11 January 1920 at the age of 75. *BG* XXIX 534; *SpWW* 268.

**MAGUIRE, Fr F.X. Odran 1926-1967**



Born 7 March 1926 in Mountjoy Square, Dublin, Odran attended O'Connell CBS, 1935-45. Having entered Kilshane he was professed in 1946 and then went on to do his studies at Kimmage and UCD. He qualified for the BA in Maths Physics in 1949 and the following year was awarded the MA (Mathematical Science, Mode II). Having completed his philosophy course in 1950 he did one year's profecting at St. Mary's, Rathmines, during which he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. Ordained in 1955 he was posted to Kenya the following year where he was appointed to the teaching staff of St. Mary's, Kwale, in the diocese of Mombasa. His health was never robust but he was always a keen swimmer. In 1962 he accompanied Bishop Butler to Rome for the Vatican Council and acted as his secretary. He also took up the study of Canon Law, qualifying for the LCL in 1964. He returned to Mombasa in November 1964 and was to go home on a holiday mid-summer 1967. Shortly before he was due to leave for Ireland he met with his death while swimming, 25 May 1967. He was 41 years of age. PS It was recalled that some hours before the news of Fr Odran's death reached Ireland, his mother said to his sister: 'I dreamt last night that Fr Odran had drowned'. IPArch.

**MAGUIRE, Fr James Jos****1887-1957**

Born 28 May 1887 in Altachullion, Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan, James had been as assistant school-teacher before entering the juniorate at Blackrock in 1906. He served as prefect at the college, 1908-11, and was among the first group of students to their novitiate at Kimmage, 1911-12. James was then transferred to Ferndale to do his senior studies in the USA as part of the Drexel-Murphy project for supplying personnel to work in parishes for blacks in return for financial aid for the senior scholasticate at home. Ordained in 1916 he was appointed the following year to St Peter Claver's Philadelphia, as assistant pastor. In 1919 he took charge as pastor there - a post he filled for nine years. Later he served for one year as pastor at St Monica's, Tulsa, Okla. In 1930 he was appointed to Duquesne where he taught classics for ten years. When his health failed in 1940 he was appointed as spiritual director at Ridgefield, 1940-45, and later at Ferndale. In 1949 he resumed pastoral work as assistant at Holy Spirit, Opelousa, La, and from 1952 on at St Ann's Milvale. Having suffered several strokes, he died 8 July 1957 aged 70 attended by his brother Fr Thomas J CSSp. It was said of him: "He never wrote any spiritual books but many were enriched by the spiritual principles and advice which he communicated freely to those who approached him." Fr James was a cousin of Fr Thomas Maguire of the Irish Province who died in 1974. *BCArch; SpWW 675.*

**MAGUIRE, Fr Thomas 1898-1974**

Born 6 February 1898 in Altinure, Swanlibar, Co. Cavan, Tom followed his cousins James J. and Thomas J. (q.v.) to Blackrock in 1915. He was sent to Rockwell as prefect in 1918 and in 1921 he went to Kimmage to do his novitiate where he was professed in 1922. From 1922 to 1925 he studied philosophy at St Mary's and at UCD. He did Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained priest in 1928. Appointed to Blackrock in 1929 he served as Dean of the Day-school from 1929 to 1931. In February 1931 he was called on to succeed Fr Bertie Farrell as Director of the juniorate - a difficult act to follow. He retained that post till 1938 when he was appointed Dean of the Castle in its new role as the special residence of 6th Year students once it had been vacated by the senior scholastics. His brief as defined by the superior, Dr J.C. McQuaid, was 'to afford the 6th Formers a generous measure of controlled freedom.' Within a year he was asked to make way for Dr McQuaid himself, who had come out of office; so he moved to Willow Park as Director of the Preparatory school. In 1944 he was called on to take charge of the new Preparatory school being launched at St Michael's, Ailesbury Rd. Two years later he was transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he succeeded Fr Peter Walsh as President. In 1951 he was back again at St Michael's, as Director. Finally, in 1960 he was appointed National Director of the Holy Childhood in succession to Fr Richard Harnett, and he held this post till 1972. Fr Tom was not of the enterprising type. He did his work quietly and well. Perspective and balanced judgement came into all his views. It was said of him by a member of the provincial administration: 'You will not find anyone kinder in the Province than Fr Maguire.' He certainly was very kind and patient with boys. He was an expert in diffusing potentially explosive situations by telling an anecdote of which he had an inexhaustible fund. Indeed the most vivid memory most had of Fr Tom was of those tall yarns which he told so well that you almost believed them, e.g., about that bullet which was aimed at the barracks nearby

in St Mary's, during the Civil War, but which came through the window in the dormitory and ricocheted off his bedstead. An expert at diplomatic refereeing of inter-college matches at Under-13 level, he told the story about a prefect who, in his efforts to arrive at such a diplomatic draw, disallowed the try but gave the convert! People used to re-tell the tale as if he was the referee in question. Needless to say he was not amused. A final anecdote. He was famous for his loud sneeze. Once, when the community were seated for lunch in St Michael's, the cook was coming up the stairs with a well-laden tray when she was so taken by surprise by one of those Maguire sneezes that she dropped the lot. In the hungry silence that followed, Fr Jack Thompson made an effort to relieve the gloom by remarking that this cook was not to be sneezed at! Death overtook Fr Tom by surprise: he was on a holiday at Rockwell, reliving his prefecting days, when he took suddenly ill. Fr Thomas Maguire died 28 September 1974 aged 76 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1975 222f.

**MAGUIRE, Fr Thomas J. 1896-1970**



Born 24 August 1896 in Altachullion, Co. Cavan, Thomas was a student at Blackrock, 1914-17. He emigrated to America where after five years he applied for admission to the Congregation, following the example of the brother James, who had been sent from Kimmage to complete his senior studies at Ferndale under the Drexel-Murphy agreement. Thomas was professed in 1924 and ordained priest in 1928. The following year he was appointed to East Africa where he served for twenty years at Zanzibar and in Kenya. He then returned to the USA where he worked in a number of the special parishes set aside for the pastoral care of the black population in Pittsburgh, Opelousas, La., and in Okmulgee, Okla. It was said of him that he related well with people of all age groups and in his charity could see good in everyone. He died at the Conway, Ark, Convalescent home 6 January 1970. He was a brother of Fr James J (q.v.) and a cousin of Fr Thomas Maguire + 1974(q.v.). *SpWW* 859

**MAHER, Fr Raymond F. 1933-1997**



Born 16 February 1933 in Whitehall, Dublin, Raymond was a student at Blackrock College, 1948-50. He entered the Congregation in 1950 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage Manor and UCD gaining the BA in 1955. Having prefectured for a year at St Mary's, Rathmines, and for another year at Rockwell he did Theology in Kimmage being ordained priest in 1959. Assigned to Umuahia Diocese, Nigeria, he served in Fatima Teachers Training College in Nsu, and in secondary schools in Bede and Olokoro, followed by Owerinta in 1965. He continued teaching at Mbutu Nigwa secondary school during the Biafra war while also doing relief work for refugees. Before the war had officially ended he returned to Ireland and spent two years as chaplain to Turlough Hill ESB Station in Co. Wicklow. He attended a course in television production being awarded a certificate in 1970, and later was awarded a diploma in mission studies at Maynooth. Appointed to retreat and vocations work he served in that ministry until 1975 when it was back to Africa again but this time to Sierra Leone. He worked there for seven years in both vocations and pastoral ministry before returning to Ireland. He was re-appointed to the vocations team for a further two years In 1986 he was assigned to Justice and Peace ministry in Northern Ireland and subsequently to the Spiritan Community in Fatima Mansions, Dublin. In 1988 he was appointed Justice and

Development Officer at the IMU for a period of two years, and was also co-ordinator for Pax Christi, Ireland, during the same period. After a sabbatical in 1991-92 he received an appointment to the newly established Spiritan Community in Rostock, Germany. In May 1996 he received what was to be his final appointment, namely to work in the Vatican with the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerant People. It was sad of him: "His links with, and knowledge, of all things 'Dublin' would remain detailed and deep as evidenced by his lengthy family genealogy, his research into the annals of Dublin parishes, his knowledge of the history of the city as experienced by the ordinary people. For whether in Dublin or on his many missionary journeys, he was always a man who looked at things not from the perspective of the powerful but from the experience of the ordinary people. This great grace which the Lord had gave to Raymond was the tremendous sense of compassion for, and solidarity with, the poor, the voiceless, the forgotten, those on the margins. While on a visit to Ireland Fr Raymond died suddenly at his sister's residence in Dublin 6 December 1997 aged 64 years. A message of sympathy and of admiration came from the Vatican on behalf of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. BCArch; IPArch; *SpNM* 519; IPrNI No. 1 1998

**MAHER, Fr Thomas                    1903-1992**



Born 4 July 1903 in Lagganstown, New Inn, Co. Tipperary, Tom did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1918-21, and prefectured at Blackrock, 1921-23, where he helped in the revival of hurling. Professed in 1925 he did Philosophy and Theology in the Castle, Blackrock, being ordained in 1930. Appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar in 1931, he was to give 51 years service there. His first appointment was to the Kikuyu people at St Peter Claver's Church, Nairobi, where he was appointed pastor in 1938. By then it had developed into a flourishing parish of 4,000 Catholics and 2,000 catechumens. He was among those who welcomed Edel Quinn to Kenya, giving her his full support in her work as envoy of the Legion of Mary. He was to be at her death bed years later to say the last prayers for her. On being approached by some of the Europeans who wanted a high school for their sons instead of having to send them to Europe for their education, he went about setting up what was to become St Mary's School, Nairobi. The first location of the school was the Prince Hotel which had just come on the market. On the outbreak of World War II Fr Tom served as chaplain to the King's African Rifles, a post he retained until 1952. He then returned to St Peter Claver's as pastor. Twice a year he travelled by East Africa 150 miles by East Africa Railway to Voi to minister to the employees on the huge sisal farms. He was in time regarded as one of the most experienced missionaries in Kenya and became a much-consulted man on all kinds of issues. In 1982 he retired to Rockwell, but he was always ready to help as confessor, as chauffeur etc. Fr Thomas Maher has been described as "one of nature's gentlemen." When he needed special care he was transferred to Marian House where he died 4th July 1992 aged 88 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI* No. 4 1992

**MAHER, Fr William 1936-1996**



Born 6 March 1936 in Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Willie did his secondary studies in Rockwell and entered the novitiate in 1953. Professed in 1954 he studied in Kimmage and at UCD where he took Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac for his degree. He then professed in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1959-1961. Sent to Rome to do Theology, Willie was ordained in 1964. He then continued his studies in Rome, specialising in Sacred Scripture, and qualifying for the STL and SSL. He was to be recognised as a fine academic with a broad range of interests and an immense knowledge of many subjects. He was also to acquire a fluency in at least 10 languages. In 1967 he was appointed to the seminary staff in Kimmage Manor. He returned to Rome for sabbatical studies in 1971-75. He took up residence in St Michael's community, Ailesbury Road, while lecturing on Scripture in Maynooth, 1975 to 1978, followed by two years lecturing in Mater Dei Institute. He was also much in demand as a retreat giver. In 1980 Fr Willie was appointed to Kenya. He lectured in the St Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Nairobi, from 1981 to 1993. From 1994 he had been doing pastoral work in St Austin's Parish, Nairobi, and lecturing part-time in Tangaza Seminary and other institutes. He was also Dean of Students and played a major role in the formation of students for the priesthood from all over Kenya. Although he was a learned man he wore his learning lightly and shared his knowledge with simplicity and generosity. He was valued in discussions because of the balance in his judgements. To the shock of all who had been in contact with him, Fr William Maher died in Nairobi after a very short illness 6 March 1996 aged 60 years. IPArch; IPNI No. 2 199

**MAHER, Fr William A 1922-1999**



Born 13 May 1922 in South Circular Rd., Dublin, Willie did his secondary studies at Synge St C.B.S. and at St Mary's College, Rathmines, where he was a member of the rugby senior team. Having joined the Congregation at Kilshane he made his profession in 1941. He attended UCD where he secured the BA degree in 1944 after which he professed for a year at St Mary's securing also the H.Dip.Ed. He qualified for the MA while studying philosophy in Kimmage. Ordained priest in 1950 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to the Owerri district he taught for five years at Bishop Shanahan Teacher Training College at Orlu. He proved a gifted teacher, a good communicator, and an able listener. He was manager of a very successful athletic team that won many national titles. He was conductor of an excellent college choir. In 1957 Bishop Whelan appointed him Chancellor of the Diocese and also Editor of the Catholic newspaper *The Leader*. Through his literary expertise and hard work he increased the circulation of the paper. He remained manager of the diocesan press for eleven years and was also supervisor of schools until obliged to quit Nigeria because of the Biafra War. He did parish work in Monterey, California, for two years and was very happy there. In 1971 he volunteered for service in Papua New Guinea, doing pastoral work in Mount Hagen Diocese. From 1974 on he was superior of the seven Irish Spiritans' work in the country. He proved an excellent leader for the group in their challenging situation, and in their relations with the Bishop and the other religious Orders with whom they worked. He valued the group meetings where their pastoral problems were discussed, and he represented religious Orders in

consultations with the Hierarchy. His efficiency and dedication were much appreciated. The severe climate took a big toll on his limited stamina. In ill health he returned to Ireland in 1981 and worked in St Agnes' parish, Crumlin, Dublin, as Administrator of Kimmage Chapel. In 1983 he was appointed to St Mary's College. In preparation for the centenary of the College in 1990 he was entrusted with the project of writing the history of the community and school. To this labour of love he brought his usual skill and accuracy, succeeding in producing a thoroughly well researched account of all aspects of the school, the Past Students' Union and the Rugby Club. He was a member of the official group entrusted with the work of promoting the cause of Bishop Shanahan. His health problems increased, but his death 1 January 1999 came rather unexpectedly. He was 76 years of age. It was said of him: "Willie was a very loyal friend, gifted with a very sharp mind, which quality knifed through the 'rubbish of our imperfections and loved not so much the person we are but the angels that we may be.' He was gentle and soft spoken but that gentleness masked a very steely resolve and determination to follow through his goals and pursuits." Fr Willie is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. IPN No. I 1999; *KNSM* No. 287.

#### **Maher, Father Michael Patrick 1926-2004**

Mick was born in Castlemoyle, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1926. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell he studied Veterinary Science at U.C.D. and at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He was awarded the M.R.C.V.S. and the M.V.B. and then practiced as a veterinary surgeon for two years. He entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1953. Mick studied philosophy and theology at Kimmage Manor (1953-'59 and was ordained to the Priesthood on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1958. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1959. In 1960 Father Mick's first appointment was to **Nigeria** where he worked in *Port Harcourt's* busy *St. Mary's Parish*. One year later he was principal of *Sebastian Academy*, a secondary school at *Emekuku*. He remained in this post for eight years until 1969. The Biafran War brought Mick back to Ireland. He was appointed to the **U.S.A.** and did pastoral ministry in the *Los Angeles* area. From 1972 until 1977 Fr. Mick worked in **Botswana**, where he was able to combine parish work with veterinary services. Again from 1978 until 1993 we find him doing similar work at *Tshaneni* and *Manzini* in **Swaziland**. In 1994 the confreres from Mauritius, Malawi and Nigeria elected Fr. Mick as their delegate to the Irish Provincial Chapter. In 1995 Fr. Mick again set off on another missionary journey; this time to join the Spiritan Community in **South Africa**. He was appointed to the district of *Bethlehem*. In 1997 Fr. Mick retired to Kimmage; Mission House and then Shanahan House. He had an active retirement helping out with ministry, from time to time, in England. Due to a sudden illness he was admitted to Tallaght Hospital, where he died 8th July 2004. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

#### **Maher, Father Stephen Camillus 1936-2003**

Steve was born at 21 Árd na Gréine, Waterford City on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1936. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1955. In 1958 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. He prefectured at Blackrock College for the years 1958-'60. Steve was ordained to the Priesthood in 14<sup>th</sup> July 1963. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1964. In 1964 Father Steve's first

appointment was to **Ireland** where he earned a H. Dip in Education from U.C.D. in 1965. In 1966 he was appointed to the *Diocese of Onitsha* in **Nigeria**. In 1969 he returned to Ireland and afterwards spent some time in ministry in the **U.S.A.** In February of 1971 he was appointed to the teaching staff of *Blackrock Colleg.* In 1979 Father Steve returned to Africa, this time to **Malawi**. After a year he was recalled to Ireland to take up a teaching post at *St. Mary's College, Rathmines*. During his time there he was very much involved with the Scouting Movement. When he once again joined the community of Blackrock College in August 1990 he was missed very much by the parents and students of St. Mary's. At Blackrock College Father Steve was an entirely dedicated teacher and dean. Countless students and staff members held him in very high esteem. Since 1997 Father Steve has had failing health. His condition was compounded in 1999 when he suffered two major heart attacks. He died 24<sup>th</sup> September 2003) in Marian House. He is buried in the community plot in Shanganagh.

### **MAHON, Mr Columbkille 1907-1930**



Born 16 June 1906 in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Columbkille attended St Finian's College with Fr Bernard Culligan. Afterwards he went to Maynooth College where he studied philosophy. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed in 1929. He was in his first year Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, when he took ill and died suddenly 22 February 1930 aged 23. (Four senior students died rather unexpectedly within a short period: Colum Mahon, Joe Bowman, John B. Meagher and Harry O'Sullivan; all were buried in Deans Grange). *BG XXXIV 771*

### **MAIBEN, Fr Martin Desmond 1914-1997**



Born 23 November 1914 in Bray, Co. Wicklow he came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1929. A talented musician he took a big part in college plays and concerts. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1933 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and at UCD. Having secured the BA in 1937 he prefected for two years at Blackrock being one of the two chosen by Dr McQuaid to act as prefects in the Castle when it was set aside for 6<sup>th</sup> Year once the senior scholastics left it for Kimmage in 1938. Returning to Kimmage to do Theology in 1939 he took charge of the orchestra. Ordained in 1942 he was appointed to Trinidad where he served in St Mary's till 1952. To his great disappointment ill health forced him to return to Ireland but he kept in contact by letter with his students, especially those who featured in his choir. Returning to Ireland he served for one year at Blackrock before being appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he was to spend the rest of his active life. He taught mostly English and music. He was assigned to the weaker classes where he was not expected to achieve any glorious academic results, but, devoting all his energy and his exceptional teaching talents to the task, he brought his students to the best of their ability. For many years Fr Martin had to endure intense pain from his trigeminal nerve. His heart and blood condition had to be constantly monitored. He was a man graced by God with a variety of talents. He was richly gifted in the area of music and singing. He was a skilled craftsman in wood, able to make and restore furniture. He was an expert gardener. He had a keen interest in history, especially the history of Dublin and was a fund of knowledge about the story and topography of his native city. He spent his retirement years in St Mary's till he was forced by serious ill

health to transfer to Marian House in May 1997 where he died 10 October 1997 aged 82 years. BCArch; IPr *Obituaries* November 1997

**MAILLET, Fr Lèon 1831-1869**

Born 15 March 1831 in Cortefontaine in the diocese of Arras in the north of France, Lèon was taken care of by his aunt when his family lost their livelihood. He was sent to a boarding school at Bealcourt where, on reading the *Annals of the Propagation of the Faith*, he decided to be a missionary. He entered nearby Notre Dame du Gard in September 1854 after having completed his secondary studies but due to his weak constitution which gave ominous signs of tuberculosis, he had to interrupt his studies in 1857. He was then sent as prefect to the newly opened college at Langonnet in Brittany. The comments made about him at this stage show that he was a gifted musician and was entrusted with charge of the school band which played mostly military music in those days. He was faulted for being somewhat abrasive in his efforts to enforce discipline. In 1861 he was allowed to continue his studies for the priesthood at Mons Ivry and was ordained priest in 1862. Having made his apostolic consecration in August he was appointed to the French College, Blackrock. He did not know a word of English and it was discovered that he had little facility for learning languages. He managed to take charge of the school band and supervised the study hall but found it very difficult to cope with discipline problems due to his lack of English and his tendency to be harsh in manner. Père Leman was worried about the impression he was creating at a time when they depended for their success on the belief that the French had something very special to offer in the matter of their culture. Eventually it was decided to replace him at Blackrock and to transfer him to Martinique where once again he was placed in a school namely, St Pierre at Fort de France. Père Leman was surprised to find that the senior students regretted his departure from Blackrock. Fr Leon did not find it any easier to deal with the slow students at St Pierre. His health, which had always been a problem, began to deteriorate. He died unexpectedly 30 June 1869 aged 38 years. *BG* VII 300ff; *Père Leman* pp 129ff.

**MALONE, Br Arthur (William) 1871-1901**

Born 26 July 1897 in Dargle, Co. Wicklow, William entered the Congregation at Blackrock in October 1897 and went to the central novitiate at Chevilly a year later. Professed 25 March 1900 he was appointed to the new provincialate at Clareville. It soon became apparent that he was suffering from tuberculosis and that death was not far removed. Fr Ebenrecht, who had been superior of Clareville the previous year, wrote in the Blackrock community journal 4 December 1901: "Br Arthur won't live for many days more. He is well prepared for death and resigned. His aged mother came to see him". After his death, 8 December 1901, the provincial, Fr Larry Healy, wrote: "This good Brother gave a wonderful example of patience and piety. He breathed his last surrounded by his confreres". Br Arthur Malone was 33 years of age. He was buried in Dean's Grange *BG*, 21, 366; BCCJ Dec.



**MALONE, Fr William Joseph 1931-2001**



Born in Ballyquirke, Cliften, Co. Kilkenny, on 25 January 1931 Willie did his secondary studies at CBS Kilkenny and Callan. After school he worked for a few years as a Civil Servant. Having opted to join the Congregation Willie was professed in Kilshane in 1953. Following his studies in philosophy and theology at Kimmage Manor, Willie was ordained priest in 1958. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, he worked in the Diocese of Umuahia until the end of the Civil War.

When he and 103 other missionaries were asked to leave Nigeria he transferred to Kenya in 1970 and worked in Nairobi. He returned to Ireland in 1973 and did parish work for one year in the Diocese of Ossory. In 1974 he was appointed to Kimmage Manor and was involved in fundraising activities and temporary parish ministry in Ireland and England. In 1981 he took up an appointment to the Long Island Community in the USA. He worked in the Diocese of St Augustine, Florida, until 1993. During this time Willie learned Spanish in order to serve the Philipino community in the diocese. In 1993 Willie returned to Ireland and retired to the Mission House. Fr William died on 4 June 2001.

**MANNING, Br Roger (Michael) 1850-1924**

Born 16 April 1850 in Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Michael entered at Rockwell in April 1867 and, at Père Leman's request, was professed at Blackrock 1869 rather than at Chevilly as was the norm. Roger was apprenticed to Br Agathon Ohmann as cook, and it was felt that, as a school like and army marches on its stomach, it was vital to hold on to Roger just then because Agathon was not well. Roger returned to Rockwell for five years, 1871-6, but thereafter he was to spend his life at Blackrock. He served as cook for forty years and lived for twelve years in retirement. He was at different times described as "a cheerful '*commissionaire*' and '*depensier*', a man of peace and charity". In his spare time he is reported as having mastered Irish and French. When invalided, in order to avoid inconveniencing anyone, he dragged himself to Mass, to meals and to the common spiritual reading for the Brothers. One notices that there are two pages of a 'notice' devoted to him in the French *Bulletin Général*, very laudatory but diffuse as if the writer knew that Br Roger was well worth writing about but that his life was in most respects so ordinary that it was impossible to do justice to him in writing. Br Roger died 12 May 1924 aged 74 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG*, XXXI, 835.

**MANSFIELD, Fr Eamonn 1934-1995**



Born 6th April 1934 in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Eamonn's family were subsequently stationed in Raphoe, Co. Donegal, and in Drumellis, Co. Cavan. He entered the boarding school at Blackrock in 1947 and joined the novitiate in 1952. He took the BSc at UCD followed by Philosophy in Kimmage and the H.Dip.Ed. After prefecting at Fatima College, Trinidad, 1958-60, he did Theology in Fribourg,

Switzerland, where he was ordained priest in 1963. He was appointed the following year to Mauritius where he was to work for the rest of his life. He served at St Esprit College from 1964 to 1978, teaching, acting as Dean of studies and as Director of Catechetics for the Diocese. He served for many years as Religious superior for the

Spirititan community in Mauritius and later as District superior, 1975-83. In his efforts to keep abreast with the best in the theory and practice of catechetics he attended the Lumen Vitae course in Brussels, 1984-85, and was attending a further course at the Institute in Paris when he took seriously ill. On learning of his death in Ireland Bishop Maurice Piat wrote to the Provincial, Fr Martin Keane; "...Ned has been for me a great confrere and a sincere friend for the last 23 years. His contribution to Catholic education and to catechetics in Mauritius is remembered as being first rate. He also participated in building up the F.O.I., thus helping a good few Mauritian young men to join the Congregation and go to the missions in Papua New Guinea or Pakistan. Eamonn's dedication to the apostolate, his faith lived with such good humour and, above all, his friendship were a great stimulus for us and a powerful encouragement to many a Mauritian engaged in missionary work". Fr Eamonn Mansfield died in Kimmage 3 October 1995 aged 61 years. His remains were cremated at Glasnevin and his ashes flown to Mauritius for burial. BCArch; IPArch; *IPNI* No. 5 1995.

**MANSFIELD, Br Declan (Patrick) 1900-1949**



Born 6 March 1900 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Patrick entered the Novitiate at Kimmage in 1917 and was professed in 1919. Br Declan's first appointment was to St Mary's, Rathmines, then the provincialate and house of studies for those attending the university. The senior scholasticate was transferred to the Castle, Blackrock, in 1924, and the following year Br Declan was appointed to Blackrock. Though this was his first contact with the college he was to become so identified with its interests, its traditions and work that for many he was the symbol of Blackrock. His care extended to the ageing members of the community: Br Columbkille Heffernan, and later Br Gall Walsh, owed much to his kind attention. Whether in charge of the Book shop, the students' refectory or the parlours etc., he did his work with obliging thoroughness and satisfying efficiency. He loved the big occasions of the college and saw to it that the traditional ritual for each was faithfully observed. He knew every boy who passed through the school for nearly thirty years, followed each one's career and loved to greet them when they revisited their alma mater. Though by nature shy, he was quite at ease with those in high station. He was very close to Dr J.C. McQuaid and Sinéad, Bean de Valera; and during the consultations between Dr J.C. McQuaid and De Valera during the drafting of the 1937 Constitution, it was Br Declan who was invariably called on to act as the trusted courier between the president's office and the de Valera home at nearby Bellevue. Years later in 1949, when Dev arrived back at Dublin airport after his tour of Australia and his call to India, he was told that Br Declan was critically ill in hospital; he went straight to his bedside. When Br Declan knew his end was near he said to a confrère keeping vigil at his bedside: "Go now, please, and leave me alone with God." Br Declan Mansfield died in the Mater Hospital 2 Feb. 1949 aged 48 years and is buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1949 28f

**MARCOT, Fr Casimir 1838-1878**



Born 25 March 1838 at Neuve-Eglise, Alsace, Casimir entered the Congregation in 1857. When he had completed his studies in 1863 he was appointed to the college at Celulle in the Auvergne. After two years he was sent to Blackrock in order to be Dean of Discipline. He was the first to hold this post. His two predecessors, Frs Theodor Shiffmacher and Léon Maillet, were but assistants to Père Leman as

they did not prove up to that demanding job, which was made all the more difficult in the absence of any command of English. Fr Marcot was successful as Dean and also in the classroom where he taught Latin, Greek, French and German. His main problem was his health, which was always fragile. In 1869 an urgent call came from St. Mary's, Port of Spain, for a man who could steer the college successfully through the new situation introduced by the Keenan scheme devised to involve St. Mary's in the public examinations. Frs. Leman and Reffé tried to hold on to Fr Marcot but they were told that Trinidad's need was greater. Marcot's arrival proved a great boon for St. Mary's where he eventually was appointed superior in 1874. During his administration the school moved from the old St. George's College building across the street to its present location. He introduced the theatrical performance of famous plays which became a tradition at the school. He was always looked on as a good religious priest with a well-balanced outlook on education, but his weak health forced him to resign as superior in 1876 in favour of Fr James Browne. Fr Marcot returned to France where he died two years later at the age of forty, having suffered much from the medical administration of red-hot needles, new-fangled electricity and prussic acid!. *BG II,131; Père Leman, p 320; SpWW 51.*

#### **MARLEY, Fr William G 1909-1961**

Born 28 Dec 1909 in Belfast, William had been a student at St Columba College when his family migrated from Ulster to the USA and settled in Philadelphia. He continued his studies at Cornwells in 1925. Twice he left – once for three years – but twice he returned, so that it was 1934 before he graduated. After his profession at Ridgefield 14 Sept 1935, he did his senior studies at Ferndale, where he was ordained 2 June 1940. Most of his life as a priest was spent in the missions to the blacks. He began as an assistant in Louisiana at Assumption parish, Carencro, then at St Anthony's, Natchitoches, in 1944, and at Holy Spirit, New Orleans, in 1946. Going back north, for six years he served in St Mark's, Harlem, after spending one year at Tiverton's Holy Spirit, R.I. From Harlem he was transferred to St Emma Academy for blacks in Powhatan, Va. Four years later, when he had become a heart patient on reduced activity, he went to reside in Washington. He died in his car while on the way to hear confessions on Easter Saturday. He seems to have realised that the end was near for on Holy Thursday he had put all his affairs and papers in order. The following day he admitted that he had blacked out during the night. Feeling somewhat better and in good spirits on Saturday after taking some nitro-glycerine tablets, he set out to assist a pastor on the busy Easter weekend. He died on 1 April 1961 and was buried in Cornwells. "He spent his priestly life doing ordinary things extraordinarily well." His brother, Edward, also entered the Congregation. OP Aug 1961, 16 f.

#### **MARRINAN, Fr Francis 1908-1977**



Born 3 February 1908 in Miltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, Frank came to Blackrock in 1925 to complete his secondary course. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1927 and after being professed he did Philosophy course at the Castle, Blackrock. From 1930 to 1932 he prefected at Rockwell and was ordained priest in 1935. His first appointment was to Bagomoyo in 1936. Later he served in Morogoro, at St Peter Claver's Parish, Nairobi and at Nyeri. Suffering from an indisposition which was to afflict him for the rest of his life, he spent some time in hospital before being appointed to Rockwell. He was remembered as highly

intelligent, uniformly cheerful and a gentle person, well loved by his confreres and his students. He was an excellent teacher, especially of Mathematics. His health problems required periods in hospital, and it was in hospital he died 31 January 1977 aged 68 years. *BCA* 1977 95; *RCA* 1977 90; *IPNI* No 26, March 1977.

**MARTIN, Fr Michael J. 1882-1940**



Born 18 Nov. 1882 in Ballyroan, Co. Kildare, Michael belonged to a family with a strong representation in the Congregation - principal among them being his uncle, Fr N.J. Brennan. He went to Rockwell in 1899 and on completing his studies he did four years prefecting there. He went to the novitiate in Grignon-Orly in 1910 - the last year for Irish students to do so. Ordained in 1913 Fr Michael was appointed the following year to St Alexander's College, Canada, where he taught for three years. He was transferred to USA after an official visitation of the community by Fr Martin Hehir, who had been there sent to sort out some dissensions that had arisen between the English and the French speaking confrères. Transferred to St Joachim's, Detroit, Fr Martin served as an assistant there and later at St Peter Claver's, Philadelphia. He withdrew from the Congregation in December 1920 and became a diocesan priest in Detroit. In 1939, having applied for readmission to the Congregation, he entered Ridgefield to commence his novitiate. He suffered a number of strokes and was allowed to pronounce his vows in hospital. Fr Michael Martin died 19 Feb 1940 aged 58 years. *SpWW* 465

**MATASSE, Br Hippolyte (Francis) 1848-1916**



Born 17 November 1848 in the diocese of Clermont, France, Francis was professed in 1864. Appointed to the new community at Rockwell his first duty was to learn English. His main contribution to the community and school henceforth was to supervise the cleanliness of the interior of the house; he was also auxiliary for a period i.e. in charge of the Brothers with special duties towards the postulants and young Brothers attached to the novitiate at Rockwell. Later he was in charge of the college shop "selling everything from a needle to an anchor." Little is available by way of detail about his life as no obituaries were written during the 1914-18 War. When seriously ill with cancer of the throat and all hope of his recovery had been abandoned, a special novena was started to pray for his miraculous cure through the intercession of the Venerable Libermann. Br Hippolyte was very embarrassed that such a favour should be asked for him, as in his humility he felt that someone more worthy of such a cure should have been chosen. He expressed his sentiments at some length in an admirable letter addressed to the superior with instructions that it be read only after his death. In this letter he thanks all who had cared for him in his serious illness and those who had prayed for a miraculous recovery for which he professes his entire unworthiness. He concludes as follows: "I wish to die now as I always tried to live, a faithful child of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and I ask God the Holy Ghost, Jesus, Mary and Joseph to receive the sacrifice of my life, unworthy though it be, and to grant me the grace to die well and be numbered among the faithful sons of this Congregation that I may praise and bless God for ever." He added his postscript: "I desire that this be given to my superior to do with it as he wishes after my death." Br Hippolyte Matasse died 16 August 1916 aged 68 years. He was

buried in Rockwell. The Superior, Fr John Byrne, had his letter printed for circulation within the Congregation. GenArch; *État*

**MATHEWS, Br Florentin (Edward) 1839-1886**

The first Irish Spiritan to work in Africa, Edward was born 4 November 1839 in Petersville, Moynalty, Co. Meath. He came to the French College, Blackrock, in November 1861, and the following year he became a novice brother, being professed 8th September 1863. Appointed to Bathurst (Banjul) in The Gambia, he was the first Irish member of the Congregation to set foot in Africa. There he was to take charge with notable success of the primary school. The Bishop, Mgr Duboin, wrote about him: "He understood the Wolof language and could converse freely with the people and children. This gave him great influence with the people and helped very much in his teaching the children Christian Doctrine." He used text-books printed in Wolof. Being an English colony, the use of English was welcomed by the authorities. Calls came for more Irish personnel to back up Br Florentin's efforts. In 1865 novice Brother Alban Crean was sent out on the advice of Père Leman. Unfortunately, death claimed him within a year. The first Irish priest to arrive in the mission, Fr Dan Mulleady from Moate, fared worse: he died within a few weeks of his arrival. Brs Denis Flynn and Juvenal Heavin, who were sent to help Florentin, lasted the pace only for brief periods. Florentin, without ever having been home to Ireland for a holiday, was still going strong in 1886 when he was affected by galloping consumption. He died 19 March aged 47. Mgr Duboin wrote about him: "He looked after the church and sacristy with zeal, and in his spare time he attended to the housekeeping. A good missionary religious, he has left a good example to the people who loved him (His past pupils undertook to pay the expenses of his funeral); he also left a good example to his confreres whom he edified." As Br Florentin Mathews was the first Irish Spiritan in Africa one would have wished for a more complete account of the man and his work, but the *Bulletin Général* account was composed by a Frenchman who would not have known him, and though Florentin did occasionally write to the Mother House about his problems, and he had some with one particular French local superior, it would appear that these letters, written originally in English, were not drawn on to compose a 'notice' in depth. BBR No.6; *BG*, XIII, 1091.

**MAWHINNEY, Br Pascal (Hugh) 1924-1997**



Hugh was born in the Falls Road 15 September 1924. When he was fifteen he left school and for the next five years he was an apprentice electrician, finally qualifying as an electrical engineer. Then he joined the British Navy as an electrician looking after aircraft on a carrier. On one occasion, when they were just north of Australia, the Japanese dive-bombed his aircraft carrier. They were all sun-bathing at the time and quite a big number were killed and the carrier was totally disabled. That was a horrendous experience for him. On leaving the Navy Hugh contacted us and joined the Holy Ghost Fathers as a Brother. He was professed in 1950 taking the names Mary Paschal. He remained in the Novitiate until 1957 and was then transferred to Kimmage - all the time working as an electrician. He was appointed to Nigeria in 1961. He was well known for the meticulousness of his work. He remained there right through the Biafran war. At the end of the war he returned to Ireland on holidays and was then appointed to Sierra Leone. Probably he would have needed a much longer holiday because the war in Biafra must have recalled to him what he had gone

through on the aircraft carrier. His time in Sierra Leone was difficult. This would, partly, have been the result of Vatican II and the changes which had taken place. Paschal would have been very traditional and new ideas hit him hard. When he left Sierra Leone he was appointed to Rockwell in 1975. In his last years Paschal suffered dreadfully from his inability to be the professional he would have loved to be. At this stage his only recourse was prayer and that he did. Paschal was always a man of prayer. He had a tremendous devotion to the Mass and to the Blessed Sacrament. Often he went to two Masses and he spent long periods before the Blessed Sacrament. He also had a very long-standing devotion to Our Lady and most of the magazines and books which he got in his last years were concerned with devotion to Our Lady. Over the last few months before he died a number of the community remarked on the time that he spent in the chapel. One last trait of Brother Paschal is one we could copy - Paschal couldn't say an unkind word. He was called home by the Lord 31 March 1997 aged 72 years. IPr *Obituaries* November 1997

**McALLISTER, Fr Patrick J.**

**1889-1947**



Born 23 August 1889 in Glenravel, Co. Antrim, Pat. came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1905 and joined the Juniorate in 1907. After two years as a prefect at the college, 1910-12, he entered the novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1913. He went to Chevilly to do his senior studies, being among the last group to do so. Because of the war he finished his studies in Langonnet, Brittany, being ordained in 1917. Appointed to Rockwell he is reported as having attended to the wounded during the War of Independence. His northern background disposed him to be sympathetic to the republican movement and far from ecumenical in his gut-reaction in religious matters. He transferred to Blackrock in 1924, and in 1926 was assigned to the Irish Mission Band in the USA. Thereafter he was known to be a preacher of the grand style, partial to the '*sermon d'occasion*' and sporting the special preacher's cape which he retained as a souvenir of his American tour. On his return to Ireland he spent a year at Rockwell and then was appointed to Nigeria. His tryst with the tropics was brief. He was back in Rockwell in 1936 and was to spend the rest of his days there, using his spare time to preach and visit the sick even when he had already become a semi-invalid. Over-exertion in such pastoral work hastened his death. One recalled him helping out at the ceremonies on the top of Croagh Patrick when the pilgrimage was at midnight! He was seen by all to be a very pious, devoted religious priest, dignified in the ordering of ritual, always to be found with a rosary or spiritual booklet in hand. He had the simplicity of a child and was devoted to all. Fr Patrick McAllister died 3 September 1947 aged 58 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; RCA 1948 II; BCA 1948 29f; SpWW 561.

**McALLISTER, Fr Philip J. (Felim)**

**1941-1994**



Born August 1941 in Beaverstown, Donabate, Co. Dublin, Felim did his secondary studies in De La Salle, Skerries, and in Rockwell College, 1957-59. Professed in Kilshane in 1960, he did Philosophy in Kimmage, 1960-62, and prefectured in Blackrock, 1962-64. Having done Theology in Kimmage, 1964-68, Felim was ordained in 1967 and appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. During the first three years he worked in the parishes of Serabu and Damballa in the Southern Province. His next appointment was to Kailahun in the East of the country

where he served for twelve years. His great energy and missionary spirit took him to every corner of that very large parish with its small remote villages, usually on his motor bike but often on foot along dirt roads and bush paths. He sought funds to construct three bridges so that the people might be able to build a motorable road, and he took part himself in the work of building these bridges. After twelve years Felim left Kailahun Parish very worn out. Taking a sabbatical break he participated in spiritual renewal courses at S Beuno's, Wales, and Maryknoll, New York. He worked for one year in Manhattan, New York, where he became actively involved in meeting the spiritual needs of the people. Among his many generous friends later were the members of a prayer group in the parish. In 1985 he was back again in Sierra Leone. Appointed to Panguma he found he was confronted with a challenging mission. He trained local catechists and sent them out to the villages and town. He built churches. He succeeded in relaunching the hospital at Panguma. He became the peoples' leader in many ways making representations for them to the Government. He stood by his people when they were caught up in the ravages of the Civil War. In his efforts to ferry the mission personnel to safety by car Felim was mortally wounded in an ambush launched by marauding troops 12 March 1994. It was said of Felim that he was a fully human man who loved life. He enjoyed sports, music, dance, song, stories and of course a good argument. His fiery temperament drove him not only to accomplish great things but also got him into trouble sometimes and this was a source of pain for him. Felim was deeply spiritual..” Fr Felim McAllister was 52 years of age. *IPNI* No. 2 1994; *Fr Felim McAllister CSSp (1941-1994) - in remembrance of his life and work , Sierra Leone (1968-1994)*

#### **McALPINE, Br Francis (John) 1843-1914**



Born 21 November 1843 in Keelogue, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, John entered Blackrock 30 June 1862 as a result of picking up a piece of newspaper being blown along the road on which there was an advertisement published by Père Leman looking for vocations. He accepted this as a call from God and was received with welcome by Père Leman. Professed at Blackrock 8 December 1864 he was to serve in that community faithfully for the rest of his life. Fr Larry Healy, who had known him for a life-time, wrote about him: "Fr Leman saw in this young man fine material for a religious, and treated him from the start with affection and confidence. The function assigned to him was that of Commissioner. For fifty years he held this position. From the importance of the post and the ability with which he discharged his duties, it may be claimed for him that he was one of the props on whose support the college rested. The sturdy figure of Br Francis was soon as familiar on the streets of Dublin as it was in the college, and there was not a warehouse, and hardly a tiny shop, in which he was not known. It was known that he made large purchases not only for Blackrock but for other colleges and institutions also. It was also known that he had a vexing genius for bargaining. He would tramp through the city all day, in all weathers, heedless of hunger and fatigue. However late the hour at which he returned, he would perform the Stations of the Cross. He collected outstanding debts. For priests or students going abroad he made arrangements with the travel companies. Foreigners coming to Blackrock were often met at Liverpool by him. Almost every emergency called for Br Francis. At the outbreak of the great fire in the college in 1874, while others were debating what to do, Br Francis mounted a horse and galloped to the city, roused the Lord Mayor, got his permission to summon the Dublin fire brigade, and so prevented much damage." Fr John T Murphy, who had

also known him since his student days, likened him in his solidity, poverty and mortification, to the Irish monks of old. He never spent a halfpenny on himself, rose early in the morning and went fasting on his errands in order to be able to receive Holy Communion at some church later. He was totally devoid of self respect, even in his manner of dress. And when he operated from a postal address in Grafton St, using his family name, while collecting outstanding debts, there were complaints about the roughness of his language. His fluency in Irish stood him well on at least one occasion when at a market the instructions given by the wife to her husband in making the bargain were also being followed by Br Francis unknown to them both. It was noted at his funeral that he and Fr Ebenrecht, with whom he had acted in concert for most of his life, came to Blackrock the same year - 1862, and died within a few months of one another. Br Francis McAlpine died 31 October 1914 aged 74 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR No.10; B.5. 411ff; LH, 264

### **McArdle, Father Kevin 1922-2006**

Kevin was born in North Street, Crossmaglen, Co. Down, on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1922. After he completed his secondary school studies he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 1941. After doing philosophy at Kimmage, he professed for three years in Trinidad (1943-'46). Kevin studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1949 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1950. In 1950 Father Kevin he was appointed to **Nigeria** to the *Vicariate* of *Onitsha* where he began work in evangelisation and pastoral ministry at *Aguleri*. From 1961 on he was parish priest at *Igbo-Ukwu*. This was a big parish operating sixteen primary schools. Early in the Biafran War he left Nigeria in 1967 and went to the **U.S.A.** to take up parish ministry, first in *Minnesota* and then from 1971 on in *San Francisco*, California. In 1979 he returned to **Ireland** and took up parish duties in *Tenure*, Dunleer, Co. Louth. He retired from this ministry and joined the *Ardraccan Community* in 2001. Kevin moved to Mission House Kimmage Manor and due to failing health was admitted to Marian House on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2002, where he died 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2006. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **McASEY, Fr John Joseph 1905-1978**



Born 24 June 1905, in Fairview Avenue, Dublin, John was educated at CBS Marino. He entered the Board of Works department of the Civil Service and devoted much of his free time to the St Vincent de Paul work and the Legion of Mary. He worked in the Railway Clearing House with Jimmy O'Toole (later CSSp), and took part in the Civil Defence Force organised by Joe McGrath. He served as bodyguard to President W.T. Cosgrave. Though due for promotion in 1930 he felt God was calling him to work for the most abandoned as a missionary. Not having studied Latin he spent a year in the Juniorate at Blackrock before entering the novitiate in Kimmage. During Philosophy in the Castle his health caused concern. In 1934 the Student 'Burse' organised by two laymen was endorsed by the new provincial, Fr Dan Murphy, as he realised that only the lack of funds stood in the way of availing of the great surge of vocations for the missionary priesthood. Realising John Mcasey's talent for organisation, he put him in charge of the newly established organisation. During the two years, 1934-36, John got the Burse underway and the funds began to flow in for the expansion of the scholasticate and for the various



missions confided to CSSp. Ordained in 1939 Fr McAsey was an automatic choice for the Burse promotions team where he worked for the next ten years being director, 1945-50. As his health problems began to recur he was appointed to Rockwell as bursar. He returned for a brief period to the Promotions team but was posted to Canada in 1955 for preaching of retreats. By 1960 he was back again at Kimmage where he was appointed confessor and spiritual director to the scholasticate. In all these posts he served well the Congregation and the Church, being always energetic, zealous and a man of prayer, even if at times his rather abrasive manner antagonised others. His final years were stamped with the cross: he suffered greatly in mind and body but throughout he remained the deeply prayerful man that he was. Fr John McAsey died 6 August 1978, aged 73 years, and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 34 1979; *BCA* 1979 204f.

**McCABE, Br Celsus (Patrick) 1837-1928**



Born 10 April 1837 in Latradrona, Crossalough, Co. Cavan, Patrick trained as a primary teacher, and having taught for several years he decided to enter the Congregation as a Brother at Blackrock. As he was born before records were regularly kept by church or state he could produce no evidence for the date of his birth at the time of his entry in 1868, but as he claimed to recall the "night of the big wind", he was convinced that the date should be 1827 and not 1837, which would leave him 101 when he died. Be that as it may, he was very welcome as teacher and Brother at Blackrock, and at Rockwell after he had taken his final vows in 1873. From 1873 to 1889 he took charge of the junior students at Rockwell for class and for all their needs. It was hoped that he would be available to join the staff for the opening of the college at Pittsburgh in 1878 but Rockwell could not afford to part with him then. In 1889, when Novice Sister Katharine Drexel was already trying to involve the Congregation in pastoral work for the blacks in Philadelphia and had promised to cover the expenses for the school, Br Celsus was prised from Rockwell at that stage to help Fr Pat McDermott and Fr James Nolan - recently returned from Mafeking - to run the school and pastoral centre for blacks at St Peter Claver's. He was glad to have the assistance for a period of Br Tobias Hogan returned from Africa. The great success of St Peter Claver's as a pastoral centre for blacks - children and adults - was due in great measure to the expertise and dedication of Br Celsus over the years, and this was acknowledged by all. But it was the quality of his own life that was appreciated by his confreres and all who were in close contact with him. He was a man of prayer, charity and total commitment to religious life. Even when partially crippled in his old age, he tried never to be a burden to others. His attitude to death was that he saw it as going home to his true homeland. Br Celsus McCabe died 12 December 1928 at the age of 91 or 101 - if his own memory is to be relied on and was buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG*, 34,166ff; *SpWW*, 351

### **McCAMBRIDGE, Fr Patrick J. 1909-1980**



Born 16 Nov. 1909 in Ballymagarrett, Belfast, Pat was a student at Blackrock, 1927-31. Professed in Kimmage in 1932 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and then profected at Blackrock, 1934-36, where he was given a part - Dick Deadeye - in the first ever Gilbert and Sullivan opera produced in the college. Ordained in 1939 Fr Pat was appointed to Kenya. He worked first in Kabaa and after the War he served as assistant at Waa. Later he was in charge of St George's School. He served as assistant in Kiambu and for a period as bursar in St Mary's College, Nairobi. After the creation of the Mombasa-Zanzibar diocese in 1957, he went to work in Zanzibar island and then in Mombasa as pastor of the Holy Spirit Cathedral. In the 1960s, and again in 1970s, he was sent by Bishop Eugene Butler to the United States to raise funds on behalf of the diocese of Mombasa. Fr Pat McCambridge was compelled by ill-health in 1979 to return to Ireland and he died in St Luke's Hospital, Rathgar, 22 February 1980 aged 71 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1980 183; *IPNI* 42 April 1980; *SpEAM* 461.

### **McCARTHY, Archbishop John J. 1896-1983**



Born 28 April 1896 in Doonegan, Milltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, 'J.J.' was a student at Rockwell where his fine physique won him a place for two seasons on the Senior Rugby Cup Team. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1915 having as Master of Novices, Fr Evans, whom he was later to succeed in that office. He features in a photo of that period taken in Kimmage in which there are three future archbishops: J.C. McQuaid, Ch. Heerey and J.J. himself. He attended UCD from St Mary's, Rathmines, qualifying for the BA. In 1919 he was appointed to Rockwell as prefect. The following year he was transferred to Blackrock where as prefect, 1920-22, he gained his place on the Blackrock 1st XV, playing alongside Fr Dick Daly. Even in their old age in Kimmage the two veteran missionaries could be heard disputing as to which of them was responsible for 'muffing' what would have been a match-winning try in a Cup competition! Ordained in 1925, Fr J.J. was appointed to Morogoro mission in Tanganyika where he worked for six years. He mastered Swahili, and as Education Secretary for the Vicariate was responsible for starting the Teacher-Training College at Morogoro. Recalled to Ireland in 1933 he was appointed Master of Novices in the new Novitiate house in Kilshane. His first group of Novices were to be known as 'the Harriers' as they set out to get their senior confreres to conform more strictly to the rules of religious life. Fr McCarthy is reported as having revived the tradition of rather harsh penances for the novices that had been dropped under the more benign regime of Fr Evans, but he also stressed the vital importance for missionaries of reliability and manly responsible behaviour. During the three years he spent as Master of Novices he trained many of those who were to work under his direction later when he was head of the mission in Kenya. In 1936 he was recalled to East Africa - to Dar-es-Salaam - by the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr Riberi, to assume the post of Education Secretary General on behalf of the bishops of Tanganyika. This work put Fr McCarthy in close contact with every aspect of the educational and church life of the mission. With the internment of enemy aliens during World War II, Fr McCarthy was appointed by Rome to take over the Apostolic Delegation as Regent. For Six years he was the liaison between Rome and the seventy dioceses of

British East and West Africa. This was a very testing task during war years when communications were greatly restricted and so many delicate personal problems had to be solved on the spot. One such delicate problem was the calling for the resignation of the ailing Bishop John W. Heffernan who, it was felt, was not any longer capable of administering a vast mission territory. When it came to choosing a suitable successor, Rome had no hesitation in appointing Fr McCarthy himself. He was ordained bishop in 1946 with the old title of Vicar Apostolic of Zanzibar, but his jurisdiction comprised then not only the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba but also what were during his term of office to become the dioceses of Machakos, Mombasa, Nairobi and parts of Kitui and Ngong - a vast territory which he set about developing to such a degree that he could in time call for the setting up of the six separate dioceses there. He was to officiate at the opening of over a hundred new churches and oratories. Through his invitation and encouragement some eighteen societies of religious Sisters were at work in the diocese - one of whom, the African Sisters of the Assumption, had been originated by Bishop McCarthy himself. This was but one of the many signs that he was fostering the native church to take over the direction of the mission in the foreseeable future. It was obvious too that he favoured African independence, much as he repudiated the more violent expressions of those working for independence from colonial rule. During all the Mau Mau emergency he made pastoral provision for those interned, and it was in no small measure due to his known sympathies that it was an unwritten ruling that missionaries were not to be interfered with. He was particularly esteemed by Jomo Kenyatta, and it was said that when he advised Jomo of his intention of resigning early to favour the handing over of control to a native African bishop, he told him that he would prefer to see him remain on for some time yet. When his offer of resignation was at last accepted by Rome and made to coincide with the celebration of the silver jubilee of his ordination as bishop, he was complimented by the official African spokesman for the example he had set for bishops in that he was "always available, approachable, prepared to listen, eager to approve the projects and initiatives of his priests, kind - exceptionally so - to those with problems or in distress". There were others who saw that he had become a victim to "creeping infallibility" and a little too inclined to pomposity as a result of his many years in command. One anecdote may highlight both his approachability and his reputation for acting as if he were omniscient. His secretary knew all that was to be known about Canon Law but nothing about operating the vital 'tilly' lamp in the archbishop's house. A chance visitor solved the problem immediately and was profusely thanked by the Archbishop who admitted that he knew absolutely nothing about tilly lamps. His secretary commented: "It is wonderful to learn that there is something that you don't know everything about! ". One could not make a remark like that to Jomo and remain on as his secretary! Finally: It was Dr McCarthy who introduced the cause of Edel Quinn, the famous Legion of Mary envoy who had been welcomed to Africa by his predecessor, Bishop Heffernan. On retiring to Ireland in 1972, Archbishop McCarthy went to live for some years with his brother in Kildare. When incapacitated by age he came to reside in Kimmage where he died 13 January 1983 aged 86. He was buried in Kimmage. *RCA* 1972 35ff; *IPNI* 52 March 1983; for background of the Mau Mau movement cf, *Yes, I'd do it again* by Fr Ted Colleton CSSp, Ontario, 1990

**McCARTHY, Br Patrick (Michael) 1849-1932**



Born 2 January 1849 in Kilbonane, Co. Kerry, Michael's parents died while he was yet young and he was placed in an orphanage. He came to Blackrock in 1872 as an *agrégé*. He was later admitted as a novice, 1874, and was professed in 1876. His main occupation was in charge of the Linen room, where his gentleness, courtesy and extraordinary memory for names and numbers stood him in good stead. In 1880 he was appointed 'Auxiliary' in charge of the Brothers, with special duties towards the new arrivals. In 1883 Fr James Browne, superior of St Mary's, Trinidad, asked for a Brother capable of acting as prefect and teacher for the very young students. Br Patrick fitted that requirement and he filled those roles and others for fourteen years. His failing eyesight forced him to return to Ireland in 1897. He was then appointed to Rockwell where once more he was asked to take charge of the Linen room. Again he was found to be the ideal person for this post, especially by the students as he treated them with kindness and courtesy. Once again he was called on to act as Auxiliary for the Brothers. When he was told by the doctor that, because of the condition of his heart, he could die at any moment, he kept on doing his duties as before, just slowing down gradually because of increasing blindness and infirmity. Eventually, he was transferred to Our Lady's Hospice at Harold's Cross, where he edified all as he had done throughout his life. Br Patrick McCarthy died 6 November 1932 aged 84 years. He was buried in Rockwell. BBR No.126; *BG* 36, 358ff; *SpWW* 394

**McCARTHY, Fr Alexander 1920-1974 682**



Born 14 September 1920 in Kilmurry, Feenagh, Co. Limerick, Alec did his secondary studies at Charleville CBS, Co. Cork, and Philosophy at All Hallows College, Dublin, and UCD, before entering the Congregation. Professed in 1944 he professed for a year at Blackrock, 1945-6. He resumed his studies at Kimmage, but when it was discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis, he was sent to Montana in Switzerland to avail of medical care while pursuing his theological studies. Ordained in 1951 he was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served at Riruta and later at Miguta where there were 3,000 Catholics and over 1,000 catechumens. As well as being responsible for several schools attended by some 2,000 children, he was chaplain to the maternity hospital run by the Irish Sisters of Mercy. Fr Alexander McCarthy, whose health had always been rather precarious, died 19 November 1974. He was aged 54 years. *IPNL* No. 4, 1975.

**McCARTHY, Fr John J. 1889-1947**



Born 27 August 1889 in Baurleigh, Billbrittain, Co. Cork, a native speaker of Irish, John came as a boarder to Blackrock in 1902 and entered the Juniorate in 1904. He professed at the college for three years, 1909-12, during which time he played on the Blackrock 1st Rugby XV. Professed in Kimmage in 1913, he did part of his senior studies in France. Returning to Kimmage he was among the theologians who were favoured early in 1920 with a series of fireside chats on the missions by Monsig. Joseph Shanahan then recuperating from some severe surgical operations. Fr McCarthy was among the small group of scholastics present in Maynooth for

Shanahan's ordination as bishop, and he features in a group photo taken in Kimmage with the newly ordained bishop. Ordained in 1919, Fr John was appointed to Rockwell in 1920. The following year he was called on to succeed Fr John English as director of the Juniorate in St. Joseph's. The 'Troubled Times' left much to be desired among the students generally. Fr McCarthy's spiritual influence was felt as confessor and spiritual director among the boarders. He soon transformed the Juniorate. Zealous and self-sacrificing himself beyond the call of duty, he set out to instil in his future missionaries a spirit of sacrifice and hard work. He had them involved in serious manual labour as they laid down paths, even roadways, built shrines and erected a ball alley. He often reproached the slothful with the word '*Leisce*' - the Gaelic for laziness. Ironically, '*Leisce*' became his own nickname among the students! The students did not always appreciate that aspect of their formation, but their most abiding memory of their Director was as a man of prayer. In the shake up following on the appointment of Dr Dan Murphy as provincial, Fr McCarthy was named President of Rockwell in succession to Dr Edward Crehan. He introduced many changes: the Sisters of St. John of God were invited to take charge of certain departments of the care of the students; an All-Irish section of the school was set up (A-school); Gilbert and Sullivan operettas were produced under the direction of Fr Con Daly and Mr James White. A high-light of the Holy Week ceremonies for the students was to hear Fr McCarthy's solemn rendering of the *Christus* section of the sung Passion. During Bishop Shanahan's retirement in Clareville, 1932-38, he was to receive several invitations from Fr McCarthy to address the students and to sing the High Mass on the Feasts of St Patrick, patron of the college chapel where Shanahan had pronounced his first vows in 1898. Much of the class-room area of the college needed drastic overhaul. The wooden classrooms known as 'New Tipperary' were demolished and work begun on a major building scheme. This extra work put too great a strain on Fr McCarthy's health, necessitating a year's rest in Montana, Switzerland 1939. Returned to Ireland he was appointed Bursar to the province. Residing in Kimmage he was readily available to the large number of scholastics as confessor. Once again he set out to interest them in serious manual labour projects, in particular the stacking up of the ground which was required for the new cemetery for members of the Congregation. His health gave cause for concern once again, suffering as he was from diabetes and tuberculosis. Fr John McCarthy returned to Montana where he died 18 August 1947 aged 58 years. BArch; BCA 1948, 28f; RCA 1948, and 1964, 43f.

### **McCARTHY, Fr Michael 1922-1994**



Born 2 July 1922 in Glandore, Co. Cork, Mike studied at Rockwell, 1939-42. Professed in 1943, he studied for the BA at UCD and profected in Rockwell, 1944-46. Having done his Theology in Kimmage he was ordained in 1951. Fr Mike's first appointment was to Blackrock where he served as Director of the Juniorate, 1957-63, and as Dean of the Castle, 1963-71. It was a time of student unrest - among his charges was Bob Geldof - typified by their long hair and cultivated carelessness in dress, but Fr Mike never badgered or talked down to them. While knowing all that was going on he had a caring sympathetic approach which they appreciated as evidenced by the title by which was known to them then and later, namely, 'Pop'. But he had also to care for "two singular senior individuals in need of special understanding: Fr Walter Finn, an athletic figure moving into decline, and the sparkling, ebullient, many-sided genius, Monsignor Alfred O'Rahilly. In temperament, background, careers, Michael and Alfred were totally different. There

was between them a bond of trust, affection, sympathy, which was a treasure to behold. Michael was accepted in a truly fatherly role to this dynamic individual who had defied the powers in every walk of life." In 1971 Fr Michael was appointed Superior and Headmaster of Templeogue College, a post he held till co-opted on to the Provincial team as Procurator and Assistant Provincial. He was called on to act as Provincial in 1982 (Feb-Nov) and was then elected Provincial (1982-88). During his years as Provincial he was involved in many building projects, including the new Provincialate, the new houses of Theology and Philosophy and Marian House. In 1988 he was appointed to Rockwell, and in 1991 he returned to Blackrock by then in serious ill-health which he bore with great resignation even when it entailed severe suffering. All these periods of his life recalled memories for various people; his roguish humour as he teased people with settled ways and views, his daring practical jokes, his ever present serenity in face of taxing personal one-to-one encounters, his sound judgement, his kindness and gentle thoroughness. But his fortitude and calm in the final months of his searching illness was the most abiding memory he left those close to him. Fr Michael McCarthy was released by the Lord from his ordeal 7th March 1994 aged 72 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 1994; *BCA* 1994 278ff.

#### **McCarthy, Fr. Thomas Michael 1929-2001**

Tom was born in Tipperary Town 8<sup>th</sup> May 1929. He did his secondary school studies at the Abbey School CBS in Tipperary. Tim made his First Profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1948 in Kilshane. He professed in Blackrock College during the years 1950-52. He studied theology at Kimmage and was ordained to the Priesthood on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1955. Fr. Tom made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1956. His first appointment was to the Diocese of Onitsha in Nigeria. Fr. Tom ministered in Nigeria for 14 years until the civil war there forced him to return to Ireland in 1970. From 1970 until 1976 Fr. Tom served as Chaplain to the Mater Hospital in Dublin.

Due to failing health Fr. Tom transferred to Marian House in early 2000.

He died 5<sup>th</sup> December 2001 in Tallaght Hospital.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

#### **McCAULEY, Br Mary Vincent (Patrick) 1855-1922**

Born 10 Nov. 1855 at Tirelough, Glenties, Co. Donegal, Patrick entered Blackrock 23 March 1882 aged 27, depositing with the bursar the sum of £3.16.1. Professed in 1884 Br Mary Vincent served for the rest of his life at Blackrock being described in the *État* as *chambriste* and refectorian for the community. He was a native Irish speaker and both Pádraic O'Conaire and Thomas O'Rahilly used converse in Gaelic with him. O'Rahilly's expertise in the various Irish dialects dates from this modest beginning. Br M. Vincent would have passed into oblivion were it not that Fr Larry Healy penned these lines in his 'History of Blackrock 1860-1910' (Ms): "He gave to the college for over forty years, willing and devoted service. He gave more: the example and inspiration of humble saintliness. Always frail and suffering, he was always happy and busy. He was as simple as a child, yet he did the duties of his lowly function of refectorian with intelligence and success. He was obliging to all and respected by all. He shrank from notice, yet he was regarded by the students as a saint. In his last illness he expressed the regret that he was dying in comfort while his Divine Master had died on a Cross." Br Mary Vincent McCauley died 27 February 1922 aged 66 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BBR* No.186; *L.H* 267f

### **McCORMACK, Br Anthony (Robert) 1907-1965**



Born 6 Oct. 1907 in Trim, Co. Meath, Robert had entered business on completing his schooling - working with Messrs Spicers, Navan, but later opted for the religious life in company with his friend Bill Guinan. After his novitiate training at Kimmage Manor he was appointed to Blackrock in 1927 and it was there he was to spend the rest of his life, becoming so identified with its work and personnel that he represented for many students, past and present, what they liked best about the college. His normal routine work for fifteen years was centred in the book shop where he also looked after the rolls and was a model of accuracy and thoroughness. For the remaining thirteen years or so he applied the same qualities to the work of the accounts and stores as assistant to the bursar. He helped in so many other spheres - the Editor of the Annual relied so much on him; he was invaluable on opera nights as he had mastered the art of makeup. Above all he meant much to people. In the book shop he acted as guide, philosopher and friend to a whole generation of Rock boys; but his philosophy was realistic, his friendship direct and manly. His incisive comments on affairs were always delivered with assurance and were worth listening to, as were his humorous sallies about persons, his terse summing up of situations - particularly about sport. Of a particular disappointing display by a team in the cup competition he was heard to say: 'A good Rock team can afford one passenger; no team can afford fifteen'. The little office in the bursar's corridor was the inevitable place to go when practical advice was needed about anything. When he emerged into the open with the head so erect one felt as he scanned the surrounds that he already sized up what going on and what should be done. It was said it would need three men to replace him. Of course he was not really replaced. Life just went on without him, but not as well. Br Anthony died in the Mater Hospital 17 April 1965 just three days after his close friend and fellow countyman, Fr Bill Guinan had died a few rooms away. He was 57 years, but few realised it. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1965 55ff.

### **McCORMACK, Fr Nicholas 1907-1979**



Born 23 May 1907 in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Nick came to Blackrock in 1921 from Romockcorry, Co. Monaghan, where his parents were then living. He went to the novitiate in Kimmage in 1924. After finishing Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he professed in Rockwell, 1926-29. Ordained in 1932 his first appointment was to Trinidad where he served on the staff of St. Mary's College from 1934 to 1942. From 1942 until 1950 he worked in St. Joseph's parish, Trinidad. For three years, 1951-54, he was Novice Master to the Brothers in Kilshane. He also served as Bursar and was in charge of professed Brothers there. In 1954 he was appointed to Canada as one of the pioneer group of Spiritans to work in Ontario. At the invitation of the Bishop of London, Ontario, Fr McCormack helped establish St. Rita's parish, Woodstock, and served as its pastor for eighteen years. In 1972 he transferred to St. Joseph's parish, West Hill, as Associate Pastor. He was noted for his great devotion to the people and his pastoral concern was exemplified by his dedication to the religious instruction of the young, regular home visitation of parishioners and his care of the sick and dying. Fr Nicholas McCormack died on 14 August 1979 aged 72 years and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Ontario. *IPNI* 39, Sept 1979; *BCA* 1980, 181; *SpWW*, 395

### **McDERMOTT, Fr Henry 1864-1931**



Born 1 March 1864 in Loughconna, Co. Galway, Henry came to the French College, Blackrock, in 1878 just as the public examination system was being introduced. After passing Senior Grade he began his studies under the newly established Royal University, 1881-84. Having prefected also at the college, 1883/4, he studied in France for one year and then returned to Blackrock to qualify for the BA in 1887.

Appointed to Pittsburgh, USA, he prefected at the college there while continuing his theological studies. Ordained in 1890 in France he was appointed the following year to Pittsburgh once more where he combined the roles of professor and Dean of Discipline under the direction of Fr John T Murphy. In 1897 he was appointed to St Peter Claver's parish in Philadelphia - a black mission being financially assisted by Mother Katharine Drexel. In 1899, when Fr John T Murphy was appointed Superior in Blackrock, Fr McDermott was recalled to Pittsburgh College as vice-president and Dean of Studies. Fr Martin Hehir was then President of what was to become known as Duquesne University from 1911 as a result of the high standard of studies achieved over the years. In 1925, when his health was failing, Fr McDermott was transferred to Ferndale, Conn. as superior. He was a talented preacher and had a gift of humour which made him a welcome guest everywhere he went. He died of a heart attack 9 January 1931 aged 66. *BG XXXV 156ff; BCA 1962 216; SpWW 375.*

### **McDERMOTT, Fr Patrick 1859-1918**



Born 14 April 1859 in Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, Pat came to the juniorate at Rockwell at the age of 12 in 1871. In 1876 he went to the senior scholasticate in Langonnet and later in Chevilly, being ordained priest in 1880. He was Director of the juniorate at Rockwell, 1881-82, and then taught Philosophy for three years in the senior scholasticate in Chevilly. In 1885 he was appointed to the college conducted by the Congregation in Pittsburgh, USA. That school was going through a crisis of confidence at the time due to lack of competent staff. Fr McDermott taught Mathematics, English and History, while serving as chaplain at St Malachy's. Five years later he was Superior of St Peter Claver's mission for the blacks in Philadelphia, and for two years he worked in the parish entrusted to the Congregation at Green Bay, Wisc. By 1893 he had returned to the college in Pittsburgh as a member of the staff. In 1902, after having made several requests to be sent on the foreign missions, he was released to go to work in Nigeria. He set out from the new provincialate at Clareville with Fr Joseph Shanahan and Br Eusebius. Fr Pat served at Old Calabar where he had charge of the mission schools. He returned to Europe in 1904 to raise funds for a scheme to plant cotton in Calabar area. While in England he was asked by Mgr Le Roy to inspect Prior Park, Bath, which was then being offered to the Congregation in the wake of the Combes persecution. Fr Pat returned to Nigeria where he served for a few years till forced by ill health to leave the tropics. Returned to Europe he was again called on by Mgr Le Roy to help in establishing the new community at Castlehead, Lanc., after it was decided to abandon Prior Park in Somerset. In 1908 he returned to the USA where he was commissioned by Fr Joseph Shanahan to help raise funds for Nigeria. He served in Pittsburgh where he spent the rest of his days. The college was renamed Duquesne University in 1911 and Fr McDermott was to be recognised there as a prominent and highly respected priest and scholar. He suffered from a heart condition for several years and was to die suddenly as he had answered



the *'Deo Gratias'* to the morning call to rise for prayer. He was 59 years of age when he died 3 June 1918. He was an uncle of Fr Patrick Dooley CSSp. GenArch; *BG* XXIX 274f; *SpWW* 252.

### **McDONALD, Fr Andrew 1872-1939**



Born 28 November 1872 in Primrose Hill, Co. Carlow, Andy received his schooling at CBS Carlow and Blackrock College. where he began as a boarder in 1889 and joined the juniorate after Middle Grade in 1890. He excelled at mathematics and science. From 1892 to 1895 he prefected at the College and in 1895 he went to Chevilly where he had as professor, his fellow countryman, Fr John O'Gorman, future bishop. Andy's health, which was to be a lifelong problem, forced him to return to Blackrock where he acted as prefect once more 1898-99. He then was sent to Rockwell to join the Theologians in the senior seminary at St. Joseph's. He complained of continuous headaches which forced him to abandon his studies once more. From then on he wore tinted glasses. From 1901 to 1903 he was again attached to Blackrock where his expertise at mathematics and science were appreciated. In 1905 he returned to Blackrock, this time as a priest. Fr Andy was not cast in the ordinary run of the mill. In fact, he qualified for the title of being a 'character', a much loved one though. We find him described as follows: 'a pleasant companion, full of enthusiasm, full of knowledge, full of stories, jokes and puns, and original views on everyday events'. Again: 'At each crisis of the political world, he was ready with a plan to meet the new situation'. Fr Andy had the reputation of being an inventor. He had been a classmate of Johnny Dunlop for whom the historic pneumatic tyre had been invented a few years earlier. He seemingly struck up a friendship also with the inventor himself and it is written about Fr Andy that 'he had many inventions for the bicycle, among others a new type of tyre that would supersede Dunlop's. He had a wheel that would run equally well on rails, and on the ordinary highway'. He claimed that he had invented a periscope but could not get the necessary funds to patent his invention before he was beaten to the post by someone else. At this remove it is not possible to pronounce on the authenticity of Fr Andy's claims. Not everyone took them seriously in his own day. A certificate from Hempenstall Chemists concerning one of his 'inventions' is among his papers in the General Archives of the Congregation. But Fr Andy was most at home hunting on the moors of Carlow with his gun and beloved dog. He was an expert on dogs and on several areas of sport. Cricket was his favourite game and as a prefect he was a member of the Senior Castle team. He was a great favourite with the poor in the area and, though most of his contributions were in the form of religious objects and devotional advice, they knew that if they had sufficient patience there was some more material aid forthcoming eventually. Because of his failing health he had to retire from the classroom in 1924. He was known to concentrate from then on his prayer-life. Indeed those close to him regarded him as 'an old saint', and as a very popular confessor. It was written of him: "Though an invalid for years he was a perfect model of patience.. He never complained, never said an angry or impatient word and never an unkind work of anyone". Fr Andy McDonald died in Clareville 25 May 1939 aged 66 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *IPNI* 1940 vol.11 No 2, April 1940.

### **McDONAGH, Fr John Joe 1934-1998**



Born on 5 June 1934 in Cloonkeen, Glenamaddy, Co Galway. The family moved to Milltown, Castleplunkett, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon in 1940. John Joe attended Castleplunkett N.S. as did Fr Michael O'Donnell, Fr Francis Egan and his brother Fr Martin McDonagh. He did his secondary studies in Blackrock College, 1948-53. Having entered the novitiate at Kilshane he was professed in 1954 and then went on to study at Kimmage and UCD where he secured the BA in 1957. He then prefected at Rockwell for two years. Returned to Kimmage to do Theology he was ordained priest in 1962. Appointed the following year to The Gambia he served in St Edward's, Bwiam, and other stations. In 1974 he took a sabbatical year and spent some time caring for his mother. Assigned in 1977 to Kilshane as Assistant Novice Master he was appointed Superior two years later and was in fact to be the last Superior there, serving till 1985 when the house was closed. During those years he was seen to fill many roles - a jack-of-all-trades, a welcoming host and, in particular, the guardian angel of ageing Dr Dan Murphy who needed much attention as he tried to cope with the infirmities of age and the unwelcome changes in the world in general and the church in particular. John Joe coped with all these challenges with an admirable evenness of temper and a ready sense of humour. After six months service in the Diocese of Clonfert, he served as Bursar in Ardraccan from November 1986 to January 1988. Called on to work in Australia he served there for six months before being recalled to act as pastor in Peasley Cross Parish, Liverpool - a parish served by the Congregation since 1912. Due to a rearrangement of parish boundaries in the diocese the Congregation was relieved of its commitment there in 1995. Fr John Joe was then appointed Superior of the retirement house of the Congregation in Bickley, London, and was also a member of the English Provincial Council from 1995. Once again he gave of his best in the care of the aged - fulfilling all roles from chiropodist to groundsman. Having served the Congregation well wherever appointed, the Lord called him rather unexpectedly in Bromley Hospital, Kent, on 8 April 1998. He was aged 63 years. He is buried in the family plot in Ballintubber cemetery, Co Roscommon. Fr John Joe was a brother of Fr Martin CSSp. BCArch; IPArch; KSWAM No. 320

### **McDONNELL, Br Aloysius (Louis J.) 1875-1951**



Born 16 April 1875 in Dundrum, Co. Dublin, Louis frequently served mass for Dom Columba Marmion, who was a curate at Dundrum at that time. He entered Blackrock in September 1893 and was professed in 1898. In 1904, when Fr John T. Murphy was being transferred to Prior Park, Bath, as superior of the new community there, he asked Br Aloysius to accompany him. After one year there, Br Aloysius requested that he be allowed to return to Blackrock and it was there he was to serve for the rest of his long life except for a period spent at St Michael's, Ailesbury Rd., when the Preparatory school was being launched. He took over the mantle of the legendary Br Thaddeus in charge of the "chicks" or very small boys, and of the 'Bookshop' as the Secretariat was then known, where he "started with crude gelatine, boiled it over a Bunsen burner, made it into a pad, and hand-printed each copy of the examination papers." In later years he took over from Br Berchmans as assistant to the bursar. In his capacity as '*commissionaire*' or procurator he became the best known member of the Congregation in the business houses in Dublin. He celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his profession in 1952 beloved by all who recalled his dedicated

service, his constant gentleness and kindness. Br Aloysius McDonnell died 3 December 1951 aged 76 years and was buried in Kimmage. BBR 1893; *BCA* 1948, 20; 1951, 76

### **McDONNELL, Fr James 1865-1944**



Born 31 March 1865 in Passage West, Cork, James was a student at Blackrock, 1879-85, and then prefect there for two years. He was a contemporary of Fr John St Kearney, and Fr James Duggan, who was to be his lifelong companion in Trinidad. He went to Chevilly in 1887 to do his senior studies and was ordained in 1891. The following year he set off for Trinidad in the company of Fr Duggan and Fr Con O'Shea, future Irish Provincial. He taught at St Mary's for more than ten years with great success. His heart, however, was with pastoral work and in 1903 he was appointed pastor of St Joseph's parish replacing his former prefect at Blackrock, Fr Frederick Griffin, who had died of tuberculosis at the age of 41. Incidentally, the previous pastor, Fr Joseph Spielmann, had been Fr McDonnell's Director in the Juniorate in 1879-80. Fr 'Mac', as he was to be generally known, was to spend the rest of his long life at St Joseph's - the ancient capital of the island, and he earned the respect and affection of all sections of the parish community. The story is told about him that on one occasion he was rudely abused in public by a black man: Fr Mac, was particularly loved by his black parishioners, who laughed heartily when he commented: 'I have been pastor here for over thirty years and this is the first time I have met a nigger.' Fr James officially retired in 1940 but remained on in the presbytery where he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1941. Fr James McDonnell died 22 July 1944 aged 79. *BCArch*; *BCA*, 1962, 220; *SpWW*, 516.

### **MOLONEY, Father Pearse 1919-2003**

Pearse was born at Tarr's Bridge in Dungarvan, Co Waterford on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1919. After his secondary school studies at C.B.S. Dungarvan he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939. In 1942 he was awarded a B.A. and in 1942 a M.A. in Irish Language Studies. He prefectured at Blackrock College for the year 1944-'45. In 1945 he went to Fribourg and gained a S.T.L. in 1949. Pearse was ordained to the Priesthood in Fribourg on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1948. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1949. In 1949 Father Pearse's first appointment was to the **Kimmage Scholasticate** as Professor of Philosophy. During the year 1954-'55 he was Professor of Dogma. In 1955 he went to the Angelicum in Rome to train as a Formator. He took up his appointment as **Novice Master in Kilshane** in 1956. He continued in Kilshane until 1966 when he returned to Kimmage Manor to teach Theology. In 1969 he took a sabbatical at the Institut Catholique, Paris. On his return in 1970 he spent one further year teaching theology in Kimmage Manor. In 1971 Father Pearse was appointed to **Kenya** and served in the Nairobi Diocese at **Thika**. He worked for a number of years on the Spiritan renewal team. In 1976 Pearse was transferred to the Spiritan Generalate in Rome as General Secretary. At the conclusion of this term of office he was reappointed to Kenya and took over as Parish Priest at **St. Austin's, Nairobi**. In 1998 on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Ordination Pearse was stationed at the Uzima Centre, Thika, from where he wrote: "Of my 50 years as a priest I have spent 27 in Kenya and 20 in Ireland – so there's a certain poetic justice in celebrating the Jubilee here!"

He died in Marion House 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

**McENEANEY, Fr James 1857-1888**



Born 7 June 1857 in Annyalla, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, James entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1873. He was a brilliant student and was called on to act as prefect in Williamstown Castle in 1875 when Fr Edward Reffé started the Civil Service College there. James had the benefit of attending Dr. John Casey's lectures in mathematics to the students of the Civil Service College. In 1878 he went to France to do his studies for the priesthood, but in 1881 he was posted to Rockwell where he served for another three years as prefect. His proficiency at mathematics was appreciated by the dean, Fr John T. Murphy, as he tried to cope with the intense competition introduced by the public Intermediate examinations followed by the equally competitive examinations conducted under the Royal University as from 1881. Returned to France, James was ordained in 1885 and in 1886 was appointed to the college conducted by the Congregation in Pittsburgh. He may well have been sent there at the request of Fr John T. Murphy, who had been appointed rector that year. As the college was going through difficult times Fr James McEneaney's arrival there was appreciated. After but two years he was struck by typhus and died after a brief illness 30 August 1888 aged 31 years. BCArch; *BG* 14, 719; *BCA* 1962, 197; *SpWW*, 87.

**McENNIS, Fr Thomas 1899-1973**



Born 19 November 1899 in Station House, Tubber, Co. Clare, Tom worked with the Railway Co. for seven years before entering the juniorate at Blackrock in 1924. During the War of Independence he had been under arms, and later had joined the Irregulars during the Civil War. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1925 and was ordained in 1931. The following year he was appointed to the mission in Banjul (Bathurst), The Gambia. Having developed tuberculosis he spent three years in the clinic conducted by the Congregation at Montana, Switzerland. During part of that time he helped the student-patients with Philosophy lessons. When discharged, he returned to Africa, this time to Kenya, as Rector of the seminary in Kabaa, Thika, 1937-38, and had charge of the stations of Limuru and Kiambu in turn. He served at Holy Family Church and later was given charge of the Cathedral Parish of Nairobi. For some years he contributed Catholic material for radio broadcasting in Nairobi. When thousands of refugees from Poland entered Kenya after being in prison camps in Russia, he worked very hard for them, finding them hospitality and employment, and seeing that the orphans were not forced back into communist institutions. For this he was honoured by the exiled Polish President, who awarded him the Gold Cross of Merit. He was Vicar-General of Nairobi Archdiocese from May, 1957, and had charge of the Cathedral Parish until he retired in ill health to Ireland in 1970. Fr Thomas McEnnis died 15 June 1973, aged 73 years. He is buried in Kimmage. BJR No. 1060; *BCA* 1973 275

**McGEEVER, Br Honorius (Daniel)****1846-1928**

Born 12 March 1846 in Inver, Co. Donegal. Daniel was a pupil at Letterkenny High School, then run by laymen and later taken over by the diocesan clergy. He taught for a period in a national school in Donegal and later spent some time with the Christian Brothers. Among his students was John Neville, future bishop in East Africa. Daniel had been entrusted with a very large and unruly class which he failed to control, so he was advised by his superior in the Christian Brothers that teaching was not his vocation. He entered Blackrock as an *agrégé* in 1872. Père Leman, recognising his potential and his genuine vocation, advised him to opt for the brotherhood in the Congregation; but because of his age (27) and his lack of French, permission was requested for him to do his full novitiate at Blackrock. Professed in 1874 he took the name, Honorius - the patron Saint of Canterbury - and was called on to set out for the farthest and one of the most difficult missions entrusted to the Congregation, namely Chandernagor in India. This was a French enclave which Rome had asked the Congregation to take on because of the French connection. The mission posed a special challenge in that it was a French enclave in a Hindu world and where most of the Catholic population had to work for English-speaking employers! Hence the importance of personnel who could speak English and teach it in the mission school. Br Honorius was fortunate that, though the community was French, he had the company of an Irish Brother - Francis Joseph Nesbit - who had gone from Blackrock to Chandernagor in 1871. Like Honorius he was also a late vocation, but in many other respects they differed in that he was Dublin-born and a convert from Protestantism. Père Magloire Barthet, the superior, was very happy to have the services of these two Irish confreres, who were exemplary religious and good teachers, but he realised that the prospects for their mission were not bright. Honorius' state of health required a return to Europe in 1884. While at Blackrock it was announced that the mission in India was being abandoned; so he remained on at Blackrock while awaiting a further appointment. Recalled to France in 1886, he was posted for a period to Cellule in the Auvergne where he is listed as teaching *les sciences*. In 1887 he was asked to set off once again for foreign parts, this time to Martinique, as a teacher of English. The students did not prove as tractable as in Chandernagor. They are described in the same terms used by Père Leman about the first Irish students he had to deal with - *espiègles* - given to playing practical jokes! Br Honorius received such a baptism of fire during his first few days in class that it was feared that he would have to give up as had happened earlier in that school run by the Christian Brothers. Fortunately, the rest of the staff came to his aid; he regained sufficient control to stick at his post there for the next seven years. In 1894 he was back in Ireland, this time to stay. He was appointed to St. Mary's, Rathmines, where he helped on the teaching staff for the next nine years. One notices his name occasionally in the lists of those who attended Gaelic League functions at the turn of the century. Possibly he was a native speaker of Irish. In 1905 he seems to have retired from the classroom and was transferred to Blackrock. In 1907 he was recalled to St. Mary's to help at the housekeeping duties. Finally, in 1908, he returned to Blackrock where in company with his former confrere in Chandernagor, Br Francis Joseph, he was allowed to rest somewhat from his labours. A certain mystique surrounded these two old Brothers who had that rare distinction of having served in far distant Chandernagor. There were so often seen together on walks, recalling the days of old, that someone felt it was an event to photograph even in the days when

such snap-shots were rare. The photographer, armed with his box camera, has left us with a visual record of the two setting off on one of their regular promenades. Br Honorius answered his last roll-call, 28 May 1928 aged 82 years. He was buried in Deans Grange. BBR; *BG* XXXIV, 769; and the recollections of Br Gerald Heffernan CSSp.

### **McGEOUGH, Fr Gerald Patrick Edward 1917-1972**



Born 14 October 1917 in Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, Eddie studied at Blackrock, 1930-36 and was professed at Kilshane, 1937. He began Philosophy in Kimmage, but on account of ill-health he was transferred to Switzerland to complete his studies. Returning to Ireland, 1940, as a result of the war, he resumed his studies at Kimmage. Ordained in 1943 he was appointed the following year to the missions in Kenya. After a brief introductory period in Holy Family parish, Nairobi, he was sent to Limuru, and later to Kanzalu, and finally to Lioki. These postings required him to be acquainted with three languages, Swahili, Kikuyu and Kamba. He worked hard to master them all, and he also worked hard and with success as a pastor amongst his people. About 1964, however, ill-health obliged him to return to Ireland and even when he recovered, his doctors did not allow him to return to East Africa. He served as chaplain to the convent of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Sevenoaks, in England, 1965-67. Then he returned to Kimmage where he was on call for any occasional supply work in Ireland. While attending a funeral in Co. Monaghan, Fr Edward McGeough suffered his final brief attack of illness, and died in hospital 24 November 1972 aged 55 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1973 253.

### **McGRANE, Fr Michael Anthony 1916-1999**



Born 4 December 1916 in Ballintra, Co. Donegal, Michael did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1930-35. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1936. He professed on the Burse, 1937-39, and secured the BA degree in 1941. Ordained priest in 1944 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to the Onitsha-Owerri region he served in pastoral work at Nsukka for two years and was then appointed inspector of schools while still stationed at Nsukka. In 1952 he resumed pastoral work serving at Enugu. On account of the Biafra civil war he returned to Ireland in 1967 and was appointed in 1968 to serve in parish work in Brighton, England. After two years he was recalled to Ireland and was appointed to Greenhills Parish, where he remained until 1974. He then transferred to his beloved native diocese of Raphoe and served in Ballintra, 1975-77, Glencolumcille, 1978-82. He formed a successful team with the charismatic Fr McDyer, who could trust his flock to this amiable and dependable assistant while he was able to devote much more time to improving the material and social needs of the people of the Glen. Michael's final appointment was to Mountcharles, 1983-88. In failing health he retired to Kimmage in September 1998 and died in Marian House on 11 October 1999 aged 83 years. He was described as being gentle, courteous, friendly and good-humoured to all he came in contact with. Fr Michael was buried in Ballintra Cemetery, Co. Donegal. *IPN* No. 4 1999; *KNSM* No. 201.

## **McGILL, Fr Patrick 1902-1970**



Born 17 March 1902 in Glenmakeenan, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, Pat came to the novitiate in Kimmage in 1923 and did his Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock. Ordained in 1928, he was appointed the following year to Kenya. When forty years later it was being taken for granted that he was to be buried in what was regarded as the official cemetery of the mission at St Austin's, Nairobi, the Kikuyu people insisted that he remain in their midst in death as he had served them so devotedly during his life. He had opened centres at Mangu, Kiriku, Gatitu and Karinga. There he had started some forty schools and took over the running of twenty other Kikuyu Independent Schools when they were closed by the Government during the State of Emergency declared during the Mau Mau troubles. It was reported in the papers that Fr Pat had denounced the organisation as "utterly anti-Christian and malevolent" and that his life had been threatened as a result. The facts are best expressed as follows: "During the movement for Independence he stood firmly against the excesses of those who violated human rights in their efforts to attain them. At the same time he strongly opposed the British administration when Kikuyus were forced to work on Sundays. The Kikuyus realised that Fr McGill had been prepared to oppose oppression and injustice from whatever source they stemmed - even to the giving of his life". When they came to confer on him the highest honour, making him a Kikuyu Elder, it was made clear that they so honoured him because they saw that he was a 'man of God'. It was said of him: "Here was a priest who spent himself without ever counting the cost; a priest who was prepared to preach the truth even to the shedding of his blood; a priest who ploughed a straight furrow - and died with his hand on the plough". Fr Pat. died alone, seated on his chair, 17 January 1970 aged 67 years. His faithful flock have marked his final resting place in their midst with a marble monument. IPArch

## **McGlade, Fr. Cornelius Desmond 1916-2002**

Desmond (Des) was born at Evermore, St.John's Park, Belfast on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1916. After his secondary school studies at C.B.S. he entered the Congregation at Kilshane where he made his first profession on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1936. He studied philosophy and theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 22<sup>th</sup> June 1941. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1942. Father Des's first appointment was to **Nigeria** and he was assigned to pastoral work in **Ahiara**. In 1945 he was transferred to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in **Onitsha**. Between 1948 and 1953 he served at **Adazi** Mission and **Nnokwa** Mission. In 1953 he is transferred to **Enugu-Ezike** and remained there until 1963. During this time he set up the central parish house and established fifty primary schools in the outstations. After this assignment he moved for four year to **Okpatu** where he established a domestic science school for girls and a farmers association for young men.

During the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970) Father Des stayed at **Uli** and was involved in the air-lift of food and worked with refugees. At Uli he did much to alleviate the massive starvation of the people despite the threat posed by the bombings. In 1970 Father Des was expelled from Nigeria and was appointed to work in the **Fresno Diocese** of **California**. He longed to return to the Missions and got the opportunity in 1975 when he was sent to **Papua New Guinea**. In 1977 he transferred to **Kenya** and worked in the **Machakos Diocese**. A year later he returned to **California**, to the **Sacramento Diocese**, and worked there for the next ten years until

1987. In that year he made another return, this time to the **Kenema** area of **Papua New Guinea** and remained on there until 1991. In 1991 he retired to **St. Athanasius** Parish in **Mountain View, California**. He returned to Ireland in \*\*\*\*. He died in Marian House 25<sup>th</sup> May 2002. He is buried in the community plot at Dardistown.

#### **McGLADE, Fr John C. 1890-1974**



Born 6 September 1890 in Knockloughrim, Co. Derry, Jack attended St Mary's, Rathmines, 1907-09, and having decided to join the Congregation with Bertie Farrell, he went direct to the novitiate in France where he was professed in 1910. He did Philosophy at Chevilly and then prefectured at Blackrock, 1912-14. Instead of going onto do Theology in France he was asked by Fr John T Murphy to join the group of Irish senior scholastics being sent to do their studies at Cornwells Heights and at Ferndale, USA. This was in pursuance of the agreement signed with Mother (Blessed) Katharine Drexel obliging the Irish Province to send men to work among the blacks in USA in return for financial support from her for the senior scholasticate at Kimmage. Ordained in 1917 at Ferndale, Fr McGlade was assigned to the black mission in Louisiana. After briefly serving at Holy Spirit, New Orleans, and St Paul's, Lafayette, he went in 1919 to St Edward's, New Iberia, and from there in 1921 to Holy Spirit, Marksville, as pastor. Transferred to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Shreveport, in 1922, he could return to New Iberia 2 years later as pastor. He remained there for 11 years. His last southern pastorate was at St Paul's in Lafayette, 1935-45. For more than 25 years he had proved to be a tireless worker for the poverty-stricken and oppressed blacks entrusted to his care. In 1945 he received an appointment to a new kind of work when he was named director of St Joseph's House for homeless boys in Philadelphia. He gave himself wholeheartedly to his task and retained it for 23 years. On the occasion of his golden jubilee in 1967, civil and church authorities paid tribute to his innovative work among the friendless youths of the metropolis. He resigned in 1968 but continued to reside in the House until he had to enter the Blessed John Neumann Nursing Home in mid 1973. He died 8 June 1974 aged 83 years. *CSSP Newsletter USA-East*, July 1974; *SpWW* 967.

#### **McGOLDRICK, Fr Desmond 1919-1997**



Born February 9, 1919 in Clones, Co. Monaghan, Des attended St McCarton's College, 1931-36. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1937. After 1<sup>st</sup> Arts at UCD he prefectured for one year in Rockwell and then resumed his university course gaining the BA in 1941. During Theology his flamboyant type sermons enlivened otherwise dull breakfast as Des' resonating voice filled the large dining room. As he did not suffer fools gladly he was free with his comments but never with any malice. Ordained in 1944 he was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He taught at St. Mary's School, Nairobi, at Holy Spirit College in Mangu and at the junior seminary in Kilimanbogo. He also served briefly as an assistant on Zanzibar island and at Mbitini till 1954. After a leave in Ireland he went in 1956 to Canada, where he became a popular retreat master, writer, and preacher of parish missions throughout the English-speaking part of the country. In 1971 he founded VICS, (Volunteers International Christian Service), which under his successors has since sent out some 400 men and women to do two or more years of work in developing countries. Thereafter he



remained active in parochial inner city ministry in Toronto and as pastor in Vancouver, B.C. Fr Desmond died 9 November 1997 aged 77 years. IPArch; Arch CSSp Canada

#### **McGOVERN, Fr John F. 1916-1964**



John was born 26 August 1916 in Newark, N.J., but when his mother died his father sent him to the family home in Derrylahan, Co. Cavan. He studied at Rockwell, 1930-35, and entered the novitiate at Kilshane. Professed in 1936 he did his studies at Kimmage and UCD. After securing his BA in 1939 he did one year as prefect at Blackrock during which time he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. Returned to Kimmage for Theology, he was ordained, 1943, and was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He served in the Onitsha archdiocese at Christ the King High School, Onitsha, till 1950. He was then transferred to St. Martin's Training College in Ihiala till 1953 and served as supervisor of Catholic schools for the archdiocese till 1956. When he was appointed to the USA he spent one year at Duquesne and then became principal of Notre Dame High School at Riverside, CA. In 1961 he was appointed principal of Cornwells. Three years later, 19 May 1964, he died rather suddenly after being admitted to hospital suffering from a cerebral haemorrhage. He was aged 47 years. RJJ; SpWW 736.

#### **McGRATH, Br Bernard (Joseph) 1902-1956**



Born 10 September 1902 in Cooraclare, Co. Clare, he was involved in the motor trade during the war of Independence. He enrolled in the West Clare Brigade of the IRA and served in the Flying Column; later he was decorated for his services. Due to a leg injury early in life he had to cut short his schooling. Immensely popular he was seen off by an enormous crowd of well-wishers in 1926 when he left Milltown Malbay to enter the Brothers' novitiate at Kimmage. Professed in 1928 he was attached to Blackrock where he was to render sterling service in many departments as he supervised the domestic staff and assumed control of the kitchen garden. During the Emergency period he took charge of the butcher's shop and ensured a steady supply of victuals for the college kitchen. Br Bernard's limited schooling in no way inhibited him in his performance or in the respect with which he was held by all. Neither was he overawed either by anyone and was noted for his quick and witty ripostes. These are legion. To mention a few: When a dispute dragged out between him and a musician in the community about the transporting of a piano after a concert, the superior, Dr J.C. McQuaid, remonstrated with him adding some words about the necessity in life for a spirit of mutual tolerance and co-operation. Bernard rejoined: "Its all very fine for you, Father, with your big words, but it is me who has to shift the piano." And when a man applied for a job at the College, Bernard queried: "And what sort of job would you be thinking of?" "Head gardener", was the ambitious reply, only to be countered with: "There is enough of your sort around here. What we want is someone to do the work." Bernard was a consummate teaser. He knew that his friend Br John Joe, also from Clare, had a very special devotion to the Little Flower. "She never failed me," he repeated frequently. Ten days before the Saint's feast day, Br John's treasured bicycle disappeared. "Make a novena to the Little Flower" was the helpful advice proffered by Bernard. And sure enough the bicycle reappeared in time for the Saint's feast, having been deposited at the foot of the statue of the saint. And so

on. Br Bernard had a wide circle of friends who enjoyed his repartee - among them Lord Mountbatten, whom he met in the company of Clare-man, Chief Superintendent Liddy. Br Bernard suffered much towards the end but it was noted that he had no fear of death which he faced with serenity as if answering a further call to duty. His personal brand of piety seemed to have been tempered by a judicious blend of traditional Clare folklore and the devotions which had been imported to Ireland from the Continent in the last century. Br Bernard McGrath died 7 August 1956 aged 53 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1957, 42f.

**McGRATH, Br Mary Paul (James) 1848-1933**



Born 30 May 1848 in Clonoulty, Rossmore, Goold's Cross, Co. Tipperary, James entered at the newly opened novitiate at Rockwell March 1869 and was professed there in 1872. In 1876 he was transferred to Blackrock where he was destined to serve under 12 successive superiors. He was to be the first member of the Blackrock community to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of his profession. This is how Fr Larry Healy wrote about him on that occasion: " He lived four years under Fr Leman. He has helped to retain in the community the practices and the spirit of that saintly man. He has filled the functions of farmer, gardener, plumber, clerk-of-works, all with marked success. The services he rendered in 1903 in dealing with the tenants of old Williamstown, in clearing away the hovels and transforming the site, and in building the new 'Castle', were extremely valuable. A brother known as the 'Auxiliary' is appointed to have general control of the works, and responsibility for them. He is chosen for a combination of qualities, chief of which is tact in dealing with men. Br Paul has been Auxiliary for 47 years. He is now in his 83rd year. A visit to his green-houses, garden and flower beds would convince you that he is still an active worker." After his death, two years later, it was written about him: "He was a man of prayer. Prayer seemed to come quite naturally to him. When old age checked his labours, he spent long hours before the Tabernacle, and at every period of his life in passing to and fro from one occupation to another, he never seemed to go twenty yards without praying; his beads were always in his hand. Among those who followed Br Mary Paul to his last resting place was the head of the Government, Eamon de Valera. It was this kindly Brother who had been the first to welcome him to Blackrock when he saw him struggling with his tin trunk as he arrived at the college in 1898. Br Mary Paul McGrath died 10th October 1933 aged 85 years and was buried in Deans Grange. *RBR*; *BCA* 1934 117; *LH*. 70f; *BG XXXV*11, 437

**McGRATH, Fr John 1873-1951**



Born 5 December 1873 in James' Street, Dublin, Johnny came to Blackrock juniorate in 1889 and went to France in 1893 to do his senior studies. By Christmas his health gave cause for worry, so he was sent to Porto as prefect where he taught English in the Spiritan college. He returned to France in 1896 to do his novitiate and to continue his studies at Chevilly. When the new senior scholasticate was opened in St. Joseph's, Rockwell, in 1898, he was sent there to continue his studies while helping as a teacher in the college. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Thomas Croke in his private oratory in November 1898. On completing his course he was assigned to Rockwell along with Fr Joseph Shanahan. For the next

33 years he was to give excellent service to Rockwell students as he taught various subjects, mathematics, English, French, Irish, science and history. He was a brilliant teacher of mathematics and among his life-long friends were his student Monsignor Pádraig de Brún and his colleague, Eamon de Valera. He was noted for his brilliance, his sense of humour, his personal charm and simplicity of demeanour. His skill as a teacher was seen at its best when dealing with a class of highly intelligent students; he tended to be impatient with the slow learners. He was famous for his puns and his sharp wit; one anecdote illustrates both. He was not always on the best of terms with the Dean of Studies, Fr Johnny Byrne, but he invited him to demonstrate some new item of science equipment acquired after repeated requests. Fr McGrath could not resist the quip: "And, boys, you see this instrument is operated by a crank!". From 1918 to 1925 Fr McGrath held the post of Dean of Studies while teaching his quota of classes. In 1935 the symptoms which affected him earlier in France returned but this time he needed treatment in hospital. There was no question of his being able to resume teaching. He retired to Kimmage where for the rest of his years his ailment was to be his cross and presented a challenge to the younger generation of scholastics to make allowances for his illness while admiring his occasional sallies of wit. Fr John McGrath died rather unexpectedly during the annual retreat 29 August 1951 and was buried in Kimmage. He was 77 years of age. All felt that one of the characters of the Irish province had passed away leaving nostalgic memories and anecdotes to be retold. BCArch; *IPNI* 23, March 1952.

#### **McGURK, Fr James J. 1873-1954**



Born 7 November 1873 in Broagh, Castledawson, Co. Derry, James came to Blackrock in 1891, most likely due to the mission preached in that area the previous year by Frs Ebenrecht, Michael Hyland and George Lee of the Mission Band. James was himself to be one day a dedicated member of that Band. He proved both a brilliant student and an excellent footballer. He won a scholarship in the Matriculation in 1894 and then was called on to prefect at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1894-5, and at Rockwell, 1895-98, before going to France to do his novitiate and senior studies. Ordained at Chevilly in 1902 he was appointed the following year to Rockwell. After one year it was decided that he was called by his talents to a more active ministry. He was appointed to the Mission Band, preaching retreats and missions throughout the country. During this period he was based at Clareville, which was then the Provincialate. In 1912 Fr John T. Murphy decided that there was a much larger and more profitable field for the Mission Band in the USA, and for five years Fr James was to serve there in a roving and taxing pastoral ministry. From 1917 to 1945 he was entrusted successively with the care of several parishes where he left an indelible record in the religious, cultural and economic life of each community. He raised substantial funds to rebuild and refurbish schools and presbyteries. He took a keen interest in education and earned for himself the reputation of a scholar, especially in relation to the work of Dante. But it was above all in the religious sphere that he endeared himself to the clergy and the laity, not least by his sunny disposition and his selfless dedication to duty. At the age of seventy, when he retired from parish work, he took on an active role as teacher in the senior seminary at Cornwells Heights. In 1947 he retired to the serenity of Rock Castle where he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1952. The following year he had one of his legs amputated, but even this did not damp his cheerful disposition. He was never heard to

complain. The end came rather quickly . Fr James McGurk died 2 December 1954 aged 81 years. *BCA* 1955, 72; *SpWW* 637.

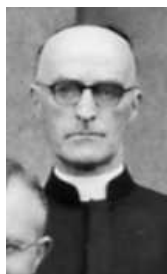
### **McKenna Father William Anthony 1918-2005**

Willie was born at 98 Emmet Road, Inchicore, Dublin City, on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1918. After his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1938. During 1939-'43 he prefected in Trinidad. In 1945 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. Willie studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1948 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1949. In 1949 Father Willie's first appointment was to **Nigeria** to the Vicariate of **Owerri**. He was appointed to teach at the newly opened St. Mary's Teachers Training College at **Ozora Egbelu**. When on holidays in Ireland in 1955 he was retained to assist in the works of administration, first at **St. Mary's Rathmines** (1955-'58) and afterwards at **Kimmage Manor** (1958-'64). He returned to Kenya in 1964 functioning as bursar at **St. Mary's College**, Nairobi. He later went on to serve as **Secretary, Procurator and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Nairobi**. In 1980 Willie was recalled to Ireland to serve as **Provincial Procurator**. In 1983 he was appointed as chaplain to **St. Loman's Hospital**, Palmerstown where he continued for the next twelve years until he retired to the Mission House in Kimmage in 1995.

He died 26<sup>th</sup> May 2005 in St. James' Hospital Dublin.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **McKEON, Br Mel (Patrick) 1892-1984**



Born 27 February 1892 in Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford, Patrick entered the Passionist juniorate and was sent to do his studies first at Mountmelleray and later, 1914-15, at Blackrock. Having to abandon his studies to assist his family he served in the licensed vintners' trade in Belfast. He married in 1935 and when his wife, Mary, died he thought again of entering religious life though then aged 54. He entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kilshane in 1946 and was professed in 1948. Attached to Blackrock, 1949-52, he was then transferred to Kimmage where he was to spend the rest of his long life. He was conspicuous for his fidelity to his religious exercises, to the care of the sacristy and to the collecting of used stamps in favour of the missions. Br Mel McKeon died 5 August 1984 aged 92 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNL* 58, Sept 1984; *BCA* 1984, 178.

### **McLAUGHLIN, Fr Archibald 1849-1878**



Born 18 November 1849 in Forfanlo, Scotland, Archibald was a student at the 'Scotch College,' Rockwell. He returned home but soon after applied for admission to the Congregation. He was sent to France to do his senior studies, and after his profession in 1875 he was assigned to St. Mary's, Port of Spain, where he was described in despatches as "a holy religious and an ardent teacher." Suffering from tuberculosis he died August 9, 1878 aged 29 years and was buried in Trinidad. *BG* II, 181f; *SpWW*, 24.

### **McMAHON, Fr Bartholomew 1912-1992**



Born 6 June 1912 in Flagmount, Feacle, Co. Clare, Bertie did his secondary studies in Blackrock, 1926-32. Professed in 1933 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and then prefectured in the college there, 1935-37. Ordained priest in 1940, he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. He served in Umuahia and Maku and Eke and later opened new missions at Agbani and Enugu. In 1961 he was asked to act as spiritual director in the international seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland and in 1962 he was appointed to Canada where he served at Holy Rosary Church, Guelph, Ontario. There he built the first church there. In 1965 he transferred to the USA where he served in several parishes till 1972 when he took up duty as chaplain to a hospital. Later he did replacement ministry for priests on leave in Rhode Island. In 1987 he retired to the Cornwells community, Philadelphia. Fr Bartholomew died of cancer in Blessed John Newmann Nursing Home on his eightieth birthday 6 June 1992. In compliance with his wishes he was buried in his native Co. Clare. BJR; IPA; *IPNL* No.3 1992; *SpNM*, 168

### **McMAHON, Fr Brendan 1931-1981**



Born 28 Oct. 1931 in Limerick, Brendan did his secondary studies at CBS, Limerick, before entering the Novitiate at Kilshane in 1949. From 1950 to 1953 he studied for the B.Sc. at UCD, and after prefecting at Blackrock he returned to UCD where he was awarded the B.A. in 1957. He studied theology in Fribourg where he took his licentiate - *summa cum laude* - in 1961, having been ordained priest in 1960. Appointed to Sierra Leone, Fr Brendan taught in CKC, Bo, St Edward's School, Freetown, and Holy Trinity Secondary School, Kenema, where he was principal. He came to Kenema in 1971 and put his talents at the disposal of the new diocese there of which he was to become chancellor. In 1978 he was appointed to the General Staff of the Congregation which he joined in 1979 after spending a year at the *Institut Catholique* in Paris. In his short time as General Secretary he served the Congregation with the same dedication and generosity that were characteristic of him in Sierra Leone. Fr Brendan McMahon died unexpectedly in Rome 1 Feb 1981 aged 49 years. *IPNL* 45 Feb. 1981

### **McMAHON, Fr Colman 1903-1981**



Born 2 September 1903 in Dunmoylan, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick, Colman was a student at Rockwell, 1918-22. After his profession in Kimmage, 1923, he returned to Rockwell for three years as prefect, 1923-26. He did Philosophy and Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained in 1931. Fr Colman's first appointment was to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, where he worked until 1938. From the *État* we find him stationed in Nairobi, 1932, in Mombasa, 1934, and at St Peter Claver's, Nairobi, 1936. Returning to Ireland in 1938, he was attached for a period to the teaching staff at Blackrock. From 1940 to 1945 he was assistant director of the Holy Childhood; 1945-47 he served on the Promotions Team (Propaganda); 1948-62 he took charge of the farm owned by the Congregation at Metcaffé Park, Enfield. During those years he availed of the assistance of groups of senior scholastics to help at the farm work during the holidays. Fr Colman could be charming when in good humour, but they learned very soon that he had a very short fuse and that his temper could

sharpen his tongue. When Enfield was sold Fr Colman joined the Kimmage community. In 1964 he took up a chaplaincy to the Good Shepherd Convent in Foynes, and spent periods at Kilshane. In failing health he spent the last few years in St Ita's Nursing Home, Newcastlewest, where two of his sisters were also patients. Fr Colman McMahan died there 27 December 1981 aged 78 years. He was buried in the Rockwell cemetery. *IPNI*, No. 50, 1982

### **McMAHON, Fr Francis 1916-1993**



Born 3 March 1916 in Feacle, Co. Clare, Frank received his secondary education at Blackrock College, 1930-35. Excelling at many types of sport from an early age he had the rare distinction of winning Leinster Hurling medals at junior and senior levels at Blackrock. He scored the winning goal in the senior final. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he was professed in 1936. He acquired the BA in 1939 and then prefected at Blackrock for one year. Because of his prowess at rugby he was called on to transfer to St Mary's, Rathmines, to assist the Club Team to make its mark in Leinster rugby. He was also selected to play for an Irish XV during the war years. Ordained in 1944 he was assigned the following year to Nigeria. He served at Emekuku as assistant in a parish with more than 40,000 Catholics and catechumens (1945-52). He was automatic choice for captain of the famous rugby team composed of CSSp priests including at times the Bishop Joe Whelan, who took on the British army and other European 'clubs.' Frank was the founding pastor of Amakohia in the Diocese of Owerri where he ministered until 1962. He then became Principal of Amaimo High School, which he built. In 1964 he built and became Principal of the Irodo High School. Because of the Biafra War he was obliged to leave his work in Nigeria. Transferred to the USA he served in parish ministry in Florida and in the New Orleans area. Once again he excelled in a brand of sport - this time golf. From 1985 he served as chaplain in a retirement home. He was a gentle and simple priest, who cared nothing about material goods but was much interested in people. He had a tendency to be a perfectionist in all that he did and would agonise all week about his Sunday homily to make it just right. He was referred to as 'the big man with the gentle voice'. Frank died of cancer in New York 5 August 1993 aged 77 years and was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery outside New York. He was an uncle of Fr Seán Broderick CSSp. *BCArch*; *IPN* Oct. 1993; *KSNM* No. 198

### **McMAHON, Fr Patrick 1911-1994**



Born 22 December 1911 in Crossderra, Co. Limerick, he entered the SMA juniorate but later transferred to Rockwell in 1931 where he did his final year of secondary studies. He distinguished himself as a hurler and won the Victor Ludorum in his final year as the outstanding athlete, his forte was the 100 yards sprint. He entered the novitiate in 1933 being of the first group of novices to be professed in Kilshane. He did his Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock and prefected at the college there, 1936-37. During that year he showed his great athletic potential as he played on occasions on the wing for the Club team that won the Leinster Cup for the first time. He did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1940. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, he was Principal in CIC, Enugu, 1941-47. When this school was handed over to the Marist Brothers, Fr Paddy, having attended a University course in education in London, was given charge of another secondary

school, Holy Ghost College, this time in Owerri Diocese. In 1948 he was transferred to Owerri. "He was an expert in dealing with people, shrewd in his selection of African staff, and friendly in and nice in his dealings with them. He looked for good teaching and good results. He laid on every possible extra to make the school attractive. He organised a Parents' Day once a year, which was unheard of till then in the area, and treated the astonished parents to a display or show. Returned to Ireland in 1954 he was appointed to Blackrock where he was to remain on the teaching staff till 1970 with the exception of a short period in 1956 when he served as bursar in Rockwell. During these years he struck his partnership with some of his former associates in the Rugby club but this time in the pursuit of the white ball which he hit with amazing power and accuracy. In 1970 he took up pastoral ministry in San Francisco, USA. Returned to Ireland in 1980 he was appointed to pastoral ministry in Mount Collins, Co. Limerick. In 1985 he came to work in St John's Cathedral, Limerick. He retired to Clonra, Co. Clare, in 1989, but continued to serve as chaplain to a local convent and help at weekends in the Cathedral. He enjoyed his game of golf right up to the end. He had applied for a reservation at Blackrock for the MIDS meeting Easter Week, 1994 but the Lord called him suddenly the night of 2 April 1994. He was 82 years of age. Burial took place at Rockwell. *IPNI* No. 2 1994

**McMANUS, Fr John Francis 1930-1994 210**



Born in London 30 October 1930 John's family were from Arva, Co. Cavan. After his secondary education at Blackrock and Rockwell John joined the Congregation in 1951. He prefect in Willow Park, 1953-55, during which time it was noticed that he had quite a talent for painting. Ordained in 1958 he was appointed to Kenya where he worked in Machakos Town, Mwala, Kilunga and Mbitini. In each mission he took a special pride in putting order in the parish files and adding explanatory comments in his fine flowing script. John returned to Ireland in 1974 and after doing a refresher course in theology at Maynooth he had a variety of appointments including chaplaincy to the Irish Army. He joined the Promotions Team in 1990. He was noted for his good humour, his skill in recounting his experiences on the missions and for his ability to hold forth on so many topics, always gripping his audience. He was known also for his battles with superiors, politicians and bishops, but always because he felt deeply about things. He will be best remembered, however, for his courageous battle with the illness that progressively sapped his exuberance and energy. John died in Marian House 7 April 1994 aged 63 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1966 68; *IPNI* No. 3 1994

**McNALLY, Br Vincent de Paul (Daniel) 1838-1908**



Born 30 December 1838 at Cullentradduff, Laragh, Co. Monaghan, Daniel worked on the small family farm till he was 21. From reading the *Annals of the Propagation of the Faith* he felt that God was calling him to serve on the foreign missions. The local curate at Broomfield, who realised that Daniel had a vocation, informed him of the advertisement inserted by Père Leman in the *Irish Ordo* looking for aspirants for the Congregation. Daniel's application arrived at Blanchardstown 2 February 1860, and he came there himself on the 9th. The small community consisted of three priests and a Brother who had arrived in Ireland 28 October, and two students who had by then already joined for the priesthood. French

was the main language spoken as the Frenchmen knew very little English. When Daniel developed an infection in his leg he had to leave, but he was told he would be welcome back if he got cured. When he returned in August 1860 the little community had moved to Blackrock and were in the process of preparing to launch the French College. Another postulant Brother, James Levey from Ratoath, Co Meath, had arrived in the meantime, but Vincent de Paul, as Daniel was henceforth to be known, has always been regarded as the first Irish Brother in the Congregation. He and Br Laurence Levey began their novitiate at Blackrock and were sent to Langonnet, Brittany, in 1861 to finish their training and pronounce their first vows in what was the official novitiate. Père Leman was annoyed to hear that they were considered backward by their French Master of Novices. Leman knew that their lack of French was the problem, so he was very glad to have them back to help him at Blackrock very soon. Laurence was to remain on at Blackrock for the rest of his life. Vincent was to travel the world, but always under obedience. His first move was to the Orphanage at Glasnevin which was entrusted to the care of the Congregation in 1862 with Fr Joseph Koeberlé as Director. When this work was abandoned the following year, Vincent returned to Blackrock as gardener. When the college acquired a farm early in 1864 at Nutley, Merrion, he was the man called on to take control. Some months later, when the Congregation was asked to on the direction of the 'Scotch College' at Rockwell, Vincent was asked to move again to manage the farm there. In 1867 a call came from France for an English-speaking Brother for work in the missions. Père Leman released Vincent. He was retained in France, however, for a few years, first in Langonnet and later in Cellule in the Auvergne. He asked that he be sent on the missions. In 1873 he was sent to help at the college committed to the Congregation at Port Louis, Mauritius. After some time Vincent wrote to the Mother House saying that he had been nearer the missions in Ireland than in a Colonial school where the students were pampered at home and gave impudence at school. Fr Amet Limbour, who was one day to be superior at Rockwell, helped Vincent to adapt to conditions in Mauritius. He was very happy, however, when he was appointed 1880 to Mombasa in Tanzania where he could devote himself to the care of black children. An extant photo shows him with two of them in his care. He also helped in fitting out the caravans setting off for the interior opened up by Livingstone, Stanley and other explorers. One of the explorers he got to know very well was Mgr Le Roy, future Superior General. In 1886 Vincent was uprooted again and asked to join the Irish group who were being led by Fr Duparquet to open a mission at Mafeking, Bechuanaland, in Southern Africa. When this mission had to be abandoned after a few years, Vincent was called on in 1888 to head for Ballarat in Australia, to join Fr Reffé's team in running the new college there. Once again the Congregation had to abandon a work begun with high promise. The failed projects Br Vincent had been involved with were not his responsibility, but he felt it his duty to express his criticisms from time to time in his brief letters to headquarters. He was very relieved when he was allowed to return once more in 1891 to Mombasa where he continued the work he felt he was best able to do. After another ten years service it was realised by all that he had come to the end of his energies. He was only 64 but this has to be put in the context that most of the Brothers who had joined for twenty years after him had long since died. The average age for most of those who worked in the missions would have been a mere thirty years. Even now it was thought that a rest for sometime in Rockwell might restore Vincent's sagging forces. This was not to be, however. After two years (1902-04) it was realised that he would be best looked after at Langonnet, Brittany, which was conducted as a house of retirement. By that time



French presented little difficulty for Vincent as he had lived most of his life with French confreres. He is reported as having spent much of his time in prayer. And as there were not enough prayers in French to suit his tastes he composed his own in English! Fr Ebenrecht, who had kept in touch with him over the years by letter, was impressed by the content and piety of these prayers composed by Vincent. Unfortunately they have not survived. But Ebenrecht's comments on Br Vincent de Paul will help give us a picture of this first Irish Brother as he prepared for his last appointment: "He was of a very gentle disposition, always even tempered - *toujours égal* - words often used to describe Fr Libermann. His gift of good humour enabled him to regale his confreres with anecdotes from his missionary experiences; but that good humour did not in anyway take from his sincere piety, his spirit of religious observance, or that outstanding charity which made him a model religious for those of us at home and a faithful and valiant missionary far away over the seas". Br Vincent assisted at mass as usual 28 January 1908; he said his rosary; then in the afternoon he asked to be anointed and he renewed his religious profession. He met his death within a few hours as if it was but part of his normal life. He was then in his seventieth year. NB No 8 September 1908, written by Fr Ebenrecht, 3 pp241ff.

### **McNAMARA, Fr Cornelius 1887-1973**



Born 10 April 1887 in Kilmurry-McMahon, Ennis, Co. Clare, Con did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1906-08. Some twenty future members of the Congregation were his contemporaries in the Juniorate - the director being Fr T.A. Pembroke, future founder of the *Missionary Annals*, and though Con was to be bedevilled with ill-health all through life, he was destined to outlive all his fellow students. He needed periodic treatment for his pulmonary disease, starting off with his appointment to Trinidad as prefect after he had done his novitiate and one year's Philosophy in France, 1908-10. Having done three years in Trinidad he was sent to Switzerland for a year for treatment at Montana - the first of his many sojourns there. He then did a further year as prefect at Blackrock, 1914-15, before returning to France to complete his studies for the priesthood. Because of the war, the senior scholasticate was transferred to Langonnet in Brittany. It was there Con was ordained priest in 1918, being one of the last of the Irish to finish their course in France. The following year he was appointed to Nigeria where his arrival was very welcome as few new men had arrived in the mission for some years due to the demands for war chaplains and because of the Drexel-Murphy agreement to assign some twenty members of the Irish province to work among the blacks in USA. Fr Con served at Aguleri, 1919-21, and at Obuzulu, 1921-2. Ill-health forced him to quit Nigeria for good. He spent some time in Switzerland and then helped the Irish Mission Band in the USA. When the Irish province debated the destiny of Rockwell in 1924, it was recalled that Con argued strongly for the closure of the college in the interests of the missions. His own next appointment was again to the foreign missions, this time to the Vicariate of Zanzibar, and it was there that he was to spend the rest of his long life apart from periodic sojourns in Montana, Switzerland and in South Africa, availing of special treatment for his lung trouble. Each time he returned to Kenya, mostly in the Nairobi area because of the suitability of the climate. He worked there among the African population and built for them a fine church - St Peter Claver's, big enough to hold 2,000 people. When the Legion Envoy, Edel Quinn, went to establish the Legion of Mary in East Africa, he helped and encouraged her, and the first praesidium of the Legion was set up in his parish at Holy Family. He attended the General Chapter in

1950 as deputy Religious Superior, standing in for Fr Dan Murphy. As superior he was seen by many to be rather over demanding. From 1963 onwards he served as Spiritual Director at the seminary at Moshi and as chaplain to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded by Archbishop J.J.McCarthy. He spent one year assisting in Kilshane before finally retiring to Kimmage. On the occasion of his Golden Jubilee a distinguished genealogist published in his honour an article entitled, 'The McNamara Name', tracing the McNamara history since the earliest records. Those who had lived with Fr Con suspected all along that he was descended from Con of the Hundred Battles: he was ever ready to put up a fight even about minor issues. This was no doubt influenced by his continual effort to fight off his illness. Having cheated death for so long it came somewhat as a surprise that he eventually answered the final call after but a very brief illness. Fr Con McNamara died in hospital 19 September 1973 aged 86 years and was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *BCA* 1975, 219; *SpWW* 953

### **McQUAID, Archbishop John Charles 1895-1973**



Born 28 July 1895 in Court View, Cootehill, Co. Cavan, John Charles was educated at Cootehill NS and at St Patrick's College, Cavan. He came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1910, and sat for Junior Grade, 1911, with distinction in all subjects except mathematics, winning an Exhibition in the process. That was the year of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the foundation of the college; he was to be present at the Centenary celebrations in his capacity as Archbishop of Dublin and as a former President of the college. He admitted to having been particularly influenced by Br Gaspard O'Reilly in his decision to opt for the Holy Ghost Congregation after having spent two years in Clongowes, 1911-13. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1913 where he had as Master of novices one of the most promising members of the Irish Province, Fr Daniel Walsh. He read a brilliant course in Classics at UCD, qualifying with a 1st Class Honours B.A. in 1917, followed by the M.A. in 1918. During this period he had been singled out by the Provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, to act as his secretary. While prefecting at Blackrock, 1918-21, he took the H.Dip.Ed. Professor Timothy Corcoran S.J. formed a high opinion of him as a student and they were to work in close co-operation in later years in the planning of education policy at national level. He was a prefect at Blackrock, 1918-21, studied Theology at Kimmage and was ordained priest at St Mary's College, Rathmines, by Bishop Bartholomew Wilson CSSp. During his third year in Theology he went each week end to Monsig. Patrick Boylan, professor of Oriental languages at UCD, for special tuition in view of postgraduate studies. In 1924 he was sent to Rome to study Sacred Scripture at the Biblical Institute, but before he could complete his course he was asked to undertake a special intensive course in theology before taking part in a rather searching examination conducted by a Pontifical institute no longer in existence. Having thus gained the D.D. he was appointed to Blackrock where he took over as Dean of Studies in succession to Dr Edward Leen, who had been appointed President of the college. The school term was well under way by the time he arrived in Blackrock to take over as Principal but he was immediately in complete control and the students were quick to sense that a new era had begun. He also taught Latin and English, and he excelled as a teacher, instilling a love for literature, for artistic perception, for accuracy of style and expression, but above all he fostered a love for truth and Christian values. In January 1931 he succeeded Dr Leen as President, filling that post with distinction and style for the next eight and a half years. He left his stamp on all aspects of the college

life and plant, and he became widely known through his statements on education, as chairman of the Catholic Headmasters' Association, and through his hosting the many congresses and assemblies held at the college, in particular the Garden Party given by the Irish Hierarchy on the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress in 1932. He developed a close relationship with Eamon de Valera, then President of the Executive (Taoiseach today) and was in frequent consultation with him during the drafting of the Irish Constitution in 1937. Among the more notable developments initiated by him within the college was the launch of the Preparatory school at Willow Park in 1936, the setting aside of the Castle in 1938 to afford the 6th Year students 'a generous measure of controlled freedom', and the purchase of the freehold of the total property at Blackrock. Efforts were made to extend his term of office, but these were not favourably received at the Mother House. The CHA, however, had him retained as their chairman, in spite of his not being a headmaster, because of the critical developments then in progress in education and which were being presided over by An Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, who also held the portfolio for Education *pro temp.* Dr McQuaid was Dean of 6th Year for his final year at Blackrock. When the news of his appointment as Archbishop of Dublin broke it did not come altogether as a surprise. In spite of relative lack of pastoral experience he had been well known to most members of the hierarchy, to the Papal Nuncio and to others in positions of authority in church and state. He was ordained bishop 27 Dec. 1940 by Cardinal McRory in the Pro-cathedral. The subsequent story of his long service as Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland is an important page in the history of the church in Ireland, but it does not belong to our more limited brief here. During these years Dr McQuaid was clearly seen to have distanced himself from the Congregation though he did maintain close links with some of his former confrères - notably with his life long friend, Fr V.J. Dinan. And of course he was back for certain historic celebrations as representative of the archdiocese. One conspicuous absence was from the funeral of Dr Edward Leen. He particularly valued his visits to Rockwell to relax from the pressures of work, but at no time did he fraternise with the ordinary members of the community. And during the presidency of Fr Andrew Egan, 1949-55, Dr McQuaid was conspicuous by his absence. After retiring as Archbishop he joined the community at St Michael's for the Holy Week ceremonies, but at a distance. He expressed the wish of being more closely involved the following year but the Lord had other plans. He called him to his reward unexpectedly after a heart attack on 7 April 1973 aged 77 years. He was buried in the Pro-cathedral, Dublin. BCArch; BCA 1973 262ff; *Mission Outlook* June 1973; *Studies*, Winter 1965; *Dev* 161ff.

**McSWEENEY, Br Edmond (Owen)      1845-1918**

Born 9 July 1845, near Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Owen came to Blackrock, March 1863, possibly as a result of an advertisement for Brothers put in the local paper by Père Leman. Br Edmond went to the novitiate in Chevilly the following year and after his profession in October was posted to St Mary's, Trinidad. He remained there for 10 years and was then appointed to the Spiritan college in Reunion. When that college closed in 1878, Edmond was transferred to Zanzibar, but he was soon on the move again. In fact, for the most of his life he seems to have made a tour of the various houses of the Congregation in France, serving in succession at Langonnet, Langogne, Rambevilliers, Cellule, Chevilly and Epinal. In 1893 he was assigned to St Martial's, Haiti, as teacher of English. After a few years we find him back in France at Mesnières College, and, when that closed in 1904 as a result of Combe's persecution, Edmond settled down to a quiet final fourteen years at Rockwell. Whether his

problem was wanderlust, like the Irish monks of old criticised by the Venerable Bede, or something else, the General Archives may reveal, but he paid his way as teacher, prefect and 'portier'. Br Edmond died 6 march 1918 aged 73 years. He was buried in Rockwell. BBR No.14; *BG* 29, 58f.; *SpWW* 248.

### **McVICAR, Fr Thomas 1901-1967**



Born 17 November 1901 in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Tom came to Blackrock in 1914. He was a member of the SCT in 1918, '19 and '20. His skill in football became a legend in the college and later, when prefect in St Mary's College, Port of Spain, 1920-25, his soccer expertise was the wonder of hundreds of youngsters. On holidays, in County Kildare Gaelic matches, he was also an object of admiration. He had, however, a weakness of the lungs which the West Indies did not succeed in curing. He was to remain an invalid all his life. Professed in the French novitiate in 1927, he was invited by Bishop Wilson, his former Director in the Juniorate, to finish his studies in the mission of Bagamoyo where he was ordained in Mandera in 1933. Fr Tom was attached to the Bagamoyo Vicariate until 1938 when he was transferred to Kenya. Bad health limited his missionary work, but a period spent in special care in South Africa in the company of his fellow-patient, Fr Frank Whitney, helped prolong his life. He became an expert in the Swahili language, and for many years took a large part in producing a Swahili Catholic periodical, *Rafiki Yetu*, for which he wrote a stream of translations and original articles - sometimes writing almost the whole of the paper. He was a keen student of African ways, and became a wise and sympathetic counsellor, much sought after. He made himself always available to those who came to the mission-house for advice and encouragement, and in this way exercised an apostolate which overcame the obstacles that physical weakness put in the way of other activity. He spent about twenty-five years in the mission of Mombasa - the great natural port of E. Africa, and was a member of the Bishop's Council. Fr Thomas McVicar died 13 March 1967 aged 66 years. BCArch; *BCA* 1967, 34; *SpWW*, 785.

### **MEAGHER, Fr Séamus B. 1940-1990**



Born 23 January 1940 in Slievnamon, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Séamus did his secondary studies at CBS, Thurles, and at Blackrock College. Professed in Kilshane in 1958, Séamus did Philosophy in Kimmage and secured the BA in 1963. After one year as prefect in Trinidad he began Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1967. Fr Séamus obtained the Diploma in Education at the University of Alberta, Canada in 1969 and then was appointed to mission work in Brazil. His first appointment was to a semi-rural parish in the interior of Sao Paulo state called Valparaiso. The special focus of his work was the formation of Biblical Groups. In 1974 he moved to the periphery of Rio de Janeiro and to the very challenging Diocese of Nova Iguacu, rated at the time to have the second highest crime rate in the world. He worked with the Basic Christian Communities in the parish of Vilar dos Teles, as dean of one of the Deaneries and as Co-ordinator of all the pastoral programmes of the Diocese. He began to take a deep interest in the African roots of so much of Brazilian culture and became involved in Groups reflecting on the exploitation of the black person in Brazilian society. In 1983 he transferred to the periphery of Sao Paulo where he combined work with the Basic Christian Communities and the formation of our

Brazilian Theology students. For three years he was their director laying the foundation of the future of the Congregation in that Continent. Séamus was seen to be totally committed to the work of evangelisation and always ready to face new challenges. He set out to identify with the people and their culture in his simple life style and in becoming a Brazilian citizen. In summer 1990 he handed over to a Brazilian and came home for a holiday. To the shock of all it was discovered that he was suffering from a terminal illness which was soon to take him to God, and though he had much yet to do and was full of dedication, his motto was still as it had always been, "The readiness is all." Fr Séamus Meagher died 26 March 1990 and was buried in Kimmage. He was aged 50 years. BCArch; *BCA* 1973 225; *IPNI* No. 3 1990

**MEAGHER, Fr Michael**

**1880-1946 284**



Born 24 August 1880 in Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, Michael came to Rockwell in 1891 at the early age of ten and a half but he had to absent himself the following year because of illness, probably the heart condition which came against him later. In 1898 he transferred to Blackrock when the Senior Scholastics took over at St. Joseph's. After his matriculation in 1900 he remained on at Blackrock as prefect until 1904 when he joined the first group to do their novitiate at Prior Park, Bath, where Fr John T. Murphy had gone as superior. Michael then went to France to do his studies for the priesthood being ordained in 1909. The following year he was appointed to Sierra Leone. Stationed at St Edward's he travelled extensively on his bicycle to the various outstations. Within three years it was diagnosed that this strenuous activity over bad roads and steep hills had aggravated a condition of the heart to such an extent that, to the disappointment of all, especially himself, he had to return home in 1913. He was stationed at Rockwell to recover his health but was soon actively involved in many departments of the life of the school. It was written of him: "He was a skilled and valued teacher of English, French and the classics, a great trainer of hurling teams and handball, (rugby was abandoned at the time), a hot favourite at soirees, above all a loved priest". When St. Mary's, Rathmines, closed its doors as a school in 1916, the premises housed various provincial activities. Fr Meagher was called on in 1919 to take charge of mission promotion and fund raising after the sudden death of Fr Thomas Pembroke. He travelled around with his magic lantern giving lectures on the missions to great effect. He was called on also to take over the production of the *Missionary Annals*, then in its infancy. He built it up into one of the finest missionary magazines in the English language. He was the founder of the Holy Ghost African Missionary League (later known as The Burse). He planned and equipped the magnificent stands of the Holy Ghost Fathers at the Missionary Exhibitions of 1929, 1932 and 1934. In 1925 his name was put forward as coadjutor to Bishop John T. Murphy in Mauritius. In 1934 he was appointed by the Holy See National Director of the Holy Childhood in succession to Fr James Mellet, who was then free to return to Nigeria. Fr Meagher undertook this new work with special enthusiasm. His purpose was always the extension of the Kingdom of Christ. In all his dealings with men and things he was animated by a spirit of faith. He is described as 'gentle, thoughtful, recollected... always considerate of others, yet maintaining a certain dignified reserve, calm and possessed when his plans were upset'. This was obvious to all when he had to relinquish his labours at a relatively early age due to increasing illness. Fr Michael Meagher died 12 May 1946 aged 65 years and was buried in Kimmage. Incidentally, he belonged to a family that has had members in the Congregation for four successive

generations; Br John Baptist Hourigan, Fr Michael himself, Fr John Hourigan and his nephew Fr Seán Hogan. *BCA* 1945, 24f; *RCA* 1945, 28.

### **MEAGHER, Fr Christopher 1912-1999**



Born on Christmas Day 1912 in Tipperary Town, Christy did his secondary studies at Rockwell College, 1925-31. Having entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor he was professed there in 1932. Transferred to the Philosophy house in the Castle, Blackrock College, he studied at UCD, securing the BA degree in 1935. Appointed to Trinidad as prefect he served in St Mary's College for three years. Returned to the new scholasticate in Kimmage he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, to study theology. Ordained in 1941 his first appointment was to Blackrock College while qualifying for the H.Dip.Ed. He was assigned the following year to the novitiate in Kilshane. Then he was called on to undertake the post of Director of the Juniorate at Blackrock where he served for four years. As one aspect of his dynamic approach to training scholastics for the future he had them out on manual labour removing the hedges that still surrounded the upper fields of the Willow Park estate as they were being converted into playing pitches. In 1949 he was transferred to Rockwell to undertake the same duties there while continuing to teach class. One of his students at that time recalled life in the Juniorate as follows: "We built roads and planted trees and picked stones at 7.00 a.m. to build a kitchen. We built up a library and he encouraged us to read. He taught us Latin and Greek and coached us in hurling. He was a man of restless energy who never stood still and he emphasised at Mass each morning that it was done for the love of God. Though he was never on the missions himself except for the three years as a Prefect in Trinidad, he was very proud of the number of his students who did go on the missions and he always loved to meet them when they came back. As he was then, he was to be for the rest of his long and active life. Christy always spent himself for his classes in French, Spanish, Latin and Greek. Feeling the need of suitable textbooks he wrote them himself. He spent himself in the amount of travelling he did all over the country, often on a bicycle, to recruit students for the Juniorate and for the boarding school at Rockwell. In this he was extraordinarily successful. He wrote hundreds of letters while secretary to various Presidents and headmasters with whom he worked, and later to past students and friends all over the world. And he travelled. Every summer he went to Florida on ministry, to Spain, France or Russia, to perfect his teaching of languages. There were no bounds to his energy. He lived life to the full and enjoyed life. One could always expect some hilarious laughing whenever he was the centre of a group of confreres or past students as anecdotes about wild events from the past were recounted. Naturally, having lived life at such a pace, he was bound to bump against others travelling at a slower speed. But the Lord gave him time to slow down as the end approached. At last in April 1999 due to ill health he resigned from the class room and needing special medical care he moved to Kimmage Manor where he died on Christmas Eve 1999 just as he was about to celebrate his 88th birthday. Fr Christy was buried, as he would have wished, in the Rockwell cemetery overlooking the lake. *IPN* No. I, 2000

### **MEAGHER, Fr Peter I. 1874-1954**



Born 29 June 1874 in Kingsland, Co. Kilkenny, he came from a family which has given several members to the Congregation - his uncles, Fr Nicholas J Brennan and his brother Fr Patrick (1891+), and his first cousins, Fr Paddy Brennan and Frs Phil and Ned O'Shea. Peter was a student at Blackrock, 1887-95, and a prefect for the next four years. He had a high reputation as a cricketer and rugby player, winning Leinster medals when helping the Past and Present Club team to win the Junior Cup in 1898 and 1899. He did his novitiate in Grignon, 1899-1900, and his theology in Chevilly, being ordained in 1903. His life as priest was spent between St Mary's, Rathmines, 1904-09, Rockwell, 1909-10, and, 1918-23, and Blackrock, 1910-18, and, 1923-54. He held the post of Dean of Discipline at Blackrock, 1910-14, and trained the senior rugby team. He was noted for his keen interest in all forms of sport and was legendary for his incisive and frequently critical comments on players. His approach to training was best summed up in his oft-repeated instruction: "Vim on the right foot, jizz on the left and determination stamped on the brow". He often developed a 'set' on a player whom he considered to have been overrated by the less perceptive. On one occasion he countered a glowing account of one such player's performance with: "Apart from his three tries what did he do?". His comments on current events were often couched in terms borrowed from rugby: e.g., when there was a dispute about the advisability of retaining cats in the house, he commented: "At least they kept the mice in their own 25!". It was with some useful tips from Fr Peter - then aged 67 - that the prefect, Peadar Gallagher, coached the first junior cricket team to win the Leinster Trophy. Behind a frosty demeanour, Fr Peter was known to have a very gentle heart. He was simple and dedicated in his religious devotion and was known for his lifelong but unostentatious devotion to Our Lady. He died 12 January 1954 aged 79 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1954 100f

### **MEAGHER, Mr John Bernard 1911-1930**



Born 29 October 1911 in Tipperary town, Co. Tipperary, John came to Rockwell in 1922. He was a brilliant student, especially in classics, securing first in Ireland and full marks in Latin in the Intermediate Examination in 1926. Having won a scholarship in the Leaving Certificate in 1928 he went directly to the Castle, Blackrock, as a 'pious layman' to continue his studies from there at UCD. He is described as "a loveable personality, full of cheerfulness and fun, noted for his deep piety, candour and simplicity". It sounds like a classic case of 'Whom the gods love...'. He took suddenly ill half way through his university course. Having contracted meningitis he was removed to St Vincent's hospital where he died, 3 January 1938, having made his profession. He was buried in Deans Grange. He was aged 19. John Meagher was an elder brother of Fr Christopher, CSSp. *RCA* 1930 32; *BG* 1930 623; *BCCJ*, 3 January 1930.

### **MEANEY, Fr Anthony 1909-1957**



Born 19 November 1909 in St Michael's Parish, Limerick, Tony studied at Blackrock, 1925-27, where he was recalled as having been good at studies and sport and as having a vigorous and active personality. He

studied at the Castle, Blackrock, and at UCD, where he qualified for the B.Sc., having specialised in chemistry and botany. He prefectured for two years at Blackrock, 1932-34, taking the H.Dip.Ed. in 1933. He also played an active role on teams led by Larry McMahon. Ordained 1937, Fr Tony was appointed the following year to Mauritius where he taught science for the next twelve years at College du St-Esprit at Quatre-Bornes. He also served as Dean of studies there and as Director successively. In 1950, when Dr James Meenan ceased to be superior of St Mary's, Trinidad, and was transferred to Mauritius, Fr Tony replaced him as science teacher at St Mary's. After two years as senior science teacher there he was again transferred, this time to Rockwell where he was to spend his last six years teaching. One of his tasks was the organisation and conducting of classes in Agricultural Science, a task at which he was singularly successful. So far one has hardly touched on the real life of Fr Meaney as the following paragraph from one of his obituaries tries to inform us: " Fr Meaney was appointed our chaplain. His wise counsel, able assistance, and personal charm have done much to lend stability to our movement." So wrote the Olympic cyclist, Compton Gonsalves; so also might have written the representatives of Cadets, Debating societies, Secondary Teachers Unions, Agricultural Science classes, Bridge Clubs, Choirs and Football Associations in Mauritius, Trinidad and Ireland. Fr Anthony had a universal genius that saw good and found interest in almost every activity sponsored by Catholics. He was a maker of community spirit wherever he went. As a priest many sought his kindly advice in and out of the confessional. His last days were marked by the heavy cross of illness which he bore with an equanimity which affected all those close to him. Fr Anthony Meaney died 31st October 1957 aged 47 years. *RCA*, 1958, 79; *BCA*, 1958, 54; *SpWW* 678.

#### **MEEHAN, Br Gontran (John) 1850-1919**



Born 1 April 1850 in Drumlaughtafin, Inver, Co. Donegal, John married but when his wife died within six months, he decided to enter the Congregation, coming to Blackrock in 1876. His postulancy was prolonged for three and a half years before he was sent to the novitiate in Rockwell in 1880. Professed in 1881 he was appointed to Blackrock the following year. Through lack of expertise he felt somewhat lost in a large community and when his name was suggested to Fr Reffé, for inclusion in his team for Ballarat, he at first demurred. Gontran proved more successful at Marybrook parish confided to the Congregation by the bishop of Ballarat. When both the parish and college were abandoned Br Gontran served for awhile as assistant to the cook at the Mother house in Paris, and later he helped in other communities at odd jobs in the interior of the house. We find him at various periods at St Mary's, Clareville, Blackrock, and Peasley Cross. Returned from England to Rockwell in 1917 Br Gontran died suddenly 24 October 1919 aged 69 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BG* 29 609; *BBR* No.157

#### **MEEHAN, Br Michael (James) 1876-1939**



Born 25 November 1876 in Holy Cross, Co. Tipperary, James was professed at Kimmage 30 May 1920. Appointed to Blackrock, he was to serve there for the rest of his life. It was written of him: 'Br Michael has given the example of devoted service. For many years he was in charge of the Storerooms - a task he acquitted worthily. His kindness, good humour and unselfishness made him a popular confrère. The cross of



suffering he had to bear for some years before his death did not damp his cheerful disposition. He was quite resigned to God's will when the hour of death approached.' Br Michael Meehan died in Clareville 10 September 1939 aged 63 years. He was buried in Deans Grange. *BCA* 1942 56, and IPArch

### **MEEHAN, Fr James Joseph 1897-1967**



James was born 15 January 1897 in Larne, Co. Antrim, but the family later moved to Mount Charles, Co. Donegal, and he left no one in doubt where his allegiance lay as he sang his party-piece "The Hills of Donegal." He did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1912-16, and though somewhat low-sized he proved a capable scum-half on the winning SCT in 1915, even scoring a try after short run for the line in the final at Lansdowne. That "short run" seemed to increase in the telling over the years. Jim, as he was to be known, prefected in Rockwell for two years before going to the novitiate. Professed in 1919 he studied for the BA from St Mary's, where the Philosophy students were located as from 1917. He was among the four who were ordained in Blackrock College chapel by Bishop Joseph Shanahan in 1926, this being the first ordination there since Shanahan had been ordained there in 1900. Appointed to Calabar Fr James served at St Charles' Training College at Onitsha-Waterside. He contributed articles to *The Missionary Annals* on mission life during this period and having taken a camera with him he features in several pictures from that period. Suffering from anaemia he returned home in 1932 and was attached to Blackrock while studying for the H.Dip.Ed., which he secured in 1933. As he was not returning to Nigeria he was henceforth stationed at Blackrock. He took charge of the chess club and was instrumental in launching the inter-schools chess competition; he was also director of the St Vincent de Paul Conference at the college. Later in life he organised the external ministry taken on by the community. In his final years he got deeply involved in researching the life and times of his maternal granduncle, the legendary Bishop John Warren Doyle, better known as JKL. He saw the publication of his booklet but shortly after he entered hospital for what was expected to be a minor surgery. Fr James Meehan died rather unexpectedly in hospital 19 October 1967 aged 70 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1968, 30

### **MEEHAN, Fr John 1873-1954**



Born 10 April 1873 in Lifford, Co. Donegal, during times that were troubled because of the frequent evictions, Johnny left school early and worked for two years to help support the family. He entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1888 completing his secondary studies in 1895. He prefected for two years at St Mary's, Rathmines, as well as at Rockwell, before going to France in 1900 to do his novitiate at Grignon. Professed in 1901 he did his Theology at Chevilly and was ordained in 1904. He was noted all during these years for his sound common sense, solid piety and robustness in health - qualities that well fitted him for The Gambia where he was sent in 1905. That mission had its unhappy memories for Irishmen as few had survived its harsh climate for long; one man, Fr Daniel Mulleady, died in 1876 after but a few days there. John was to make this little country his home and for the next 50 years was to live for its people. There were many challenges apart from the climate. As there was little attempt was made by the Catholic missionaries to evangelise to evangelise the country outside Bathurst (Banjul) the majority of the population were

Mahomedan, and Protestant missionaries, Anglican and Wesleyan, were numerous and active. Fr Johnny carried on the church-school system which had been introduced by Fr Joseph Gleeson, who had died prematurely in 1891. In spite of incessant problems and the difficulty in paying his catechists, Johnny's cheeriness normally carried the day. His motto was "All things to all men", and that included those who were not of his flock. Even if he did not succeed in making conversions on the scale of his confrère, Fr Joseph Shanahan in Nigeria, he succeeded in breaking down prejudices against the Catholic church. In 1931 The Gambia which was part of the French mission of Sénégalambie, was erected by the Holy See into a separate mission, and as it was the needs of The Gambia which had hastened the founding of the Irish province away back in 1859, it was natural that the Irish province should have been asked to take over the care of this mission. Fr Meehan was the inevitable choice as superior. Frenchmen, who were still in the majority, did not all take well to Fr Meehan's treatment of them: they felt as if he was visiting on them his exasperation with the neglect of this part of the mission in the past. He set out to found a string of residencies and catechetical posts in the remote inland areas, and thereby began a systematic campaign of conversion. He found himself very short of Irish confrères. Fr Michael Doody, who was appointed to The Gambia in 1933, took seriously ill *en route* and returned to die in Ireland. Fr Geoffrey O'Sullivan, recuperating from his labours in Nigeria, volunteered to replace him. He died with in a short time of his arrival in the mission in 1934. The same fate befell Fr Denis Joy in 1937 who answered Fr Meehan's desperate appeal for some one to replace him at Banjul while he set out to open up the hinterland.. In contrast the seemingly indestructible Donegal man soldiered on, and even when because of age he had to hand over the helm to Fr Matthew Farrelly in 1946, he still worked on as long as he had the energy. At the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood he was honoured by church and state, and all classes and creeds joined in the celebration. But he could not go on forever. Fr John Meehan died peacefully while a group were saying the Rosary, his favourite prayer, at his bedside 15 September 1954. He was 83 years of age. BCArch; BCA 1955 71f.

**MEENAN, Fr James Joseph                      1894-1967**



Born 10 December 1894 in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, James was a first cousin of Fr Jack McGlade (qv). He came to Blackrock as a boarder for senior grade and won a 1st C1 Exhibition in the public examinations in 1912. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage and went on to study Chemistry at UCD where he obtained the BSc in 1916. While prefecting at Blackrock, 1918-19, he took the H.Dip.Ed. He continued his studies at Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was awarded the PhD for a thesis on the Philosophy of Emerson, and he was ordained priest at St Mary's, Rathmines, together with Dr J.C. McQuaid, in 1924. In 1925 he was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where he was to remain for the next 25 years as professor and later, 1936-50, as President. He made a notable contribution to education in the island. He greatly expanded the college, leading to the opening of a new secondary school, Fatima College. Vocations to the Congregation also increased during his term as superior. As to his style of leadership, he was authoritarian, a stickler for the rule and his rather picky approach alienated some people. Nobody, however, could question his total dedication to the task in hand. When his term of office ended at St Mary's in 1950, he was appointed to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean where he was Superior of the Holy Ghost College, Quatre Bornes. His final appointment was to St

Mary's College, Nairobi, where apart from his contribution in the classroom, he could be seen in his advanced age refereeing matches for the junior pupils. He was also responsible for getting the swimming pool installed there. Fr James Meenan answered the final roll call himself 17 September 1967 aged 72 years. *BCA* 1968 29; *CIC Centenary Record* pp 105ff; *SpWW* 795.

### **MEISTERMANN, Fr Paul 1864-1908**



Born 5 November 1864 in Eguisheim, Haut-Rhein, Paul's parents emigrated to USA after the annexation by the Germans of Alsace, leaving him to be looked after by the local pastor. Later he was taken to the orphanage run by the Congregation at Chevilly where he had as director Fr Victor Bertch who was to be director of the Juniorate at Cellule when Joseph Shanahan entered there. In 1879 Paul was transferred to the newly opened college at Mesnières where he was cast in the role of nucleus of the new Juniorate. After two years as prefect he began his senior studies at Chevilly in 1877; he also spent all his spare time reorganising the library. 1891 saw him as one of the organisers of the arrangements at the new novitiate house at Grignon-Orly. Half-way through his novitiate year he was called on to replace a professor at Mesnières and at the start of the new academic year in 1893 he was posted to Cellule where Joseph Shanahan was in his final year with Fr Hyacinth Jalabert as director. When Fr Jalabert returned to his mission in Senegambia in 1895, he was replaced as director by Fr Meistermann. He proved a most successful director because of his attention to detail in all things. In 1898, however, he was called on to start the new senior scholasticate to be opened at St. Joseph's, Rockwell. He found the place totally unprepared, no real thought out plan for the running of a scholasticate, and he did not know exactly who were students and who were still acting as prefects in the college under Dr Edward Crehan. One of those who had to do his theology in his spare time as prefect was Joseph Shanahan. Fr Meistermann had to prepare his lectures as best he could with Fr John Desnier, q.v., as his sole helper. After two years of constant headaches due to the anomalous position of the scholasticate being run in tandem to a college and with no defined source of income, he recommended that the venture be called off. He returned to France and was allowed to go to The Gambia in 1901 to rejoin Mgr Jalabert. At first he was put in charge of schools in Bathurst (Banjul). Having made a success of that he was changed and changed again being sent to work deep in bush. And work he did till his health cracked. In his last year he had as co-worker, Fr John Meehan. Fr Paul Meistermann died rather unexpectedly 6 August 1908 aged 44 years. *NB* 3, 375ff.

### **MELLETT, Fr James 1886-1964**



Born 2 July 1886 in Crosboyne, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, the first seeds of Jim's missionary vocation were sown at the age of seven as he saw his deceased elder brother, a clerical student in a missionary society, laid out in brown habit and clasping his missionary crucifix. Jim went to Rockwell as a boarder in 1898 where he made his first contact with Joseph Shanahan, then prefecting in the college and doing his theology at Lake House in between times. From 1900-02 he had Fr Shanahan as Dean of discipline. An illustrated lecture on Nigeria by returned missionary, Fr F.X. Lichtenberger, set many hearts ablaze for Africa, including young Mellett; he entered the juniorate in 1904. But for the moment his main interest was rugby football. He

captained the school team and played on the Club side with the Ryan brothers, the internationals. The exploits of that team were to be retold by Fr Mellett and others over the years with colourful anecdotes, and Mellett featured in most of them: e.g. his flying tackle on Dev which could have altered the course of Irish history, and that day playing against Garryown when, having a problem with a too tight bootlace, he asked some bystanders "for the loan of a knife", only to be told: "You are not doing bad without it!" Having done four years prefecting, he left for France in 1910 to do his novitiate and senior studies. Ordained at Langonnet, far from the war zone, in 1916, he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. His boat journey to Calabar had the extra excitement of avoiding the attentions of enemy submarines. After some years at Calabar he worked successively at Ogoja, Nsuka and Oguta missions. The story of Fr Mellett's great missionary endeavours has been told by himself in the many articles he contributed to the *Missionary Annals* and in his booklet entitled *If any Man Dare*. Graphic accounts were given by him orally in the many lectures he gave to various groups throughout Ireland as he joined the Promotions team when home for a rest. These lectures were specially remembered for his complete disregard of time. Once, when at last he felt he was getting some hints that his audience were restive, he asked naively: "Is there a timepiece around here"?, only to get the reply, "No. But would a calendar do?" Fr Mellett was totally dedicated to his mission work. All things else were just means to that end; especially money. He had calculated to the penny how much it would cost to send an African baby to heaven! His known itch for money for his mission led his friends to play tricks on him. His schoolboy friends, who were working in parishes in Dublin, invited Fr Mellett to a dinner where all the guests were primed to pretend that they were handing over generous sums of money to a missionary from a "competing" society, who was to be the centre of attention. Of course, all recognised that he lived for the spread of the Kingdom. It was his manner and naiveté which gave rise to the myriad of such anecdotes; some no doubt apocryphal like the occasion when the little lad expecting a generous tip carried the missionary's bags only to be surprised with the question: "And now how much will you give me for my mission?" During prolonged breaks in Ireland, and once in USA, Fr Mellett travelled extensively to make the missions known and to try to interest people in that work by their prayers as well as their purse. For a period he was National Director of the Holy Childhood and he served as chaplain to the Holy Rosary Sisters during their early years. After having seen great success attend missionaries' efforts in Nigeria he was asked in 1947 to give his later years in Africa to the less promising mission in Sierra Leone. That he did willingly, though it must have been a great challenge as he was then over sixty. He was stationed at Mekení. His final years were spent in retirement in Kimmage, but even then he felt he owed it to the missions to put his life-story in book form. The excitement and strain involved may well have hastened his end but he had lived a full life in the service of the Gospel and carved out for himself a special niche in the Spiritan family tradition and folklore. His missiology was rather unusual in some respects. He believed strongly in baptising any pagans who were on the verge of death and he was very conscious of the activity of Satan in many aspects of life. Though totally devoid of malicious behaviour he had a fund of simple guile. It is reported that on one occasion when he found himself threatened by a crowd of fierce-looking warriors he removed his dentures with a great flourish leaving his would-be attackers with the impression that they had to deal with a superior being! Fr James Mellett died 10 May 1964 aged 78 years and was buried in Kimmage. *If Any Man Dare*, by James Mellett, Dublin 1963

**MELLIGAN, Br Killian (Christopher) 1892-1958**



Born 16 December 1892 in Clonmellan, Co. Meath, Christopher entered the Congregation in 1908 in Castlehead, Lancs., where the Brothers' novitiate had been located since the closure of Prior Park. When the new novitiate opened in Kimmage 1911, Br Killian was among the first to make his profession there, having already done nine months of his novitiate at Castlehead. He helped out at Kimmage in the kitchen and the farm for a year before being transferred to England where he served for three years at St Joseph's, Peasley Cross, as general housekeeper and assistant. After the closure of the secondary school at St Mary's, Rathmines, Br Killian was transferred there as house steward and as assistant in propaganda work being organised as a special department as from then under the direction of Fr T.A. Pembroke. When the *Missionary Annals* was being launched, Br Killian helped in getting the necessary advertising support. From then on he was called on to use his charisma and charm in door-to-door calls and at Burse meetings once the African Mission League was launched. One man whom he won over to the cause of the Missions wrote about him: "His humility was not affected; it was real. The grace of God was in his courtesy. He won people's affection because he was simple, sincere, kindly, sympathetic. It was the sincerity of his faith that attracted people to work for the missions." Because of his simplicity he was very open to leg-pulling on the part of the scholastics who were working side by side with him in the 'Burse.' As he was known to be a fervent teetotaler, his keys, with a corkscrew suitably attached, were 'discovered' and handed in to the superior, Fr Edward Leen. When reclaiming the keys Br Killian is reported as having dropped to his knees professing before God and his superior that he never touched a drop of the stuff! He was one of those 'characters', then, who unintentionally provided the necessary comic interludes in a life otherwise regulated by bells and strict rules. When the Promotions team operated from the Castle, 1935-38, Br Killian took up residence there. For the remainder of his life he lived at Kimmage while keeping constantly on the road as he attended to his promotions ministry. He was so dedicated to this work and so conscious of its importance that he found it particularly hard to accept the prospect of having to face death while still eager to serve. The Lord signalled to him to call it a day 6 November, Feast of the Irish Saints, 1958. Br Killian Melligan was aged 65 years. He was buried in Kimmage. IPArch M94; MA, Jan. 1959.

**MERRIGAN, Br Ailbe 1869-1954**



Born 1869 in Emly, Co. Tipperary, John did Junior Grade under the old Intermediate system at Tipperary CBS. He then went on to serve his time in the grocery and spirits business in Tipperary town and later in Dublin. He was 36 when he joined the Congregation, doing his novitiate in Prior Park, Bath. He took as his name in religion that of the patron saint of his native place namely, Ailbe, and though he was to work in a twentieth century Irish college he could have fitted as aptly in the frame-work of a seventh century Irish monastery: he was a traditionalist and as regular as the timepiece he carried with him at his work. Professed in 1917 he was transferred to Blackrock and given charge of the Fathers' and Scholastics' refectories which were then side by side. For the next forty years he was to be a familiar feature of the college with his close-trimmed beard and his limp - the result of an accident at school - as he followed his regular round of duties, prayers

and recreation. He moved with a grave, rather abstracted air, as communing with God had become part of his life. He had a retentive memory and kept a diary, so that he was a reliable source of information about the minor histories of his time and the subsequent careers of the Scholastics he had seen pass through his refectory. He never descended to petty gossip and yet was a ready and interesting talker. He was the object of teasing at times by the confreres and of pranks by the scholastics, but he gave no signs of resentment. Except perhaps on that one occasion when his alarm clock was interfered with and he as regulator had wakened up an elderly Brother for morning prayer in the middle of the night! Apart from his duties as refectorian he was regulator and reader of prayers for the community and was always at hand to serve mass. In his later years he was seen to bear his suffering heroically. His great regret was that with failing eyesight he could no longer read his devotional books nor serve mass, and at the end not even get from his room to the oratory nearby. Br Ailbe, who had knocked so often on confreres' doors to call them from sleep to prayer, answered the Lord's call 20 January 1954 at the age of 84. He is buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1954 101f; *IPNI* 1954 No 29, 15.

**MEYER, Fr Charles                      1881-1955**



Born 20 August 1881 in Wolsheim, Alsace, Charlie was brought to Blackrock in 1894 together with Sigismond Trojanowski, neither of them knowing a word of English. Trojanowski, who did not persevere in his vocation, was to appear under Irish aliases when playing for St. Mary's RFC while prefecting. Charlie, who was to dilate over the years on the more refined tactics of rugby, was totally innocent of the realities of the game. Where he scored was in the academic arena. He secured first place in Ireland in French and German. He later acquired a fluent grasp of Spanish and Italian and, though his halting delivery made some think otherwise, he mastered English early on, having had to start from scratch. Charlie having made the *Galaxy* almost went higher when on the *Galaxy*-outing the horses bolted, strewing the passengers along the highway. The *Freeman's Journal* gave a vivid account of the near tragedy, and Charlie got great mileage over the years out of his dramatised version of the mishap. After one year's prefecting at St Mary's, Rathmines, followed by another at Rockwell, he went to France 1901 to continue his higher studies for the priesthood at Orly and later at Chevilly. Ordained in 1906 his first appointment was to Knechtsteden as teacher of English. He was released from this chore within a year and in January 1909 he set out for the Vicariate of Zanzibar. Bishop Emile Allgeyer appointed him to the Holy Family mission in Nairobi where he worked among the Kikuyus. Two years later he was in Mombasa ministering to expatriates, Goans and others. The anecdotes, which were to sprout wherever he stayed, began in East Africa. As he left one day for a prolonged trip in bush he hid the key of the house and left a note in Greek for his confrere, who was absent at the time. On his return from bush Charlie found that confrere much the worse for exposure and starvation because of his lack of Greek! Taken ill, he was appointed to the island of Zanzibar in 1912. It was felt by then that there was no suitable field in the missions for Charlie's special talents, so he was appointed to the teaching staff at Rockwell where he was to spend the next ten years. In 1922 he received his obedience for St. Mary's, Trinidad, and from April 1925 he was in Martinique doing pastoral work at the cathedral of Fort-de-France and in Grand-Riviere. His sermons were long remembered for their lurid illustrations, too lurid for a section of his audience who saw to it that his term was cut short, much to the disappointment of those who favoured a little entertainment in church. In 1931 he

returned to his Alma Mater where he was to spend the rest of his days achieving fame as a beloved institution rather than as a skilled professor. Charlie's early brilliance did not develop into creative work nor did he have the flair for imparting his prodigious erudition. His genius lay in detailed minutiae: words or weeds, he had to get to the roots. Once when Dr. McQuaid, feeling embarrassed by his stubbly growth of beard, presented him with a new razor, Charlie accepted it with gratitude remarking that in future he need shave only once a week instead of twice as hitherto! He was intensely individual, ignoring many conventions of behaviour. The students loved him even if they tended to poke fun at him and anecdotes about him were to be told at Rock reunions for many years to come. He had indeed often to suffer from insensitive treatment along the way of life but no one could ever accuse him of even the least dishonourable act. His unselfconscious party-pieces at community occasions were hilarious. Charlie, who was always more at home among the plants and flowers than in the classroom, was seen to tend a flower on a cold May morning when he should have remained in bed. He died quietly a half hour later, 11 May 1955 aged 73 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1955, 75f; *Rath* 548; *SpWW*, 643.

### **MEYER, Fr Theophile 1857-1938**



Born 5 March 1857 in Blienschwiller, Alsace, Theophile did his secondary studies at Cellule and did Philosophy and Theology at Langonnet and later at Chevilly. Ordained in 1881 he was appointed to Blackrock in 1882 for one year to become well versed in English while helping out on the teaching staff. He features in the community photo taken on the occasion of the first ever visit of a Superior General, Fr Emonet, to Ireland. Appointed to USA in 1883 Fr Meyer served at St Mary's, Shapsburg, Pa, at St Joachim's, Detroit, and from 1891 on he filled various posts in the Pittsburgh area. He was known as a marvellous preacher, a born actor and a very congenial confrere. He suffered from chronic diabetes all his life but otherwise enjoyed perfect health. Fr Theophile Meyer died as a result of a car accident 30 June 1938 aged 81 years. *SpWW* 451.

### **MICHEL, Br Victorin (Louis) 1832-1898**

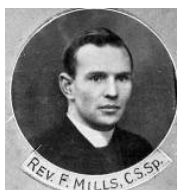
Born 4 February 1832 in Arzano, Finistère, Brittany, Louis attended the junior seminary at Point Croix where he proved such a model student that he was nicknamed '*bonne mère Michel*'. Wanting to be a missionary he asked in 1858 to be admitted to the newly launched novitiate for Brothers at Langonnet where Père Lean was Master of novices. Having served for two years at an industrial school conducted by the Congregation at St Ilan he was specially asked for by Père Leman to join the staff in charge of St Vincent's Orphanage in Glasnevin. His experience from the school in St Ilan may have been a help but his lack of English must have been a grave disadvantage. When charge of the orphanage was relinquished after one year, Br Victorin was sent to join the staff at the Providence industrial school in Reunion which had been initiated by Fr Le Vasseur. Later Br Victorin was transferred to the new mission in Zanzibar where his knowledge on English, such as it was, could be of help. Ill-health forced him to return to France, to his native Brittany, where he served in the industrial school at St Michel and later at St Ilan. Br Victorin Michel died rather suddenly 15 October 1898 aged 66 years. *BG* XIX (VI) 391f

### **MILLER, Fr James Jos 1906-1981**



Born at Vicarstown, Stradbally, Co. Laois, 27 May 1906, Jim began his secondary studies in St Joseph's, Roscrea, and was in the Juniorate at Blackrock from 1924 to 1926. Professed in 1927 he profected in Rockwell from 1929 to 1931. Having done Theology in the Castle, Blackrock, and in Kimmage, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1934. His first appointment in 1935 was to the Vicariate of Southern Nigeria. He spent a year, 1938-39, on the staff of Blackrock College. From 1939 to 1950 he worked in the Vicariate of Zanzibar. Ill-health prevented his return to Africa, and from 1951 to 1968 he was Chaplain to the Holy Rosary Sisters at Castle Shanahan, Ballymahon. On leaving Castle Shanahan in 1968 he became chaplain to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Rochestown Avenue, and worked there until 1976 when he became chaplain to St Joseph's, Tivoli Road, where he remained until a few months before his death. He was a keen student of theology all his life and was among those who published their personal recollections of Bishop Joseph Shanahan in the *Centenary Tribute*. He died in St Gabriel's, Cabinteely 13 July 1981 aged 75 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPNI* 1981 No 48, October.

### **MILLS, Fr Francis I. 1910-1983**



Born in Kilmainham, Dublin, 7 April 1910, Frank did his secondary studies at Rockwell College, 1926-29, and was professed in Kimmage in 1930. After his ecclesiastical studies at the Castle, Blackrock, 1930-32, and profecting in Rockwell from 1932 to 1934, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1937. Sent to Nigeria in 1938 he was engaged in parochial work in Onitsha-Owerri. With the commencement of the war in 1939 he was transferred to Makurdi. In 1942 he came home and taught in Blackrock College for two years. In 1944 he returned to Nigeria and did parochial work in Onitsha Archdiocese until 1967. He served successively at Ahiala, Aguleri and Nnokwa. Then he returned to Ireland where he was chaplain to St Mary's Hospital in the Phoenix Park, until ill-health forced him to retire to Kimmage Manor in 1981. Fr Frank had spent some time in Naas Hospital after an attack of angina while he was acting as chaplain in the St Vincent de Paul holiday centre at Kerdiffstown House. After returning to Kimmage Manor he fell sick again and was then admitted to the Mater Nursing Home, where he died 13 July 1983 aged 73 years. He was buried in Kimmage. He was remembered by all who know him as a quiet and unassuming man, kind towards all, with a generous and apostolic heart. *IPNI* 1983 No 54, September; *État*.

### **MINIHAN, Br Albeus (Patrick) 1845-1919**



Born 17 March 1845 in Betsborough, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Pat came to Blackrock in 1870 as an *agrégé*, having worked till then on the family farm. He left for a period and returned in 1878. He had received little formal instruction and was rated somewhat simple and slow, but the Brothers, who had lived close to him in their daily work and prayer, asked that he be allowed to do his novitiate. Though he was by then aged 40, he was accorded that favour and he made his profession in 1886 taking the name Albeus. He attended to the housekeeping, helped in the refectory, always at his own pace and never cared to be hustled. Later on it was felt that he needed special care and he spent his last years in the care of the St John of



God Brothers in Stillorgan. Br Albeus Minihan died 29 December 1919 aged 73 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR, Nos 89 & 163; *BG*, 29, 611.

### **MOLLOY, Fr Thomas 1868-1928**



Born 19 July 1868 in Kiltegan, Baltinglas, Co. Wicklow, Tom did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1888-92, followed by a year's prefecting at the college and another at Rockwell. He was twenty-six when he began Philosophy at Langonnet. As he showed signs of being affected with tuberculosis he was sent to Trinidad where he spent another four years as prefect while following a special regime because of his illness. He entered the new novitiate at Cornwells Heights in the USA with Fr John O'Gorman as director and was professed in 1900. Ordained in 1902 Fr Thomas was appointed the following year to Trinidad. After four years he returned to Ireland hoping to be sent to a mission with a warm climate. He was sent to Braga, Portugal, to teach in the Spiritan college there. When the Revolution suppressed the college in 1910, Fr Thomas was appointed to Cornwells Heights to teach in the Juniorate. His life-style was dictated by his valiant fight against tuberculosis, and so he became increasingly tetchy, but he was still recognised by the students as a valuable teacher and as one with whom they could relate rather well outside class. In 1925, his health, which was ever fragile, took a marked turn for the worse - necessitating his confinement to hospital. Fr Thomas Molloy died 19 August 1928 aged 59 years and was buried at Cornwells Heights. BCArch; *BG* XXX 639f; *SpWW* 342

### **MOLONEY, Bishop Michael 1912-1991**



Born 12 May 1912 in Kilmohar, Bodyke, Co. Clare, Micky followed in the footsteps of his uncle Fr Martin Moloney in joining the Congregation. Micky liked to relate that on his arrival at Blackrock 1921 he was asked his name by a senior member in the community and when he rather boastfully stated that he was a nephew of Fr Martin he was met with the reply: "If I were you, I'd keep that quiet!" He soon made his own name known; he was a splendid athlete and footballer, and having a pleasant disposition and a good sense of humour, he was very popular, especially with his team mates. He played on the Senior Cup Teams in 1928 and 1929, and was Victor Ludorum at the Sports in his final year. Professed in 1930 he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock. While prefecting at Blackrock, 1932-34, he played for the Club's 1st XV and was elected Captain. He also played for Leinster. Indeed he played rugby for the rest of his life, as those who lived with him knew at times to their annoyance in that the subject was never far from his conversation. Ordained in 1937 Fr Micky was appointed the following year to The Gambia. This was a difficult mission with a bad record in the matter of recent deaths among missionaries. Fr Michael was assigned to a very demanding area, the Basse, where he was to labour in the extreme heat for the next twelve years, often without meeting a confrere for six months at a time. And there was little to show in return for his labours. The Fula tribe did not take to Christianity in any sizeable numbers. Fr Johnny Meehan, who had laboured for near forty years in The Gambia, had handed over government of the mission to Fr Mat Farrelly in 1946. When the mission was raised to the status of Prefecture Apostolic in November 1951, Fr Moloney was named its first Prefect, and in 1958 he was appointed its first Bishop. He recalled that after his ordination as bishop he had been addressed by Archbishop McQuaid who had known him well as a

student, said to him: "Today you have been ordained to the episcopate with all the pomp of the Church's liturgy; tomorrow you must go back to what is probably the most ungrateful mission confided to the Holy Ghost Fathers." By 'ungrateful', Dr McQuaid meant that there was very little return for all the painful struggle involved in apostolic work in The Gambia. No one knew that better than Bishop Moloney himself. But he set about opening up the country to evangelisation on several fronts. Missions were established throughout the country at central and strategic points; these and their outstations became the centres in the work of evangelisation. Sadly some of these missions and many outstations were in time to become derelict for lack of personnel. He extended the Catholic School system, with Primary schools attached to all missions, in some cases also middle or Secondary Technical Schools. The vast majority of pupils attending these schools were Muslim, they being 90% of the population. This mixing of Muslim and Christian pupils resulted in the establishing of notably good relations between the two communities. This led to the Catholic community, though small, being able to make a valuable contribution in all areas of public life. The Bishop was a founder member of The Gambia Christian Council and played an active part in the work of ecumenism. The Anglican bishop, the Reverend Dr Pike, reminded Bishop Moloney that he had been in contact with him previously when he was on the receiving end of an over robust tackle in their rugby days in Dublin. The Pastoral Institute, which Bishop Moloney, initiated drew up a pastoral plan for the diocese in the matter of formation of catechists and in other works of animation. He also set up the Development Office which supervised many very useful social projects which enriched the quality of life of the people in neglected areas. He launched the Minor Seminary in his own diocese and played an active part in the establishment of the Major Seminary at Gbarnga to serve The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Bishop Moloney is described as having been an energetic, kindly, tolerant and good pastor, and he was appreciated by the priests, religious and the laity. When he returned to Ireland for good in 1980 he went to live in Kimmage. There he led a relatively retired life, not opting for any major involvement in pastoral work. For a period he kept up contact with his former friends, especially in rugby circles, but as his health progressively deteriorated, he withdrew very much to himself. He had much to suffer in his last years. He had often listened to the sung refrain: "Old soldiers never die, they only fade away." The final whistle blew for Bishop Michael Moloney in the fading hours of 1991. He was 79 years of age and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA*, 1952, 12; *IPNI*, No. 65, 1987 & No. 1, 1992

### **MOLONEY, Fr Martin 1871-1930**



Born 4 August 1871 in Bodyke, Co. Clare, Martin came to Blackrock in 1886, finishing his secondary course in 1889. He then went to Langonnet where the Philosophy students were located at the time. His studies were interrupted by one year when he was called on to teach English at the college conducted by the Congregation at Mesnières and for a further six months at the college in Beauvais. After his ordination in 1895 he did an extra three years as 'prefect' in Rockwell before going on the novitiate at Grignon/Orly. On being professed he was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, where as well as teaching class he helped out in local parishes and gave retreats. Ill-health obliged him to return to Ireland in 1902 and when sufficiently recovered he was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines. It was not the happiest period of his life. Possibly feeling the strain, he wrote to the Superior General for permission to smoke a pipe after dinner! Transferred to Blackrock in 1906 he fitted in better it seems. His somewhat blunt

method of expressing himself irritated many, but all saw that he was genuinely a kind man wanting to make his contribution to life in many areas. At weekends he was frequently working in parishes near and far, and built up a good rapport with parish clergy and people in public office. In the late 1920s his health began to show signs of deterioration. He went to his home place for a period of convalescence. When a group needed an early mass before setting off on a trip on Sunday, Fr Martin felt he must oblige, though unwell. He took ill after the mass and died soon after. His remains were transferred to Rockwell for burial. He is described in the obituary published in the *Bulletin Général* as a 'hard worker, a loveable confrere and a religious who was faithful to the rule and bore his illness without complaint'. He died 30 July 1930 aged 59 years and was buried in Rockwell. He was an uncle of Bishop Michael Moloney CSSp. BG 34 925ff.

### **Moloney, Father Dermot Noel 1919-2005**

Dermot was born at 23 Iona Villas, Dublin 7 on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1919. After his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Blackrock he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 1939. During 1940-'42 he served on the Burse Staff and then prefect in Blackrock College (1942-'44). In 1946 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. Dermot studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1949 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1950. In 1950 Father Dermot's first appointment was to **Nigeria** to the Vicariate of **Owerri**. He was appointed to teach at *Stella Maris College*, Port Harcourt. In 1952 he was appointed to *Nsu*, a parish with over 44,000 Catholics and catechumens. In 1960 he took a sabbatical teaching at St. Mary's College Rathmines while studying for the H.Dip. in Ed. In 1964 he returned to *Kimmage Manor* as Bursar and taught at *St. Mary's College Rathmines*. In 1969 he went to the U.S.A. and was a member of the Long Island regional Community. In 1971 he went to work in the evangelisation apostolate in *Malawi* but illness forced him to return to Ireland. In 1972 he was appointed to the **New Orleans Group** of Spiritans in Louisiana. He served in **Baton Rouge** until he retired to the Mission House in 1999. He died 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2005. He is buried in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

### **Moloney, Father Pearse 1919-2003**

Pearse was born at Tarr's Bridge in Dungarvan, Co Waterford on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1919. After his secondary school studies at C.B.S. Dungarvan he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939. In 1942 he was awarded a B.A. and in 1942 a M.A. in Irish Language Studies. He prefect in Blackrock College for the year 1944-'45. In 1945 he went to Fribourg and gained a S.T.L. in 1949. Pearse was ordained to the Priesthood in Fribourg on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1948. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1949. In 1949 Father Pearse's first appointment was to the **Kimmage Scholasticate** as Professor of Philosophy. During the year 1954-'55 he was Professor of Dogma. In 1955 he went to the Angelicum in Rome to train as a Formator. He took up his appointment as **Novice Master in Kilshane** in 1956. He continued in Kilshane until 1966 when he returned to Kimmage Manor to teach Theology. In 1969 he took a sabbatical at the Institut Catholique, Paris. On his return in 1970 he spent one further year teaching theology in Kimmage Manor. In 1971 Father Pearse was appointed to **Kenya** and served in the Nairobi Diocese at **Thika**. He worked for a number of years on the Spiritan renewal

team. In 1976 Pearse was transferred to the Spiritan Generalate in Rome as General Secretary. At the conclusion of this term of office he was reappointed to Kenya and took over as Parish Priest at *St. Austin's, Nairobi*. In 1998 on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Ordination Pearse was stationed at the Uzima Centre, Thika, from where he wrote: "Of my 50 years as a priest I have spent 27 in Kenya and 20 in Ireland – so there's a certain poetic justice in celebrating the Jubilee here!"

He died in Marion House 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **MOONEY, Fr Edward 1845-1919**



Born in Monaghan in 1850 he studied at Blackrock before going to France to do his senior studies. After ordination he served in Rockwell and in Chandernagor, India. In 1879 he applied for release from his vows in order to enter the Augustinians. He spent most of his subsequent life in John's Lane, Dublin, where he served as Prior and was mainly responsible for raising the necessary funds and building the new Augustinian church there. A frequent caller to Blackrock it was jokingly said that his head was with the Augustinians but his heart was with the Holy Ghost Fathers! He died in 1919. BCA 1962 p. 165.

### **Moore, Father Matthias Michael 1925-2003**

Mattie was born in Dominick Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on the 23rd September 1925. After his secondary school studies at C.B.S. Mullingar he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1944. He studied Philosophy at Kimmage Manor and then professed in Trinidad at Fatima College from 1946 until 1949. He studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1952. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1953. In 1953 Father Mattie's first appointment was to Nigeria and he was assigned to the Vicariate of *Owerri*. In 1958 he transferred to the Diocese of *Port Harcourt*. In 1967 Father Mattie returned to Ireland and shortly afterwards took up an appointment to the U.S.A. He worked in New Orleans and in 1971 was appointed *Provincial Delegate* for the New Orleans Spiritan Community. From 1971 until his retirement in 2002 Fr. Mattie served in the parish of *St. John the Baptist, New Orleans*. Fr. Mattie retired to the Mission House in August 2002. In recent months due to ill health he spent periods of time in hospital and in Marian House, where he died 14<sup>th</sup> June 2003

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **MOORE, Fr Samuel 1923-1992**



Born 22 November 1923 in Mullingar, Sammy did his secondary studies in Mullingar. Professed in the Congregation in 1942 he studied at UCD and Kimmage, 1942-7. He worked for a year in the Bursar's office before going to Fribourg where he was ordained in 1951 after a brilliant academic career. His first appointment was to St Mary's, Rathmines in 1952. In 1958 he was transferred to Mauritius and in 1966 he returned once more to St Mary's. Two years later he was appointed to the Generalate where he acted as Secretary General from 1968 to 1975. He was then appointed to Ethiopia where he worked till 1983. For the next three years he served as Provincial

Accountant. In 1986 he went to work with the Catholic Secretariat in Sudan. Returning to Ireland in 1990 he was appointed bursar to the Novitiate. While he was acting as secretary during the General Chapter in Brazil in 1992 he died suddenly at Sao Paulo. It was said about him afterwards: "He lived a full and varied life, which took him to many parts of the world in various capacities. ..He was a little man who went around disturbing the peace. He was a man who disturbed a false peace..He took the option for the poor in deadly earnest, lived it in his personal life and frequently urged others to make greater efforts in this respect. He was a man in a hurry. It showed in the way he talked and in the way he walked. Sammy was a gifted man; knowledge, integrity and truth were important to him.. He tried to discern, with his Congregation, where God's will is calling us today. He constantly and insistently called us as individuals and as groups to conversion." Death caught up with him in full flight. Fr Samuel Moore died 24 August 1992 aged 69 years. *IPNI* No.4 Oct. 1992.

**MORRISSEY, Fr Daniel J. 1912-1943**



Born 23 October 1912 in St Luke's Cross, Cork, Dan did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1928-31. Professed in 1932 he studied at Kimmage and UCD where he qualified for the BA. He served as prefect in Rockwell, 1935-37. After his premature death in East Africa in 1943 it was written of him in the *Rockwell Annual* as follows: "His name calls up four distinct yet unified memories. The first, of an exceedingly diminutive Junior Scholastic at the Lake House, frail and frequently enough unwell, but amazingly courageous, refusing to give in to his physical limitations, ever smiling and voicing the mirth of his heart in the musical cadences of the Leaside. Second picture, the Senior Scholastic, still frail, still relentlessly industrious, still smiling - and singing, now, in a tenor voice of superb quality. Third picture, the Rockwell Prefect; excellent and painstaking teacher, busy, as prefects must be, like Martha, about many things, yet never agitated; serious-minded - and still smiling. Fourth and last picture - the young priest waiting for his boat to Africa, still ever so frail, but straining at the leash, in spite of the perils of waters, between, to reach his mission. He went. He laboured. He died. Just a few months. That was all the Master wanted." Fr Daniel Morrissey died 9 July 1943 aged 30 years. *RCA* 1943 12.

**MORRISSEY, Fr John P. 1914-1989**



Born 23 May 1914 in Phibsborough, Dublin, John's parents were American citizens and John claimed dual citizenship, though he made no secret of his strong Republican sympathies. He did his secondary studies at O'Connell CBS and entered the novitiate in Kimmage in 1932. On completing Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, he prefected at Rockwell and Blackrock during the same year, 1935-6. Ordained in 1939 Fr John set out for Nigeria the following year when the high seas were dangerous because of enemy submarines. One effect of the war that he was to experience in Nigeria was that he was asked to replace the German confreres in the Benue province when they were interned as enemy aliens. John was joined there by Frs Bill Guinan, Tom Walsh, Jimmy O'Toole, Bill Doolin and Donal O'Callaghan. After a few years John came back to Onitsha province to where he belonged and he worked with Fr Bertie White in Ihiala and later with Fr Con Liddane in Adazzi. In 1947 he returned to Ireland for his first holiday. He was asked to go to work as from

then in Sierra Leone where he accompanied Fr Jim Mellett whom he had known in Nigeria. He was to spend 18 years there, working in - among other places - the parishes of Makeni, Pujehan and Bonthe. Both in Nigeria and Sierra Leone John was a kind and pleasant companion, a tireless worker, strongly motivated and dedicated to the work of establishing the church in these countries. He was remembered as having a very active mind, always full of ideas, and very conscious of statistics concerning the work in hand. He continued his ministry in Sierra Leone until 1966 when he returned home and took up ministry in England for a year. Appointed to the USA he worked in the diocese of San Francisco for several years and was always most obliging and ready to help wherever needed. He was closely associated with the other confreres who had been forced to leave Nigeria during the Biafra war and was most welcoming to them all when he was guest-master at San Mateo. He returned to Ireland for a period because of illness and death in his family, and during this period he engaged in supply ministry in the locality. He also took up the study of contemplative prayer in those years, especially as expounded by Fr John Main OSB. Returning to his work in San Francisco, Fr John Morrissey died unexpectedly 3 February 1989 aged 75 years. *IPNI* No. 5 1989

### **Montgomery, Brother Aloysius (Andrew) 1926-2005**

Andrew was born at 40 Gransha Avenue, Glen Road, Belfast on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1926. For some years Andrew worked as a shop assistant. He entered the Congregation and was a postulant at Kilshane from 1950 until '51. Andrew made his first profession on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1952 taking Aloysius as his religious name. Br. Aloysius made his perpetual vows on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1958 in Kilshane. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on the same day. In 1952 Brother Aloysius's first appointment was to Kilshane where he worked as: poultry keeper, sacristan, refectorian and assistant cook. In 1958 he was appointed as chef to the Novitiate and remained at this job for the next nine years. He was noted for his hospitality to visitors and was very helpful to the novices as they strove to adjust to their new surroundings. In 1967 Br. Aloysius was transferred to Blackrock College. He served first in Willow Park helping at the housekeeping etc. He later moved to the college where he supervised the household staff and helped the bursar. His main function later was sacristan and looking after the chapel and oratories. He was noted for his care of the sick. He once risked his life in rescuing an aged member of the house staff from the fire in the household staff residence. He took an active part in the public activities of: the 'Pro Life Movement', 'Rosary Crusade' and the 'Divine Mercy Movement'. He was noted for his promotion of public devotion to Our Lady. It was remarked by all that it was fitting that he died on a feast of Our Lady – the Visitation.

He is buried in the Community Grave at Shanganagh.

### **MULCAHY, Fr Cornelius 1885-1941**



Born 18 December 1885 in Ballylinane, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, Con studied at Blackrock, 1899-1904. He features in the first College *Annual* produced in 1904/5, where he is credited with Honours in Senior Grade. He then went on to do the Matriculation, which was a separate year under the RUI system, and did 1<sup>st</sup> Arts the following year before going to St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect, 1906-10. Then followed his novitiate in France where he was professed 1911. That was the last year that Irish novices were sent to France. Con's senior studies at

Chevilly were interrupted by the outbreak of the war as the senior scholasticate was transferred to Langonnet in Brittany. Ordained in 1916 Fr Con was among the last of the Irish to do all their senior studies in France. Appointed the following year to Sierra Leone he served at Serabu, 1917-20, and at Mobe, 1920-22. He was then recalled to Freetown to take charge of the secondary school, St Edward's, which had been recently launched by Fr Michael O'Connor at the request of Bishop John O'Gorman. The making and developing of this, the first Catholic high school in Sierra Leone, was to be Fr Mulcahy's life-work as from then. When an attempt was being made to tell the story of the first century of the life of the Catholic church in Sierra Leone, 1864-1964, this brief tribute was paid to the work of Fr Mulcahy: "In February 1922, an important event is summarily noted in the *Freetown Journal* as follows: "Opening of our new secondary school. Fr Michael O'Connor is Principal, assisted by Frs Con. Mulcahy and Denis Joy and two lay teachers". On June 5th the same year, Fr O'Connor sailed for Europe in broken health and Fr Con Mulcahy took over the Principalship. From then until his death on Dec. 8th 1941, Fr Con spent himself for St Edward's and "his boys." His ideals were high and soon St Edward's was known, revered, and somewhat feared throughout Freetown. In studies, games, athletics, and scouting, his dynamic drive and perseverance knew no half-measure. He demanded the best. A strong disciplinarian, one remembered for quite a while afterwards any "encouragement to better ways" which he so generously meted out. Boys of St Edward's soon found themselves occupying positions of the highest responsibility in the business, professional and administrative life of the country. His 'boys' always remained an absorbing interest as well as a source of pride and consolation to 'Old Mul'. Fr Con Mulcahy's death on December 8th 1941 was a great shock to all, Fathers, Edwardians and townsfolk, and appreciation for his great work was loudly voiced. A splendid bust of Fr Mulcahy by Henry Moore was commissioned to perpetuate his memory, but his most lasting memorial is the uplift he gave to Catholics who till then were content to be treated as second class citizens in public life. *Centenary Souvenir*, Hamelberg, 45f; *État*; *BCA* 1904-07.

#### **MULCAHY, Fr Francis Donal 1922-1976**



Born 3 August 1922 in Rathgar rd, Montynotty, Cork, Frank had attended school with the Salesians in England and at Belvedere before coming to Blackrock in 1934 to begin his secondary studies. He was rated one of the most brilliant students who passed through the school, winning medals in many spheres including games. He was a very capable player on a cup-winning side and was awarded the General Excellence Medal at the end of his studies. In 1940 he entered the Congregation, being professed in 1941. He read a brilliant course at UCD; took the MA with 1st Class Honours in Greek and Hebrew. At an age when young Philosophers were known to hold very strong views on controversial matters, Frank was noted for his balanced and open mind as expressed on one occasion with his quiet humour: "I am always convinced by the last book I have read". He went on to do his higher studies at Fribourg and later at the Gregorian University in Rome, where he took the Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in 1952. Appointed professor in Kimmage his main subject was Sacred Scripture, but he could be relied on from time to time to lecture on Logic, Psychology, Theodicy and Church History. One thing he could not be prevailed on to do was to enter into print in any of those disciplines, not even submit a thesis for the Doctorate that all knew he was so capable of acquiring. He taught for a period at UCD and at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA. In 1972 he

volunteered for mission work in Brazil. To prepare himself he mastered Portuguese and engaged in parish work in Vila Alpina, São Paulo city and in the training of lay catechists at the Admantina Institute in Goamantina Institute in São Paulo state. Just as he had always been on good terms with his students, he was now highly appreciated by the ordinary faithful. He died suddenly from a heart attack 6 January 1976 to the shock and regret of all who had known him as a student, professor and confrère. Among his friends was his colleague at UCD, the late Archbishop Dermot Ryan, who made it one of his priorities when in Brazil to visit Fr Frank's grave. Fr Frank was 53 years of an age when he answered the Lord's final call. *BCA* 1976 175; *IPNI* No. 20, Feb 1976

**MULHEARN, Br Mel (Daniel) 1852-1905**



Born 25 May 1852 in Letterfad, Co. Donegal, Daniel was being trained as a monitor in the expectation that he would follow in his father's footsteps as the local primary school teacher. The pastor, a former Blackrock student, saw that Daniel had a vocation, so he directed him to Blackrock. At the age of 26 he wrote to Père Leman, who invited him along. After two years postulancy Daniel went to the novitiate in Rockwell where he was professed in 1881. He remained on for another year as teacher of the most junior students. Then he was recalled to Blackrock to replace the *agrégé*, Mr Cunningham, as porter and receptionist in the lodge beside the entrance gate at Castledawson Avenue. From there also he sent out the monthly reports to parents. In 1898 he answered Fr James Browne's appeal for a teacher in Sierra Leone. He travelled out with Fr Shields as he returned after a brief holiday in Ireland. All were happy to read in the first report in the *Bulletin Général* that the school had improved remarkably. Unfortunately, however, Br Mel's health and relatively advanced age could not cope with the climate of Africa; he returned June 1900 and it was obvious that he was no longer the man he had been. He resumed his old duties as gate porter in the lodge off Castledawson Ave and as secretary to the Dean of Studies especially in compiling school reports. Came Christmas 1900 he had to be assisted by a prefect, James Burke, and he in turn called on the assistance of a student who had remained on over the Christmas holidays namely, Eamon de Valera. Two overseas students who also remained on at the college rang the gate bell so often that Br Mel took it for granted that it was they that were ringing it late one night whereas it was Fr John T. Murphy, the superior, who was returning from one of his lecture appointments and he was left to cool off in the winter cold. Br Mel tried to take on part of Br Thaddeus' work in the book shop when the latter died in 1902. Heart trouble was diagnosed but he kept on working till the end and was a source of edification to all. He died 17 April 1905 aged 52 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR No. 65, *BG* XXIII 307

**MULLANE, Fr Denis 1896-1928**



Born 5 January 1896 in Ardagh, Co. Limerick, Denny came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1912 and went to commence his novitiate at Kimmage 5 August 1915. We are left with two different viewpoints of Denis as from then. The obituary published in the *Bulletin Général* was penned by one who had no knowledge of the man except what he found in the official file namely, that he had his profession deferred for six months as a reproof for perceived over vivaciousness and a too carefree attitude to



the rule etc., that he came through a further period of testing, three years as prefect in Blackrock, 1917-20, but that when he returned to the more controlled atmosphere of the senior scholasticate, once again he was faulted for non-observance of the rule and that his ordination had been postponed as a result. An account published in the *Missionary Annals* by a confrere in the scholasticate eulogises Denis as having been the soul of the scholasticate, always ready to undertake any work and always able and willing to console others and cheer them up with his compassion and sense of humour. When appointed to Sierra Leone Denis kept in contact with his former confreres in the scholasticate by his regular reports on his life as a missionary and thus preparing them for life ahead. He had plenty to report as he threw himself heart and soul into his work at Bonthe. The Lord must have judged that he had fulfilled much in a short time. After but two years Fr Denis Mullane was carried away by fever. He died 31 August 1928 aged 32 years. BCArch; *BG* Aug. 1929, 297f; *Missionary Annals*, December 1928.

### **MULLEADY, Fr Daniel 1850-1876**



Born 8 October 1850 in Moate, Co. Westmeath, Daniel studied at the French College, Blackrock, 1865-71. While in the Juniorate he has as directors, Fr Jerome Schwindenhammer, brother of the Superior General, and Fr Joseph Spielmann, author of the book, *A New Model for Youth*. He went to France in 1871 to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 1876. Fr Daniel set off for The Gambia together with Bishop François Duboin, 5 October 1876, with no obvious signs of ill-health. To the shock of all he died 22 November within a few days of his arrival in the Mission. The brief entry about his death in the *Bulletin Général* says: "He died, not from a disease contracted in the country, but from typhoid fever, the germs of which he had brought with him from Europe. A few days before his departure he had assisted at the burial of his mother in Ireland; she had died of the same disease." Fr Daniel Mulleady was 27 years of age at the time of his death. He was buried in The Gambia. Ps. Fr Daniel's confrère, Fr John O'Keefe, who had been ordained with him, volunteered to go to The Gambia in his place. While awaiting the Superior General's reply, he too took seriously ill and died at Blackrock within a matter of months. *BG* X 870; *BCA* 1962 171.

### **MULLEN, Br Mary Peter (William) 1920-1984**



Born 12 January 1920 in Kilmaine, Co. Mayo, William worked for four years at farming in Craighy, Co. Down, before entering the novitiate at Kilshane where he made his first profession in 1948. He spent nine years at Enfield and Ardraccon and in 1961 was appointed to Kimmage where he assisted in running the farm. Later, he took up a multitude of other general duties in the community. An early riser, he always had something to do in the interests of the smooth running of the community and he did his good deeds without fuss or expectation of notice or gratitude. Most regular in attendance at religious exercises, a man of few words but one in whom people readily confided. He had his share in the cross of ill health towards the end requiring major surgery. Br Peter Mullen died 23 August 1984 aged 64 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 58, Sept 1984.

**MULLER, Fr John Nepomucene****1861-1938**

Born 11 March 1861 in Reichenhofen in Wurtemberg, Germany, 'Nep' came from a family with a long tradition in teaching and music. He was influenced to go to Rockwell by former Spiritan Fr Bernard Joseph Graff, 1869-77, who was very impressed by his musical talents. Nep took to Ireland like a duck to water. He was a student for five years, 1873-8, followed by five years as prefect during which he taught German and music. In 1883 he went to France to do his senior studies, being ordained 1888. The following year he was appointed to Epinal College as professor of music and singing. In 1893, having spotted a very promising young student in his native place, he sent him to Rockwell as there was no juniorate at the time in Germany. As the young lad knew no English or French he arrived in Rockwell with a plaque around his neck giving his name 'Anton Spiess' and the address of Rockwell! In 1898 Fr Muller was back in Rockwell himself after having taught for a period at Cellule. His presence marked a new era for music, beginning with the production of 'Gilbert and Sullivan' then taking the music world by storm. Fr Muller was known to create a storm himself quite regularly as he conducted his orchestra, but all seemed to take it as part of the performance. One of his achievements was to teach 'Dev' how to play on the 'bombardon'. Dev's performance on that percussion instrument owed more to his facility with mathematics than to any great talent for music. Fr Muller seemed set for being a permanent feature of life in Rockwell but in 1930 a serious illness forced him to return home to Germany with the intention of preparing for the heavenly choir. He got a new lease of life, however: he started an orchestra at Knechtsteden and taught music to the scholastics and brothers. He acted as host to two visitors from Ireland - Bishop Shanahan whom he had known as prefect and Dean, 1898-1902, and Bishop Charles Heerey, who had played in his band while prefecting in Rockwell. Shortly after a magnificent celebration of the golden jubilee of his ordination Fr John N. Muller took ill and 'met death graciously', 4 January 1938 aged 76 years. *BG XXXVIII 712FF; Rath 336; RCA 1938 41ff.*

**MULLIGAN, Br Senan (John) 1854-1923**

Born 16 March 1854 in Corflugh, Co. Fermanagh, John worked with his brothers on the familyfarm till he was 18. One brother, Patrick, went on to be ordained priest; John came to the novitiate at Blackrock in 1872 and was professed in 1874. It was noted that, though he had been accustomed only to farm work till then, he took immediately to his duties in the refectory, kitchen and as hall door porter with perfect ease. He was sent to France in 1880 to learn the art of tailoring. Because of his diligence, efficiency and his devotion to religious observance, he was retained for service at the Mother House in Paris till 1897. He was remembered later for his silence, his eschewing the limelight and his total attention to the daily round of routine duties that made for the smooth running of that large and busy community. In 1897 he returned to Blackrock where he was to spend the rest of his life and where his services as tailor were in continual demand. He retained all his life the robust constitution of his early farming days but towards the end of May 1923, he was affected with paralysis. Sensing that the end was approaching he asked to be anointed and that his brother, Fr P. Mulligan, be notified. Br Senan Mulligan died 31 May 1923 aged 69, having spent over fifty years in the Congregation. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG XXXI 730.*

## MULLINS, Fr Joseph 1898-1972



Born 29 August 1898 in Rosemount, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, Joe was a student at Blackrock, 1911-16. Highly intelligent, he was a regular winner of prizes and exhibitions in the public examinations. In view of his ultra-Republican attitudes in later life it is worth noting that as journalist in the Juniorate in 1916 he penned a very glowing patriotic, if rather unreal, picture, of the Rising as concocted from rumours reaching the college. The Director, Fr Jim Murphy, obviously did not think highly of Joe's version of this climactic event. He went on to the novitiate the following year and began a long stint as prefect in Blackrock, 1917-21, and then in Trinidad, 1921-22. For reasons not clear he then went on to do his senior studies in the Colonial Seminary in Paris which was conducted by Spiritans but where the students were destined for the secular mission. Ordained in 1926 he was appointed the following year to Mauritius where his first post was at Quatre-Bornes secondary school, and from 1933 to 1934 he was engaged in parochial duties. His term on the island came to an abrupt conclusion due, it is said, to his having protested at the playing of 'God save the King' at some public function! It would appear that the political authorities notified Archbishop James Leen that he was *persona-non-grata*. Back in Ireland he was appointed to the Promotions team. Sometime later he left for Australia because of family affairs there. In 1938 he returned to Ireland and was attached to Rockwell where he was to spend the remainder of his life, teaching a full course of classes while also pursuing a remarkable programme of university studies, picking up several degrees and always with the highest honours. He started with the BA from London University, followed by the H.Dip Ed. from UCC. He pursued that latter course with a confrere not so academically inclined and when the results were posted up in the university notice-board, Fr Joe sent the news to Rockwell by a telegram which arrived minus the punctuation; it read: "Neenan passed Mullins with Honours". That was in 1943. He then went on to take MA, Honours, Cambridge, in 1944, and MA, NUI, with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in 1945, in the French-faculty, presenting a thesis on the spirituality of Fenelon. He finally took Ph.D. at NUI, in 1948. Throughout his years in Rockwell he worked a full and a very long day. When classes ceased he was ever ready to help out in parish ministry, at giving retreats, Irish courses and at writing articles or pamphlets. The two main causes he espoused most enthusiastically were the Irish language and the Total Abstinence movement. He could speak nine languages fluently but gave the impression at times that he spoke English under duress! He was for many years director of the *Fáinne* and a member of the Co. Tipperary Gaelic League Committee. He was an obvious choice to give the Third centenary oration for local Gaelic author, Seathrún Céitinn. He usually spoke loud and long. On one occasion when asked to limit himself to a five minute homily, he answered in all simplicity: "I will have to prepare that!", or was he just quoting Pascal? He was a man with absolutely no guile and took much teasing from students and confreres. A group of prefects who had tried him more than a little were amused to hear his comment in the stalls as they sang: "Go ye afar..." "And the further the better!". He evoked some banter also because of his spirited support of the Pioneer Association. Fr Johnny Byrne, noted for his salty comments, gave expression to this ditty: "There was a young fellow called Joe, Who started a Pioneer show; At the end of the year, There was one volunteer, As progress by water is slow". Fr Joe was the essence of generosity. He could never say no when asked to oblige. Though feeling unwell he answered a call from a priest in Wales to substitute for him after Christmas 1971. He travelled to Rosslare, took the boat to Fishguard and managed to arrive in

Caerphilly. He then took seriously ill and died in hospital at Caerphilly 21 January 1972 aged 73. *BCA* 1972 209f, 1966 52ff; *RCA* 1972 79; *SpWW* 905.

#### **MURPHY, Fr Augustine P. 1927-2000**



Born on 26 January 1927 in Drumcondra, Dublin, Gus attended O'Connell Schools. While a student he joined the Legion of Mary, and the Legion was to be his constant instrument of evangelisation in a missionary career that was to span forty-six years in Nigeria and Ghana. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he made his profession in 1946. He secured the BA in 1949 and the H.Dip. in 1950 while prefecting for one year at St Mary's College, Rathmines. Ordained in 1950 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Sent to the Onitsha district he engaged in teaching in CKC - a well-known secondary school - until 1958 when he requested to be appointed to parish ministry. By 1961 he was assistant at Sacred Heart in Onitsha, and later he was in charge of St Joseph's Parish in Aguleri, ministering to a congregation of 15,000 and supervising its forty-five primary schools, attended by 5,360 pupils. There were also 15 praesidia of the Legion of Mary to be attended to. Having gone on leave in March 1967 before the Biafra war commenced, he did ministry in Ireland, England and the USA. In 1971 a call came from Ghana for some of the former missionaries in Nigeria to come to help in the evangelisation work in the diocese of Kumasi. Gus joined that team and later became the superior of the Irish Spiritans working there. He had always regretted that he had not got down to learning the Ibo language when serving in Nigeria, so his first task in Ghana was to master the Twi language of the Ashanti, which he did with considerable success. He ministered to the parishes of Nynahini, Ahensan, Obuasi and Trede in the diocese of Kumasi and Obuasi. His preferred method was to build up a parish and then move on. His approach in this was to build churches, halls, schools, and houses, developing outstations, always with a solid catechetical programme. He blended well with the needs and desires of the local church and this work by Gus and his Spiritans confreres was greatly appreciated by the local Bishop Peter Sarpung, who put his thoughts on the matter in writing. Fr Gus was a man with the common touch. He had a great feel for the people and had a special place for the "ordinary" person. This caring attitude for peoples' needs was seen in his concern for his long time cook Cynthia and her family. He had a solid prayer life and having loved the Scriptures himself he was forever on the lookout for new ways of helping his people appreciate and pray the word of God. Fr Augustine died unexpectedly in Siloam Hospital in Kumasi after a short illness on 4 February 2000 at the age of 73. *IPN* No.1, 2000; *KNSM* No. 357; *Spiritans Life* No. 10 pp23ff.

#### **MURPHY, Fr James Mary Bernard 1924-2002**



Born in Wellington Road, Cork City, on 20th July 1924 Barney did his secondary school studies in C.B.S. Sullivan Quay, and C.B.S. North Monastery. Having opted to join the Congregation he made his First Profession on 16th September 1944 in Kilshane. He studied for a B.A. at UCD 1944-47 and then prefecting in Rockwell for two years. He then studied theology at Kimmage and was ordained to the priesthood on 29 June 1952. Fr Bernard made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31st July 1953. His first appointment was to the Diocese of Owerri in Nigeria. Fr. Bernard ministered in Nigeria for 16 years serving at T.T.C. at Umuahia and Bende and as Principal of

Boy's Secondary School, Ohafia. For the year 1967-'68 Bernard served as Dean of Discipline at Rockwell College. Due to the civil war in Nigeria Bernard returned to Ireland in 1969. In 1970 he was appointed to the U.S.A. and was given parish ministry in New York. In 1972 Bernard was appointed to the District of Brazil. He served first in the parish of Sao Sebastiao in Suzano and then in the parish of Sao Pedro in Sao Paulo. Having suffered a stroke Bernard was airlifted back to Marian House on Christmas Eve. On 28 December he was admitted to St. James's Hospital where, during the following two weeks, he suffered another series of strokes. Fr Bernard died on 12 January 2002 aged 77 years. He was buried in the community Cemetery, Rockwell College.

### **MURPHY, Bishop John Baptist Tuohill 1854-1926**



Born 24 June 1854 in Meenbanivan, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, he went some five miles riding on a donkey to school in Castleisland, and it seems that he got a grounding in classics from his aged granduncle, Fr James Tuohill (Tuohy), who was living in an extra room built on to the farmhouse to accommodate him in his last years. He acquired a taste for learning and for oratory from his father. His introduction to the French College, Blackrock, was due to the fact that Fr Reffé had preached a retreat to the Presentation Sisters in Castleisland in 1868. John was quite well advanced in various subjects by that time and he quickly made his name as a debater and a contributor to The French College Literary Journal. He won first prize for Greek and Latin verse at the Catholic University examinations. In 1872 he volunteered to go as prefect to Trinidad when there was an urgent call for help. Père Leman was annoyed with the editor of the *Bulletin Général* when it was wrongly stated that he and Mr Coonihan had been sent to Trinidad 'to test their vocation'. 'John T' as he was known, was soon recognised at St Mary's as a godsend. He was entrusted with the top classes preparing for the Cambridge Local Examination. His students achieved exceptional success. So vital was his contribution to the school in the competitive situation introduced by Sir Patrick Keenan's 'payment by results' scheme that he was kept on as prefect for five and a half years. During this time he studied philosophy and theology on his own as did Fr Browne, the superior, 10 years earlier, and as Fr Larry Graf was to do many years later. On his way back to France in 1878 he visited the Colonial Office in London and secured certain valuable concessions in the matter of playing grounds etc. for St Mary's. He was ordained in September that year and professed in December the same year. It was expected that he would return to Trinidad but Rockwell's greater need prevailed. The new system of public examinations, based on the Trinidad scheme and called for by Père Leman for implementation in Ireland, was posing a serious challenge to all schools. Fr Huvéty's made a very strong case for being given Fr Murphy to take charge of studies. He also took charge of discipline, and for the next seven and a half years, he was the mainspring of Rockwell in all spheres. The academic successes were so remarkable that Fr Goeppfert proposed his name for a Fellowship in the Royal University and he was seconded in this by Archbishop Croke. In 1884, e.g. out of 40 students entered for the public examinations 9 got gold medals for first in Ireland and 10 got Exhibitions. This success was achieved without the aid of the stick. His regular talks and sermons to the students set a high moral tone in the school. His model in most matters was Oxford. He built a boat house and organised regattas on the lake in imitation of Henley. Not all in the community were happy with his approach, especially as he was a stickler for the strict observance and even wrote to the Mother House calling attention to certain deviations from the rule. He and Fr

Michael Hyland conducted a very successful mission in Co. Kerry, the first such pastoral ministry engaged in by members of the Irish Province.

In 1886 there was an urgent call for him to go to America to help salvage the ailing college at Pittsburgh. He found staff and conditions at a low level. For the next thirteen years, as Rector or President (That was a ticklish issue!), and later, 1893-99, as superior of the community, he helped transform the school and lay the foundations for his successor, Fr Martin Hehir, to secure university status for it as Duquesne University. He was in much demand as a lecturer on education because of his erudition and his prowess as an orator. He made the acquaintance of many notables, was asked by Cardinal Gibbons to open a school in Baltimore and by Bishop O'Connor to provide one in Philadelphia. He assisted at the foundation of the Catholic University of Washington and the Baltimore Congress commemorating the centenary of the founding of the American hierarchy. In particular he got to know Archbishop John Ireland of St Paul, Minnesota, whom he was later to invite to Blackrock to give what proved a memorable address. His attempt to 'convert' the Nun of Kenmare met with little success and caused him public embarrassment, but his friendship with Mother Katharine Drexel was to have many rewarding consequences. It must be added, however, that his last years at Pittsburgh were not the most peaceful; his community was divided as between Irish and German and his rather autocratic approach did not help matters. It was time for a change.

In 1899, just as Fr Murphy arrived in Europe, Fr Larry Healy had resigned as superior of Blackrock and the community were given the unsolicited gift of John T. by Mgr Le Roy. He proved a rare success, transforming the school in many ways, not least in its public image. He maintained the academic progress begun under Fr Healy but he put great stress on the importance of bearing, diction, manner of dress etc. He gave approval for a St Vincent de Paul Conference or Chapter for the social training of the Third level students and started a course of apologetics for them. Distinguished guests were invited to address the school, but what is most remarkable is that Fr Murphy was so very much in demand as a speaker on all sorts of public occasions in Dublin and even in the provinces. Most notable was his reply to Dr Douglas Hyde's address to the Gaelic League rally at the Rotunda and his appearance with Dr Mannix, President of Maynooth College, on the platform of speakers at the great Temperance rally. His speeches were always well prepared and uplifting in their tone, but he was known to make some howlers and these provided students and others with anecdotes as they liked to parody his oratorical flights. He loved the classics and was rated a knowledgeable classical scholar; yet it fell to him to have the new science rooms built once practical science came in for schools. His biggest contribution to the plant of the college was the complete transformation of the frontage along the main road, replacing the slum village with the present arrangement and providing dwellings for the twenty families in the new houses on the other side of the road. He did all this in record time as required by the terms of the lease, bringing the public authorities, the people, and his unwilling community along with him. It was in his time also that the purchase of Clareville was finalised to provide a separate location for the provincial administration being created then by Mgr Le Roy. In 1904, when the Congregation was under pressure from the anti-clerical government of Emile Combes, a new large and splendid property was rented at Prior Park, Bath in Somerset. It was hoped to launch a major centre of formation and mission animation there for the English speaking world there. Mgr Le Roy looked for a director, and to the consternation of many in his community, Fr Murphy's offer of himself was accepted. That nothing substantial really came of the big project envisaged was not the fault of Fr Murphy.

The terms of the trust were geared to providing education at secondary level for the area and that was the last thing Le Roy wanted. Fr Murphy spent over two years at Prior Park as master of novices and he engaged in the type of study that he never till then had the leisure to undertake. He was in constant demand as a lecturer and retreat giver. Much to his liking he was called on to lecture to the Catholic students attending Oxford. His lectures on modernism were particularly well received. His close friend, Dr Burton, the Bishop of Clifton, was later to be his choice as preacher at his own episcopal ordination. His published volume of sermons strangely failed to do him justice. Late in 1906 his confrères in USA voted for him as their provincial; so he crossed the Atlantic for another spell of duty. One of his projects was to build the House of Studies at Cornwells Heights (Bensalem) in an architectural style reminiscent of one of the Oxford colleges. He renewed his acquaintance with Mother Katharine Drexel who lived close by and was actively encouraging the Congregation to take part in parishes and projects she was financing in aid of coloured people.

In 1910 the dynamic leadership that only Fr Murphy could give was needed to get the home province moving; so he was recalled to Ireland. He urged the setting up of a more independent provincial administration with more powers and responsibilities for the members of the province, and even for missionaries once they arrived in the country. Direct dependence on the Mother House had left the province without a credible centre of its own to plan such matters. His first move was to purchase Kimmage Manor where he went to live and where he set up the first Irish novitiate in 1911. He had some of the best students brought back from France to qualify for degrees at UCD - degrees in science as well as classics and philosophy. His main aim was to be able to provide more personnel for the various missions. His plans were big but his funds were very limited. He turned to the wealthy Mother Katharine Drexel for help but she drove a hard bargain, requiring some twenty men in return for the money given under strict conditions. Senior scholastics were sent to Ferndale, USA, to complete their studies and contracted to work for the blacks in the States. The money helped extend the facilities at Kimmage and build a new wing there, but not all were in favour of this 'white slavery', as it was pointedly called. Fr Murphy was very much in demand again for retreats and lectures. A retreat given at Maynooth College is reported as having influenced Fr John Blowick to get involved with the cause of the foreign missions. The Great War put obstacles in the way of expansion. The 1916 Rising did not find a champion in Fr Murphy, though he paid a generous tribute to the leaders, several of whom he had known personally. 1916 brought great changes for himself. He was the recipient of a rare honour in that Pope Benedict XV conferred on him a Doctorate of Theology 'Autodidactic' - a fitting tribute to one who was self-taught in so many disciplines. Some months later Rome appointed him bishop of the diocese of Port Louis, Mauritius. He was ordained bishop in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin and the reception afterwards was a feast - almost an orgy of eloquence as the newly ordained prelate insisted on introducing and replying to all thirteen speakers! The booklet giving these speeches printed in English and French runs into 84 packed pages. Dr Murphy was then 62 but he still had amazing reserves of energy. One of his first acts was the introduction of the cause of Fr James Laval. In 1920 he built a seminary and when the vocations did not come in the numbers hoped for, he used the building in Quatre-Bornes for a lay college. He devoted all his energy, zeal and eloquence to the organisation of education and religious works. Pastorals and sermons, replete with sound doctrine, followed one another in quick succession. But what impressed people most was his care for the poor and the sick - visiting them in their homes and in the hospital. He even brought pressure on the municipal authorities

and the government to provide proper water and roads for the poorer areas. It was said in the funeral oration that he had done more in the nine years of his episcopacy than others would have done in 20. When his health began to fail, and he could no longer give the service the people needed, he asked for a coadjutor and was given Dr James Leen CSSp. Bishop John T Murphy died in Port Louis 16 April 1926 aged 71 years. (P.S. Among the places where he had preached retreats to the clergy were: Tuam, Dromore, Raphoe, Kerry, Cork, Kildare & Leighlin, Maynooth College, and Clifton, as well as St Louis, St Paul, and Philadelphia in the USA.) BJR No.126; BG No 431 (July 1926) 703ff; BCA 1962 176f; SpWW 323; LH 235ff; Dev 27ff.

### **MURPHY, Br Osmond (William) 1846-1889**



Born 25 May 1846 in Powerstown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, William had been in contact with the Franciscans at Clonmel and they expected that he would join them. He felt, however, that Our Lady was calling him to join another society. His confessor asked him to write to Père Leman. He travelled to Blackrock and felt immediately that he had arrived home. He remained on there in spite of a visit from the Franciscan Prior who came to interview him feeling he had not given due consideration to his decision. Having entered the Brothers' novitiate 31 December 1867, he was professed at Blackrock on the feast of St Joseph 1870. Gentle and peaceable he was soon to edify all. He was seen to do his daily chores with perfect attention to detail. When put in charge of the linen room for the community and the school, it was noticed that he was a model of patience and courtesy not merely with the members of the community but with the youngest of the students. He was also 'auxiliary' in charge of those responsible for the interior running of the house. It was obvious to all that he had advanced far in the spiritual life - a contemplative in fact, as he attended to his daily duties and was gracious to all. Struck down with cancer of the bowels when he was in his early forties, he was sent to Rockwell in the hope that the change might help. His last months at the college were ones of excruciating pain as there were no sedatives to cope with such an internal ailment, but he never uttered a word of complaint. He was provided with a special electric bell in case he needed assistance. The only time he used it was when he knew he was in his death agony. All the Brothers gathered at his bedside as he was assisted by Fr Ott, from Rockwell, and Fr Herchenroder of the Blackrock community. They said after he had died that they would soon be praying to him instead of for him. Br Osmond Murphy died 5 June 1889 aged 43 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. BG XV 222, 224; BBR No. 61.

### **MURPHY, Fr Alphonsus 1868-1907**



Born 2 Aug. 1868 in Rathgar, Dublin, Alphonsus was a student at Blackrock, 1883-88. The Director of the juniorate, Fr Botrel, considered him the most promising aspirant he had met. Intelligent, of excellent character, a gifted singer and musician, handsome and religious, he seemed to have everything going for him, and wherever he went he won the hearts of all. His cross was to be ill-health. After three years prefecting, 1888-91, when perhaps too much was expected of him, his health showed signs of cracking up. Sent to France for his senior studies he would not cope with the damp weather in Langonnet, Brittany. He returned to Blackrock 1893 to recuperate and after a few weeks was sent to Trinidad. Yellow fever was raging when he and his companions, Frs Lemire and Levadoux arrived. The two priests



succumbed; Alphonsus survived as he was sent to Grenada, where Fr Allgeyer was pastor, until the epidemic was over. While doing another four years as prefect at St Mary's he also pursued his theological studies. In 1897 he returned to France to continue Theology but had to give up again due to his recurring illness. He returned to Blackrock where he prefectured for another three years. He cooperated with Fr Kearney in producing the school musicals and plays. In 1899 they produced Haydn's 'Creation'. There were some in high places who suggested that he be not allowed to continue in the Congregation because of his health. This caused him intense pain. He was eventually ordained 20 Nov. 1898 by Archbishop Croke of Cashel. In 1900 Fr Alphonsus must have taken a special interest in organising the music for the ordination of Joseph Shanahan as he had been close to the ordaining prelate, Mgr Emile Allgeyer, while ill in Trinidad. Fr Alphonsus was readmitted to the novitiate in 1901 and was professed the following year. Reappointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, he had an enormous influence on the students and was greatly loved, despite the fact that he was Dean of Discipline. An excellent preacher he drew crowds. Churches were filled to overflowing when he preached a mission in the island's parishes. On Easter Monday 1907 he travelled to Tobago to help the local pastor during his Easter recess. Caught in a tropical downpour he developed fever. His condition was seen to hopeless when the doctor diagnosed typhoid fever. He died within a few days 21 April 1907 aged 38 years. He was buried in Trinidad. BCArch; NB 3 102ff; SpWW 173; BCA 1907 93f..

#### **MURPHY, Fr Conor 1914-1991**



Born 29 January 1914 in Beaumont Rd, Fairview, Dublin, Conor came to Rockwell as a boarder in 1928 and under the influence of Bernard Keane, then a prefect, he and Willie Barrett decided to join the Congregation. They were put in contact with Fr Bertie Farrell and entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1930. Both secured scholarships in the intermediate at Rockwell in 1930. Conor entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1932 and went on to secure an honours BA at UCD. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1936-38, winning a Leinster Senior medal as he played for the Blackrock RFC in 1936-37, that being the first time that Rock won the Leinster Senior Cup. Conor then went on to Fribourg to study theology where he was ordained priest in 1941 and wound up his formal studies with a distinguished doctorate on the Theology of St Irenaeus in 1942. For a while he worked in a youth hostel in southern France and then made his circuitous return to Ireland via Portugal during the war. He found the red carpet rolled out for him in Lisbon as the Spiritan community there thought it was the Provincial, Dr Dan Murphy, who was coming on a diplomatic visit. Conor enjoyed the mix-up. His first appointment was again to his alma mater, Blackrock, where he was very welcome as he was competent to teach several subjects - in particular Mathematics and Irish. Gifted with a splendid tenor voice one of his favourite party pieces at community events down the years was his sensitive rendering of Andrias Mac Craith's plaintive poem "*Cois Mhá*". He became a superb teacher, always clear and concise and fully in control. In 1946 he was called on to take on the duties of Dean of discipline. He had the reputation for being strict but absolutely fair, inspiring respect rather than fear. For many years he was in demand as a referee because of his known expertise and strict fairness. He could be very incisive in his retorts as one senior rugby guru in the community was to learn when he volunteered to administer a semi-public reprimand to him as trainer of the JCT. Conor was also a successful tennis coach having availed from his earliest years of the family

membership of a local tennis club. In 1947 he was called on to succeed Fr James Finucane as bursar. This he found no easy chore as maintenance work had been postponed because of the Emergency restrictions. Running the farm also at Carrickmines called for a new approach in the wake of the demands made on it during the war years. Relieved of the bursarship after two years, he was called on to go back to school again to study for a diploma in chemistry as he took on the new role as professor in that discipline. The expanding day-school called for an energetic Dean, so Conor was called on by Fr V.J.Dinan to combine the deanship and his chemistry classes. He was to maintain this combination for some eighteen years. And, as if he had not enough on hands, he became very skilled in carpentry and was frequently of valuable help in stage productions. He was also an expert with the lathe and at marquetry. Finally, he set out to master the art of restoring oil-paintings and achieved some remarkable successes in this discipline. All these demanding activities tended to undermine his health. He felt that a complete change was called for. Taking early retirement from teaching he asked to be allowed to go on the foreign missions. He served first in the Junior Seminary in the Jesuit mission in Zambia. Later he transferred to Kenya where he taught for a number of years in the Junior Seminary at Machakos. When he eventually found school work beyond his energy he moved to Nairobi where he served as secretary to the Religious Superior, acting also as Provincial bursar and as general factotum. There as always people found him very clear cut in his ideas and rather unshakeable in his convictions about life in general and the Congregation in particular. In his spare time he brushed up his Greek and began what was a mammoth task, but also a labour of love, namely, the making of a fresh translation of the New Testament into English. It was with some pride and much conviction that he did the Scripture reading from this new version during the mass for his Golden Jubilee at Blackrock, but he did not live to see his translation given official approval when published in 1994. In 1989 he volunteered to work in the remote northern mission in Marigats among the Pocot - a semi-nomadic people. It was there that the Blackrock students on a working holiday in East Africa found him still engaged on his translation of the Bible, surrounded by hens and chickens. A short time later they were to learn with shock of his unexpected death from malaria and dysentery. Fr Conor Murphy was 77 years young when he died 28 October 1991 - the anniversary of the arrival of Père Leman and his companions in Ireland in 1859. *Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a anam glé, ioldánach, dílis. BCA, 1974, 178: IPNI No.5, Oct. '91*

### **MURPHY, Fr Daniel 1890-1988**



Born 17 Nov. 1890 in Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, Dan came to Rockwell in 1903 just when Dev was starting as a young professor of Mathematics. Other students there at the time were the Leens from Abbeyfeale, the Brownes from Grangemockler, Fionán Lynch etc. He spent two and a half years in the boarding school before entering the juniorate. As a prefect he taught Liam O'Flaherty. When he had completed his novitiate in Kimmage Manor 1913 he began his brilliant course of third level studies at UCD in the company of John Charles McQuaid. The Provincial, Fr John T Murphy, for whom he always retained the highest admiration, saw to it that he did his M.A. in classics, and he chose the subject for his thesis namely, naval warfare in Roman times. These were stirring times in Ireland. Dan recalled the thrill he experienced as he watched Fionán Lynch and Dev marching in the volunteer uniforms on the day of the burial of O'Donovan Rossa. Forgetting his clerical decorum for once he hailed Fionán from the crowd and was

proud to be recognised with a salute. While he was studying Roman warfare he used meet Dev and Thomas McDonagh cycling out for their drilling exercises near Kimmage. All this left him with deep Republican sympathies to the end of his days. He was sent to Fribourg where he qualified '*maxima cum laude*' in the double doctorates in Philosophy and Theology. His first appointment in 1923 was to the teaching staff at Blackrock where Dr Leen as Dean of Studies was trying to revive standards at various levels in the school. The following year Dr Dan was appointed to Rockwell as Dean of Studies and he found himself called on to preside over a major rescue operation there. Numbers had dropped to 78 and there was serious talk of the school being closed and the complex turned into a centre of senior formation for the Congregation. A major cause of the decline in the school's fortunes was its reputation in the aftermath of the Civil War of being too closely identified with the Republican side. Things began to move immediately, and with the arrival the following year of Dr Edward Crehan as president there were many changes. Rugby was restarted, the Past Pupils' Union was launched, a College Annual was begun, and soon Rockwell was again leading in the academic and sporting contests. Numbers had gone up to 250 by the time Dr Dan was called on to take over direction of the Province. Success had been achieved though, it must be admitted, at a cost of an unrelenting and punishing regime. With the appointment of Dr Dan as Provincial in 1934, there were developments at various levels. Decisions were taken about the siting of the senior scholasticate: a major building scheme was initiated at Kimmage to cater for the increased numbers. Academically gifted students were sent to do their courses of studies at Fribourg, Rome and Louvain. The new era of expansion was symbolised by the remarkable output of high quality publications by members of the Congregation. Dr Dan's personality, views, and even his mannerisms, so influenced the student body that book shop owners and university teachers joked that they could recognise Kimmage students the moment they began to speak. Increased numbers were sent to the various missions. But, just as had happened to his great predecessor, Fr John T Murphy, a world war stymied his plans more than somewhat. And when the war was over Dr Dan felt that he had to make a stand against certain demands emanating from the general administration in Paris which were reminiscent of the days before the creation of separate provinces. This hiccup has been crystallised in the famous barb launched by Dr Dan on the occasion of the official visitation by the General Bursar, Père Letourneur: "As William of Orange said to the people of England, 'I have come here for your good; for all your goods'". It is a matter of history that Dr Dan was summarily relieved of his duties and posted to East Africa. He was, however, entrusted there with the duties of Religious Superior. By then fifty five he did not find it easy to adapt to Africa. Two years later, on the election of his friend, Fr Griffin as Superior General, he was appointed Procurator of the Congregation to the Holy See. In that capacity, and as superior of the Holy Ghost house in Rome, he repeated the feats he had achieved during his years at Rockwell and as Provincial. He put the Congregation on the map of institutes held in high regard at Rome. The Kerry-born diplomat and classical scholar was in his element there from 1950 to 1962, and by coincidence the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See at the time was Leo Macauley who had done his classical studies at UCD with Dr Dan. At the age of 72 he stepped down, returning to Fribourg after an absence of 50 years - this time as superior of the international house of studies there. Finally, in 1967 he returned to Ireland to live in relative retirement, first at Kilshane and later at Rockwell. His many close friends valued his counsel and conversation during these years, but they were sad years in that the erstwhile agile Dr Dan was hampered with severe rheumatic pains. Painful

also was his suffering from his inability to cope with certain changes in the Church and in the Congregation he loved and had served so loyally. The only institution which lived up to his lifelong support was the Kerry team. Somewhat of an '*Oisín i ndiaidh na Féinne*' he died in Kimmage 4 April 1988 aged 97 years. He is buried in Kimmage. Of him could be said the words of his fellow county man, Tomás O Criomhthain: "*Ni bheidh ár leithéidi arís ann.*" RJJ; RCA 1988 167ff; IPNI 68

### **MURPHY, Fr Denis 1927-1968**

Born 21 February 1927 in Glengarrif, Co. Cork, Denis did his secondary studies at Rockwell and went to the novitiate in Kilshane in 1944. He began his studies for the BA at UCD, but after first Arts he was appointed as prefect in St Mary's, Trinidad, where he remained for three years, 1946-49. Returning to Ireland he continued his studies for his degree and was ordained in 1954. Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1951 Fr Denis served as curate to Fr Charlie O'Flynn in Bo, looking after the Mano area in particular. After a holiday in Ireland in 1961 he was appointed to CKC at BO, where he taught for a short time before taking over as Principal of the new secondary school at Segbwema. He was there till his tragic death in a road accident while in Liberia. Fr Denis Murphy died 3 January 1968 aged 40 years and was buried in Bo. RCA 1968 82; SpWW 801.



### **MURPHY, Fr James 1878-1952**

Born 16 June 1878 in Mullagh, Co. Clare, Jim came to the juniorate at Rockwell 1894, and prefected there 1898-1901. Among his contemporaries as students were Thomas McDonagh, Pádraic O Conaire, Leonard Graf, Richard Harnett and Michael Meagher. Professed at Orly in 1902 he was sent the following year from Chevilly to Rome to study at the Gregorian University where he was conferred with the D.D. He was henceforth to be known as 'Doc' Murphy to many generations of his students. Ordained in 1906 his first appointment was to St. Mary's College, Rathmines, and in 1911 he was appointed to Blackrock as director of the juniorate; he was to fill that post for six years. In 1917, when the faculty of theology was established in Ireland, he was appointed professor of Dogmatic theology in Kimmage, a post he was to fill for 29 years. In August 1917 he had the traumatic experience of trying unsuccessfully to rescue one of his students, Martin Neenan, from drowning at Spanish Point. He almost lost his own life in the attempted rescue. Doc Murphy's long stint as professor of theology was noted for its solidity and conservatism. A student under Cardinal Billot at a time when the stress was very much on combating the errors of Modernism, Fr Murphy set great store by accepted orthodoxy and stamped out unceremoniously any deviations therefrom. Indeed, his method of teaching, which was directed very much at achieving success in the diocesan examinations, dampened any great interest in further reading or personal research then or later; and as time went on he developed a tendency to be so severe that some students dreaded an encounter with him. This was all the more surprising in that he was himself an exceedingly shy personality outside the classroom and quite affable. There was a feeling of resentment among students who suffered from his methods, not so much against the man himself as against the authorities who did nothing to remedy the situation. All realised that Doc Murphy had great talents and a sound judgement, but his excessive shyness stunted his potentialities for practical



work or posts of administration or even writing. He retired from teaching Theology in 1946. He was a man who suffered a lot, especially in his final years. He died 1 May 1952 aged 63 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1952 June.

#### **MURPHY, Fr James (Jr) 1879-1911**



Born 17 October 1879 in the diocese of Waterford, he was a student at Rockwell. He is referred to in records as James 'Jr' because he was somewhat younger than Jim Murphy (the 'Doc'), 1878-1952, and as their records got mixed up in General Archives it is not easy to separate them at this remove. When James Jr did his novitiate in 1902/3 he had Père Daniel Brottier as fellow novice. There seems to have been no other Irishman in that novitiate year. Ordained in 1905 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. We find him given as director of the mission at Mobe via Bonthe in 1908 and for 1910 he is given as being absent in Europe. He was in fact in serious ill-health but had been appointed for the moment to the new community and school at Castlehead in Lancashire. This community, founded two years earlier by Fr William Carroll, combined a juniorate and a Brothers' novitiate. The personnel were mostly Irish. Fr Murphy's sojourn in their midst was short as illness forced him to go to Langonnet where he died 25 June 1911 'after a long and painful illness borne with complete resignation to the will of God'. He was 31 years of age at the time of his death. *BG XXVI* 241; *État*.

#### **MURPHY, Mr Patrick 1868-1893**

Born in 1868 at Meenibanavan, Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, he came to Rockwell as a student in 1886. He was a cousin of Fr Daniel Murphy who left the Congregation 1898, and he had two nephews who joined the Congregation: Malachy Slattery who died 1890 (q.v.) and Tadhg O'Murchú, author of *An Cliathán Clè*, who left the Congregation in 1924 after prefecting at Blackrock. Patrick had to return home due to ill-health but he made his vows in the Congregation shortly before his death. The parish priest of Knocknagoshel was authorised by the Superior General to officiate at the private ceremony. Patrick died 6 May 1893 aged 25 years. He was buried in the family cemetery. *RJJ*; *BG XVI* 907

#### **MURPHY, Mr James 1874-1889**

Born 19 May 1874 in Dalrymple St, Girvan, Ayr., Scotland, James was directed to the Juniorate at Blackrock, in June 1887, by the Sisters of St Joseph. Taken seriously ill he was nursed for several months at the college. He received the habit of the Congregation 25 March 1889. The Director, Fr John Neville - later Bishop- entered this note in the juniorate journal for 23 December 1889: "At 4 o'clock in the morning, Mr James Murphy, a young scholastic who had got the habit in March, peacefully breathed his last. During his long illness of 9 months, he had greatly edified all his confreres by the admirable patience and meekness with which he bore his sufferings. Fr J.M. Ebenrecht, Prefect of health, who had prepared him for death, was equally generous in his tribute. After solemn requiem he was buried in the special plot for members of the Congregation in Deansgrange. His grave was given as No.32. *BJR* No.571; *BCCJ* Dec.23 1889; *BJJ* Dec. 23 1889.

### **MURRAY, Fr Colm J 1932-1990**



Born 7 October 1932 in Downpatrick, Co. Down, Colm moved with the family to live in Dublin where he attended St Mary's, Rathmines. He entered the novitiate in 1951 and after completing Philosophy in Kimmage he professed for a year on the 'Burse' followed by a year as prefect in Rockwell. Colm suffered from an embarrassing impediment in his speech but after a therapy course he managed to overcome that handicap completely. Having begun Theology in 1956 he was ordained in 1959. Appointed to Nigeria, Fr Colm served in Ihioma, Mbeiri, Umuna, and Ikangeru. It seems that whenever there was a difficult situation in a parish, when other priests had given up in frustration, the Bishop would send Colm as his secret weapon to deal with the problem. With his gentleness, his understanding and realism, the situation would soon be resolved. He remained in Nigeria during the Civil War and when obliged to quit, he took up ministry in England. In 1971 he was assigned to Malawi where he worked in the parishes of Masanjala and Namulenga. In 1979, on advice from his Doctor, Colm left the tropics and returned to work in England in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor soon recognised the great qualities of Colm and after a few years in Godalming he was appointed parish priest of St Clements, Ewell, in Surrey. All this time Colm was fighting a losing battle with cancer but he gave all that he had in his devotion to the people. He was much appreciated, and Bishop Cormac, having officiated at his obsequies in full in Ewell, travelled to Ireland to preside at the funeral ceremonies there. Fr Colm Murray died 26 April 1990 aged 57 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 4 1990

### **MURRAY, Bishop Donal 1918 -1999**



Born 11 February 1918 in the City of Limerick, Donal attended CBS Limerick, 1933-36, before entering the Juniorate of the Christian Brothers in Cheshire, England. He taught at St Brendan's College, Bristol, 1936-39. In 1940, having opted to join the Congregation, he commenced his studies for the priesthood at St Mary's College, Castlehead, Lancs. He made his profession as a member of the Congregation at the temporary novitiate in Holme Island and did his senior studies at the wartime facilities established in England. Ordained priest in Nottingham on 7 April 1946 he was assigned to the Prefecture of Benue, where he served at Korinya in 1947 and in 1949 at Gboko. He then did two years study at UCD. In 1953 he became Principal of St Michael's Secondary School at Aliade and in 1957 he was transferred to St Augustine's Teacher Training College at Lafia as its Principal. On the retirement of Bishop Hagan in 1966, Donal was appointed Vicar Capitular of the Diocese of Mkurdi and in March 1968 he was ordained bishop of the diocese. With great vigour and imagination he set about initiating programmes for the expansion of the mission. Increased health care through cottage hospitals and clinics, creation of secondary schools at strategic points in the Diocese, and the fostering of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life were the hallmarks of his varied pastoral ministry. He invited other religious Orders to share in this work and established the Sisters of the Nativity. During the twenty years he was in charge of the Diocese the flock entrusted to his care grew almost tenfold from less than 68,000 Catholics and catechumens to about 615,000. By then there were one hundred and twenty students in the diocesan seminary and the roles filled formerly by expatriate missionaries were now being

taken over by the local diocesan clergy. In 1988 Bishop Murray received as co-adjutor Nigerian-born Athanasius Ushu, ordained by Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1989. Dogged by ill health Bishop Murray retired as Bishop the following year and took up duties as chaplain to the Sisters of Charity Home for the Blind in Merrion, Dublin. He died 14 August 1999 aged 80 years. Bishop Murray was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *KNSM* No. 211; *English Province Newsletter* 16 Aug. 1999; *Outlook*

**MURRAY, Fr James 1913-1988**



Born 14 July 1913 in Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Jim moved with the family to Lismore where his father opened a new practice as solicitor, but when the father died prematurely the family moved to Dublin where Jim attended the CBS in Glasnevin. He came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1930 for his final year of secondary studies. Professed in 1932 in Kimmage Jim studied at UCD and after securing the BA he set out for Trinidad as prefect. He returned in 1938 to begin his Theology. Ordained in 1941 Fr Jim was appointed once more the following year to Trinidad. This time he had the testing experience of spending six weeks at sea as the convoy dodged enemy submarines in the Atlantic. He was remembered there especially for his work among the Scouts. Returning to Ireland in 1949 he was appointed to Rockwell where he served till 1963 taking a special interest in organising the students' debates. The next nine years were spent at Kimmage and during this period he taught elocution to the students there and was also involved in the sacred eloquence courses given at the Communications Centre at Booterstown. Known to his contemporaries as the 'Count', he took to this work as one 'to the manor born'. Fr Jim did pastoral work in Brisbane, Australia, 1974-77, and in Leeds diocese later. Attached for some time to the Spiritan community at Bickley he took seriously ill there and was transferred to St Gabriel's Hospital, Cabinteely, Easter Monday 1987. Fr James Murray died there 6th October 1988 aged 75 years. We conclude with a quotation from the homily preached at his funeral mass in Kimmage (where he is buried) by his brother, Dom Placid OSB: "In all the earlier stopping places of his Exodus, Jim had always thrown himself eagerly into each new environment, was quickly surrounded by friends, who became devoted to him and for whom he in turn did many deeds of kindness... The last stage on the journey was a complete contrast to those early years of movement, of multiple contacts. This last year and a half has its own meaning if we learn to discern God's Providence in the details of life. Jim received maximum supportive care in St Gabriel's. The true nature and purpose of Catholic nursing was made clear to us in the day by day - hour by hour - care he received." *IPNI* Obituaries 1988; *BCA* 1989 243f

**MURRAY, Fr James Jos. 1931-1991**



Born 2 May 1931 in Springfield Road, Belfast, Séamus came to Blackrock for his final year of secondary course, 1948-49. Séamus was a good singer and took part in the school opera. Professed in 1950 he took the BA in UCD in 1953. Ordained in 1957 he was appointed to Kenya. He served first in Lushangoni in Mombasa Diocese engaged in teaching and parish work. He was then sent to the Junior Seminary in Kwale where he took a special interest in the training of future candidates for the priesthood. He later served in Taita with Frs Mike Shanley, Peter O'Toole and Jack Branigan. After 14 years service he was obliged by ill health to return to Ireland. He then took up pastoral

ministry in his native Belfast. He was nine years in St Agnes parish in Anderstown where he was loved by the people. He later worked in Crumlin and in the parishes of the Sacred Heart and St John's. He was often on hand to help those who needed him most - the bereaved, the handicapped and the depressed. His own health continued to decline and he died in the City Hospital on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1991 having been knocked down by a car three weeks previously. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1965, 92; *IPNI*, No. I, 1991

#### **MURRAY, Fr John 1906-1958**



Born 10 November 1906 in Dooris, the Pidgeons, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, John studied at Blackrock, 1923-27. Professed in Kimmage, 1928, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained from Kimmage in 1934. Appointed to Nigeria the following year Fr John was to work for the next quarter of a century in the area of Okigwi Uturu in the valley of the Imo River in Eastern Nigeria. He is described as being meticulous, uncomplicated, reticent and a man of deep humility. His fellow countyman and colleague in Nigeria, Fr John Roche, wrote about him as follows: "Year in year out, he trekked round that parish, bigger than the biggest Irish county, staying overnight in a one-roomed, mudwalled, palm-thatched resthouse. There was no show about him. You had to know him well to appreciate the grandeur of his simplicity. I remember an occasion in Nigeria when a group of us who seldom met foregathered in one mission on St Patrick's night. There were yarns, discussions and reminiscences, and a sing-song which Fr John himself climaxed with a rollicking "Just tread on the tail of my coat". After dispersing at a late hour I had occasion to visit his room, and there I found him, kneeling bolt upright on the bare cement floor, devoutly telling his beads. Very few outside Nigeria knew him, but for those of us who did he was a man apart. He was working hard as usual when his final illness struck him, and when brought home to Ireland in the hope of recuperation he died in the midlands, a symbol of his past, and a challenge to its future". Fr John Murray died 19 October 1958 aged 52 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1959, 60f.

#### **MURRAY, Fr Patrick J. 1911-1984**



Born 29 May 1911 in Fair St, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Paddy did his secondary studies at St Patrick's College, Armagh, and at Blackrock, 1930-31. Professed in Kimmage Manor in 1932 he went to the Castle, Blackrock, and UCD to study philosophy, taking his B.A. degree in 1935. He prefected for one year at Rockwell and another at St Mary's, Rathmines, during which he took the H.Dip.Ed. Ordained in 1940 his first appointment was again to St Mary's where after a year he succeeded Dr Joe Whelan as Dean of Studies or Principal. In 1953 he was transferred to Rockwell to take charge of studies there. In 1958 he was again posted to St Mary's where he was to remain for the rest of his life. From 1963 to 1969 he was President of the college and on finishing his term of office he returned to the classroom until due for retirement from teaching in 1976. But for Fr Paddy this was the opportunity to devote himself to the work he loved - to study, writing, retreat giving, elocution teaching at Kimmage Manor, and looking after his beloved plants. He contributed richly to the apostolate of education as a teacher and administrator, but also in preparing valued text books. He had been editor of the school Annual for a number of



years and his expertise in that area was later put to use in writing articles for the religious press and in compiling anthologies of prose and verse. His anthologies *Mary the Mother of God* and *The Deer's Cry* were much appreciated. In his last years he had to carry the cross of ill-health. Fr Paddy was a gentleman in every way, humble and courteous, just and loyal. He was a man of prayer with an apostolic spirit. He died 17 April 1984 aged 72 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *StMCA* 1984 66ff; *IPNI* 57 1984.

#### **MURRAY, Fr William P. 1892-1962**

Born 20 May 1892 in Hollywood, Co. Down, William emigrated to the USA in 1912 because he did not wish to become a priest, considering himself unworthy of such a calling. Eventually, he entered the Congregation at Cornwells, Philadelphia, as a late vocation and was professed at Ferndale in 1921. Ordained in 1925 he was appointed assistant at St Mark's in New York's Harlem. Later he served at St John the Baptist's in Fort Smith, again at St Mark's as pastor, and at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sanford, N.C.. He was treasurer at St Emma's Academy for blacks in Powhatan, Va., and was bursar at Duquesne and at Ferndale. His last assignments were at New Canaan, Conn., and at St Joachim's, Detroit. Fr William Murray died 15 December 1962 aged 70 years. *SpWW* 721.



#### **MURREN, Fr Michael Laurence 1898-1967**

Born 20 July 1898 in Castlegar, Headford, Co. Galway, where his father the stationed, Larry (Michael to his close friends) came to the Juniorate in Blackrock in 1911 where his uncle, Dr Jim Murphy, was director. Having completed his course in 1916 he was sent to Rockwell as prefect for one year before going to the novitiate in Kimmage. Professed in 1918 he studied for 1st Arts at St Mary's, Rathmines, and UCD. He was sent as prefect to Blackrock the following year before resuming his course at the university where he qualified for the BA in 1922. He was among the last to take university courses for some years. Ordained in 1927 Fr Larry was appointed to the mission in East Africa the following year. He taught for a period at the Teachers' Training College at Kabaa and did parish work in Nairobi, where he served for 10 years as a member of Bishop J.W. Heffernan's council and acted as assistant to him. While the bishop was in Europe a request came from a group of laymen for a Catholic high school to be opened in Nairobi. Fr Larry, together with Fr Tom Maher and Fr Martin Reidy, acceded to the request, and the school, St Mary's, was launched 12 September 1939 at Kwetu. Fr Larry was the choice as the first headmaster, a post he held till the new academic year when Fr Kevin Devinish took over. Ill-health forced Fr Larry to retire from the mission after seventeen years service. He was appointed to the staff of Blackrock in 1946. In spite of his ill-health and a shyness that made public appearances a strain, he accepted the post of Dean of the Day school for "a few weeks", in the words of the superior, Fr Michael Kennedy. He succeeded so well that he was not relieved of the post for five years! He was the most gentle of masters, a very companionable confrère and retained till late in life some of his former expertise in handball, especially in the matter of "sinking buts". In his last years he suffered much from ill-health, becoming progressively paralysed and incapable of speech. But he bore all heroically and appreciated any little service done for him. The Matron, Mother Scholastica, found him the most co-operative and appreciative patient she had



to tend, and she did much to alleviate the burden of his final illness. Fr Laurence Murren died 29 December 1967 aged 69 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA*, 1968, 33

#### **NAUGHTAN, Br Samuel (Cornelius) 1849-1869**



Born 15 August 1849 in Lecarrow, Mount Plunket, Co. Roscommon, Cornelius entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1867. After one year he was advised that, because of his difficulties with studies, he should consider opting for joining the Brothers. In August 1868 he was admitted to the Brothers' novitiate in Chevilly, but in February 1869, when news was received of the death of Br Samuel Keating in Chandernagor, India, Cornelius agreed to sail immediately to India to replace him. He also adopted his name in religion. Fr Magloire Barthet, the Superior, wrote shortly after his arrival that Br Samuel was already shaping up well, but after but a few months in the mission he succumbed suddenly after a bout of fever. He received the last rites and was photographed on his deathbed clasping the crucifix and wearing the soutane he had so recently received at Blackrock. His letter requesting the favour of making his profession has survived in the General Archives but there is no record of his having pronounced his vows. Br Samuel Naughtan died 3rd October 1869 aged 20 years. *BJR* No. IOI; *BG* VII, 227; *BCA* 1962, 174; *Leman*, 270

#### **NAUGHTON, Fr Peter Thomas 1875-1930**



Born 26 December 1875 in Ahascragh, Co. Galway, Tommy was a student at Blackrock, 1890-96, as were his brothers Michael and Patrick. He was a prefect at the college 1896-1900 during which time he qualified for the BA under the Royal University (RUI). He went to France to do his novitiate and higher studies and was ordained priest in 1904. His first appointment was to Rockwell in 1905. In 1907 he replaced Fr John Byrne as Dean of studies. He was recalled by students and staff of that period with respect if not altogether with affection. He was a good teacher but a very hard driver. One of his *protégés* was Liam O'Flaherty, the noted short story writer, whose promise he divined during a trip to the Aran Islands. In 1911 he was transferred to Blackrock where he acted as Dean of studies till 1923. The pursuit of success in the public examinations dominated his approach and the severity of the means adopted to the achievement of that end left many with unhappy memories of Blackrock. It was of course a troubled time for the country in general because of the disturbed political situation following the Great War and the struggle for Independence. In 1918 Fr Tommy was elected as a delegate to the General Chapter of the Congregation. It was felt that Blackrock was badly in need of change and of new blood at the top. Fr Naughton was replaced by Fr Ned Leen as Dean of Studies and after a period of convalescence in Montana, Switzerland, he was appointed to the Irish Mission Band in the USA. This proved to be the most fruitful period of his life. His flair for public speaking ensured full churches once it was known that he was to preach. Stationed at Philadelphia he preached all over the Eastern States. After a brief illness Fr Thomas Naughton died 25 July 1930 aged 54 years and is buried at Cornwells Heights (Bensalem), Philadelphia. *BG* XXXV 147f; *SpWW* 368; *MA* 1930 194.

**NEALON, Fr John F. 1908-1971**



Born 14 September 1908 in Neenagh, Co. Tipperary, Seán came to Rockwell in 1922 doing the Leaving Certificate in 1926, and gaining a County Council Scholarship to University College, Dublin. He qualified for the BA in 1929 and then he prefectured at Blackrock for one year during which time he qualified for the H.Dip.Ed. The following year he did his novitiate in Kimmage and after his profession he prefectured in Rockwell for a year. In 1932 Seán returned to the Castle, Blackrock, to do Theology. Ordained in 1935, Fr Seán was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he served as Dean of discipline for one year. He spent the next year on the staff at Blackrock before being transferred to the College of the Holy Spirit in Mauritius which had been re-established by Archbishop James Leen. In 1949 he returned to Ireland and was appointed to Rockwell where he was to serve for the rest of his life. Apart from teaching French at all levels he was a proficient musician and was the main organist in the college chapel. In preparation for the centenary of Rockwell in 1964, Fr Seán acted as Joint-secretary to the Centenary committee, and the remarkable success of the Centenary celebrations owed much to his organising ability. His special interest in the history of the Irish province was awakened by the fact that a near relative of his, Patrick Edmund Hore, had been one of the earlier students at the French College, Blackrock, and had some of his compositions featured in the *French College Literary Journal*. At the age of sixty-three God called this man of quiet disposition to his eternal reward 8 December 1971. *RCA*, 1972, 83

**NEENAN, Fr Michael 1891-1968**



Born 6 Oct. in Killimer, Co. Clare, Miko was a student at Rockw, 1908-12, and he won a medal while playing on the Rugby Schools Cup team. Professed in Kimmage in 1913 he was appointed as prefect to CIC, Trinidad, 1913-17. During that time his brother Martin, then a senior scholastic, was drowned at Spanish Point (1917) qv. Returning to Ireland in 1917 Miko attended UCD from St Mary's, Rathmines, which had but recently become the residence for those doing Philosophy. After securing his degree in 1920 he started Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1923. Fr Miko was appointed again to CIC, Trinidad in 1924 where he taught for another 9 years. Of those two spells in the West Indies to which he was pleased to refer as his "first and second exilic periods" he had many stories to regale the confrères in years to come. His subjects were Spanish and Commerce and though his pedagogy was not always orthodox, he delighted 'in helping lame dogs over the stile.' We are told that his results were consistently good. In 1934 he joined the teaching staff at Rockwell and, because of his unusual hobbies and rather eccentric mode of life, he was to become a much loved community 'institution' around whom many anecdotes were woven. Rather late in life he was persuaded to study for the H.Dip.Ed. in order to equip himself for qualifying for a teacher's salary and pension. He commuted to UCC accompanied by Fr Joe Mullins, though their rather diverse temperaments and interests dictated that they kept their distance as much as possible *en route* and in class. And when Miko cycled all the way to Cork on occasion, the confrères teased him about his real motive in doing so. He was in no undue hurry to be apprised of the results of that examination, but Fr Joe travelled to Cork to get the news hot from the notice board. He sent the results in a memorable telegram which

arrived in Rockwell minus punctuation and reading : “Neenan passed Mullins with Honours.” In spite of his university qualification for teaching, Miko felt far more at home out hunting game. He had always been scrupulous in his attendance at community religious exercises, and long before night prayers he could be seen in the chapel quietly reading his Scripture. Great preparations were being made for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of his ordination and he gave snatches of the speech he had prepared for delivery at the dinner. When dinner time came there was no sight of Miko. He was a shy man and he explained later that he did not want to spoil the enjoyment. When asked on that occasion by a young confrère what posts had he held in life, he delivered himself of one of his inimitable tongue-in-cheek rejoinders: “By Jove, young man, what is wrong with this Congregation is that there are too many worthy men about and far too few posts.” Indeed when ever Miko prefaced a remark with the words, ”By Jove”, you could be prepared for one of his special pearls of wisdom. Miko was of those lovable eccentric personages that provide a source of humour to a community even long after they have passed on. Though he suffered much from cancer towards the end of his life, his death was gentle and full of peace, but all felt that he had taken something of Rockwell with him. And his funeral brought from his home country a great hosting of clergy and lay folk who paid tribute to his devoted parish work during vacation. Fr Miko Neenan died at Rockwell 29 February 1968 aged 75 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RCA* 1968, 82f.

**NEENAN, Mr Martin 1893-1917**



Born 11 November 1893 in Killimer, Co. Clare, son of the local National teacher, he was educated at Blackrock, 1908-11. Having spent one year at Rockwell he was drowned at Spanish Point during the summer holidays, 3 August 1917. The following notice appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*:  
**CLERICAL STUDENT DROWNED**-Mr. Martin Neenan, ecclesiastical student, Blackrock, aged 20, was drowned while bathing in Goleen, Casino, Miltown Malbay. Dr. Murphy, Professor, and Father Considine, Mullagh, accompanied the deceased, who entered the water first, and soon showed signs of trouble. Dr Jim Murphy went to his assistance, when a wave separated both. Mr. Neenan disappeared, and some hours later his body was found covered with sand, the hand only being visible. Dr. Murphy seemed in imminent danger whilst attempting rescue. Father Considine went to his assistance. Deceased was the son of Mr. Neenan, National teacher, Killimer, West Clare. Fr Jim Murphy was the Director of the Juniorate at Blackrock, himself a native of Co. Clare. He had Martin as a student in the Juniorate. The shock of that tragedy and his own narrow escape from drowning was said to have deeply affected Fr Murphy throughout his life. Martin was a brother of Fr Michael (Miko) Neenan CSSp. BJR No. 814; *Freeman's Journal* Aug 6 1917

**NESBIT, Br Francis Joseph 1840-1919**



Born 21 September 1840 of Protestant parents in WhiteHall, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, George was educated at local Protestant schools and then went into the wine trade. He was on the staff of the Hibernian Hotel, Dublin, at the time he entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1868. He was the twenty-eight years of age and, as his studies did not fit him for the normal course for the priesthood, he was advised to opt for the Brotherhood. He was sent to the central novitiate at Chevilly where he was professed in 1870. As a teacher of English was urgently needed in the mission school at Chandernagor, India, he was posted to that

remote mission. He worked in Chandernagor until the mission was abandoned in 1885. He was then transferred to Beauvais where the Congregation had charge of an apostolic school. There was one Irish student there, Joseph Shanahan of future Nigeria fame. Br Francis Joseph took the place of Shanahan's uncle, Br Adelm, who had been called on to go to Ballarat, Australia, with Fr Reffé and his team. The only other Irishman on the staff there at the time was Fr Gerald Griffin, one of four brothers who had joined the Congregation. The presence of those two very gentle Irishmen at Beauvais must have helped young Shanahan to cope better with his exile. One of Br Francis' duties there recalled his earlier years: he was put in charge of the wine cellar. Even when the Apostolic School was forced to transfer to Seysinnet to make way for a diocesan type college at Beauvais, Br Francis was asked to remain on, but when that college was abandoned in 1906 he returned to his alma mater at Blackrock. It was written about him in his French obituary that everywhere he worked he earned the respect and affection of all because of his good humour, his excellent character and his tranquil simplicity as he went about his various duties. One consolation he had during his final years at Blackrock was that he had the company of a confrere who had also worked in that remote Indian mission namely, Br Honorius (q.v.). They were often seen to go for strolls in the neighbourhood together and someone thought it worth using up a shot on his amateur camera to record them setting off on one such outing. Br Francis-Joseph died at Blackrock 22 January 1919 aged 79. He was buried in Deansgrange. *BG XXIX 361.*

### **NEVILLE, Bishop John G. 1858-1943**



Born 29 Oct. 1858 in the Pro-Cathedral parish, Dublin, Johnny was a student at the French College, Blackrock, 1871-78, and a prefect there, 1878-81 - at the time, that is, when the Intermediate Education Board system of examinations replaced the French system of education which had been in use at the college since 1860. The Royal University was then also in preparation. Ordained in 1885 at Chevilly he did his novitiate under the direction of Père Jean-Marie Grizard, and from the group photo taken in the novitiate one can see that Fr Neville was the 'auxiliary' or student priest in charge. Fr Johnny's first appointment was to Blackrock where he was Director of the Juniorate, 1889-96. He was then called on to replace Fr Ebenrecht as bursar, being the first Irishman to hold that post. That year also saw Fr Larry Healy take over as president from Fr Jules Botrel. Fr Neville continued as bursar under Fr John T. Murphy who was appointed in 1899; so he had to provide the funds for the purchase of Clareville beside Blackrock even though it was to be a separate community from Blackrock till 1912. But Fr Neville was not to have to worry about the accounts during the big development project initiated by Fr Murphy at Blackrock in 1903, involving the transformation of the grounds and frontage of the college. By that time Fr Neville had been called on to go to St Mary's, Trinidad, as superior in succession to Fr William Carroll. The years he was in charge there were marked by the unexpected deaths of three of the priests on the staff, and by some serious challenges to the college in face of unfair competition with the well-funded Royal College. Fr Neville is recorded as having made a bold and successful stand for the rights of the parents to have the college of their choice properly supported from public funds. After seven years of successful administration there he was called to Paris in 1910 to act as General Councillor, being the first Irishman to hold such a post in the Congregation since Fr Henry Power away back in the 1820s. In 1913 he reluctantly consented to have his name put forward as Vicar Apostolic of Zanzibar in succession

to his contemporary as student and prefect at Blackrock, Mgr Emile Allgeyer. He was ordained bishop at Blackrock - that being the first episcopal ordination in Ireland of a member of the Congregation; and Dr John Neville was the first Irishman to head the vast mission which then included Kenya as well as the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. In 1913 there were about 5,000 Catholics and some thirty schools in the mission. When Dr Neville retired in 1931 at the age of 72, there were 20,000 Catholics and 142 schools. He returned to reside at Blackrock, but he continued to work - writing many articles about missionary matters in the *Missionary Annals*, and he frequently preached and delivered addresses and lectures, some noted for their length. One particular sermon, given during the special pilgrimage to Drogheda in honour of Blessed Oliver, entered into folklore for the fact that even the preacher lost his concentration and ended up preaching about Blessed Oliver Cromwell! Bishop Neville was also readily available to deputise for his fellow bishops in administering the sacrament of Confirmation etc. He and Dr Shanahan, also living in retirement at Blackrock, were a strong missionary witness in the Province and a source of edification to the school and the community at Blackrock. Bishop John Neville died 27 February 1943 aged 84 years and was buried in Deans Grange. His family commissioned Clarke studios to create in his memory the magnificent stained glass window of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which adorns one of the halls of Blackrock College. *BCA* 1943 39ff; 1962 190; *SpWW* 498; *CIC Centenary Record*, 62ff

**NEVILLE, Fr James C. 1898-1982**



Born 18 December 1898 in Abbeylands, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Jimmy attended Blackrock, 1912-19, after which he went prefecting to Rockwell for three years. Professed in Kimmage, 1923, he began Philosophy at St Mary's, Rathmines. By then, Fr Joseph Byrne, the new Provincial, had decided that the financial state of the Province precluded the expenses of a university course for scholastics. In 1924 the senior scholasticate moved to the Castle, Blackrock, where Jimmy finished his studies for the priesthood, being ordained 1929. The following year he took up his first appointment in the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro and was to spend all his long missionary career in the District of Kilimanjaro. He was, in fact, to remain on in the diocese of Moshi after all other Irish confreres had left. Even in old age he could be seen cycling on pastoral work, well known and loved by his people. He served for a period at the Training School in Morogoro but was to spend most of his career in parish work. Of a very conservative type he did not take easily to the changes introduced after the Vatican Council, especially in the area of church design and traditional popular devotions. After fifty years of devoted service he is worthy of a significant page in the history of the local church in that area, and indeed he wrote frequently himself about the work being done as he contributed articles to the *Missionary Annals*. Those who saw him work remembered him as a frail man but strong in heart. His sense of humour was part of his gracious view of life. The weaknesses and follies of human beings he viewed with an unique mixture of faith, graciousness and humour. He remained active almost to the very end. Fr James Neville was called to his eternal rest 24th October 1982 aged 83 years. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No. 52, March '83; *BCA* 1983 152.

**NEWMAN, Fr Peter 1927-1993**



Born 1927 in Kenagh, Co. Longford, Peter did his secondary studies at St Mel's College, Longford, where he learned his skills at Gaelic football. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1846 and graduated from UCD in 1950. After two years prefecting at Rockwell he did Theology at Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1955. His first appointment was to Sierra Leone where he served in Yengema, Koidu and Kenema. Of his first experience of missionary life at Yengema it was said: "He faced the challenge, not merely of a very difficult climate and an extremely hilly terrain, but also the long-standing presence of a rather hostile Protestant elite." He was Principal Superior in Sierra Leone, 1976-82, and was director of the West African Foundation, 1982-83. In 1983 he was appointed to the Provincial Council as Mission Councillor. Sent to Australia in 1989 he served there for two years before being appointed Superior of Kimmage Manor in 1991. He proved a very understanding Superior and when a terminal illness, myeloma, was diagnosed he faced the prospects of an early death with great faith. Fr Peter Newman died 14 August 1993 aged 65 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 5 Oct. 1993

**NOLAN, Fr Francis J. 1887-1964**



Born 12 August 1887 in Derrylahan, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, Frank was a student at Blackrock, 1903-09, together with his elder brother, Tom, qv. He was a prefect at Rockwell, 1909-13, before going to the novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1914. He then went on to do his senior studies at Kimmage but in 1919 he was sent to the USA to finish his course at Ferndale. He was the last of the group covenanted under the Mother Drexel plan for supplying pastors for the special parishes for the blacks. Before he left, Frank designed the cover for the first issue of the *Missionary Annals* which appeared in 1919. Ordained in 1921 he became an assistant pastor at St Peter Claver's, Charleston, SC, the following year. After brief stays at St Emma Academy, Powhatan, Va., as a chaplain, and at St Joseph's House, Philadelphia, he became an assistant at St Mark's, Harlem, in 1921 and at St Peter Claver's, Charleston, SC, in 1922. He then served consecutively at St James', Alexandria, La, at New Orleans and again at Charleston. In 1924 we find him at Cornwells and the following year at Blessed Sacrament, Philadelphia. Returning to Louisiana in 1927, he was stationed at Holy Spirit, New Orleans, and Sacred Heart, Lake Charles, till 1930. There followed a two year's stay in Ireland after which he came back to the States and was assigned to St Peter Claver's in Philadelphia. In 1940 he received an appointment for St Joseph's House, where he proved to be a capable administrator who paid off all the debts of the institution. The boys, too, loved him for his ready smile, his accessibility and devotion. He resigned in 1946 and, after serving briefly at St Anthony's, Natchitoches, La, requested his transfer to Ireland. His request was granted and he was assigned to Rockwell in 1947 where he joined his brother Fr Thomas. In class in Rockwell, he was strict and intense: lessons had to be learnt or else. Once the bell rang, however, the boys he had been lecturing so sternly a moment before crowded around him for a fun session in which he joined enthusiastically. Fr Frank was a man of rule who held his principles strongly. Things had to be "just so", and any deviation from what he considered to be the right thing evoked his outspoken condemnation. At the same time he was a good "community man" who could take

ragging and banter well, and good-humouredly return blow for blow. The fraternal wrangling between himself and his brother Tom was a constant source of humour for the rest of the community. For two years, since 1962, he had not been well, and there were days when he looked - no doubt, felt - desperately ill. With indomitable resolution, however, he continued to say Mass, teach and take his place at community exercises until the last morning of all. While attending a solemn High Mass during the Rockwell centennial celebrations 22 July 1964, Fr Francis Nolan took suddenly ill and died in the sacristy. He was aged 77 years. He was buried in Rockwell. BCACH; RCA, 1964, 170; *SpWW*, 739.

### **NOLAN, Fr James 1856-1945**

Born 8 November 1856 in Loucheen, Co. Tipperary (or was it Fadden near Birr?),



James entered Rockwell juniorate in 1877 and left for France in 1881 to do his senior studies. Ordained in 1885, his first appointment in 1886 was to the new and challenging mission opened by Fr Charles Duparquet in Bechuanaland - Prefecture of Cimbabasië in Southern Africa. Others in the pioneering group were Fr John McCabe returned from Trinidad, Br Onuphre Cooney who had survived the disastrous start in Angola and Br Vincent de Paul McNally, the first Irish brother, who had already served in Mauritius and Mombasa. The 500

miles trek from Capetown to Mafeking in a lumbering Boer wagon drawn by oxen proved a baptism of fire in spite of Fr Nolan's sense of humour in face of continuing trials some caused by the disparity of the travellers' temperaments and expectations. Mafeking they found to be a Protestant stronghold with no tolerance of outside missionaries. An old Tipperaryman, Patrick Lonergan, who had joined the British army in his youth, gave them a plot of ground for a house and church, but the sustained hostility of their Protestant neighbours made life impossible. Enforced inaction fostered dissensions among the confreres. Fr Duparquet withdrew and was replaced as Vice-prefect Apostolic by Fr Thomas Fogarty sent out at short notice. Fr McCabe decided to withdraw from the Congregation. It was expected that there would be an influx of mine workers into the area but this did not materialise, so it was decided to withdraw from the mission. Fr Nolan was then posted to Pittsburgh, PA., where he taught for a short period in the college. He was then appointed pastor of the new work for the blacks at St. Peter Claver's in Philadelphia, a project undertaken at the request of Mother Katharine Drexel who gave it financial assistance. Br Celsus McCabe was sent out from Rockwell to manage the primary school. Twelve years later we find Fr Nolan as pastor of St. Anne's, Millvale. In 1904 he took up parish work in the State of Ohio where he served with rare devotion for many years as a pastor having elected to join the diocesan clergy as from 1908. Years later when increasing deafness forced him to give up parish work he requested to be readmitted to the congregation. Stationed at Rockwell he fitted back into community life where he became a well-loved figure admired for his transparent simplicity, sanctity and infectious good humour especially as he recounted incidents about people and happenings during his varied pastoral experience. An extract from an eloquent tribute to him published in the *Rockwell Annual* helps us share the affection with which he was held in Rockwell and later in Kilshane:

"Thirty-eight years of spiritual work left Father James vigorous still, but increasingly hampered by deafness. And so he asked and obtained permission to return to Ireland, there to spend in prayer and retreat, the precious time that yet remained.

And so Rockwell welcomed Father James once more. To the delight of his old



friends, he reappeared in 1930, buoyant, active, as young in spirit as ever. And then began an intensive life of prayer, spiritual study, and even ministry as far as his deafness permitted. It was a life, the fruits of which, God's angels must now surely admire. This grand old man, well into the evening of life, displayed for fifteen years, a spiritual vigour that was the wonder of those who knew him.

The Holy Ghost Novitiate, Kilshane, witnessed the last eleven years of his life. Attached as he was to Rockwell, not for a moment did he hesitate, when asked to come as an extra Spiritual Father to the Community, lately opened by his old friend Father Evans.

Regular as clockwork, scrupulously exact in his religious duties, ready for any work he could manage, no one could be more solicitous for the welfare of the Community, and above all of Novices. Each morning, he rose at the usual time in spite of his four-score years. A carefully planned time-table gave him the fullest possible spiritual return, from each day. His presence was a joy at Community recreations; sturdy of build, he enjoyed a good walk right to the end-and, at times, would slip off with the zest of a boy to pat a horse, play with a dog or delight a child with his riddles and rhymes. But it was in his reminiscences that he was seen at his best. He was a born raconteur. With piquant phrase and telling gesture, he could paint a perfect vignette of pastoral life and problems in the America he knew so well. His stories, humorous, pathetic or serious, were told with inimitable verve. Some were so delightful, that he was innocently led to repeat them over and over again. And the rare gifts of the teller can be judged, from the fact that they never lost their freshness.

Like Dom Marmion, Fr James had 'the faithful memory of the heart.' Alert and keenly alive to all around, to him the past was just as vividly present. He had an astonishing memory ; names, places, poetry and songs of long ago, were recalled without an effort. And his thought of old friends was revealed in so saintly and touching a way as to be almost unique. Alone in the chapel (he spent hours there, daily), he would murmur their names and plead touchingly to God for their eternal repose: "Fr Huvéty's, Fr Cotter, Fr Goepfert, Fr Hehir, Bishop O'Gorman, Bishop Wilson, Brother Celsus, Fr Schmidt." Each day, he bequeathed to the poor souls the merciful efficacy of his Way of the Cross, his Rosaries, his other indulgenced prayers. One opens with reverence, the old brown notebook where their names were entered day by day - how they must have welcomed him to Heaven, when his time came. What a living sermon too, for the novices, was his life of unremitting prayer, his constant fidelity to the rule, and his childlike intercourse with Our Lady, St. Joseph, and the Little Flower, Those young souls, certainly owed many graces to his prayers ; he who so faithfully remembered others, will live in the novices' memories as one who was wholeheartedly a man of God. Fr James Nolan died 28 August 1945 aged 88 years and was interred at Rockwell. RJR; RCA 1945 p.25ff; *SpWW* 537

### **NOLAN, Fr Joseph L.      1929-1982**



Born 23 March 1929 in Shangarr, Myshall, Co. Carlow, Joe was educated at CBS Bagnalstown and at Rockwell. He entered the novitiate in 1948, studied philosophy at Kimmage and prefectured at Blackrock, 1951-53. Ordained priest in 1956, Fr Joe's first appointment was to Nigeria where he worked till 1967. Unable to return because of the Civil War he took up parish ministry in the diocese of Miami, Florida, in 1968. He specialised in hospital ministry at which he proved very successful. On being asked by his brother to replace him as chaplain on board a cruise liner, he learned of the severe medical shortages in hospitals in Haiti. Having made enquiries

he found that vast quantities of free medical supplies were being discarded by hospitals in Florida. He soon built up a network of voluntary helpers in the medical world and on board ships who co-operated in ferrying these valuable medical supplies to Haiti. Between 1970 and 1978 he had collected and transhipped two million dollars worth of medical supplies while attending also to his own duties as hospital chaplain. Humble and unpretentious, he obviously touched the lives of many people in his ministry. His death at the age of 53 years was unexpected, dying peacefully in his sleep 26 April 1982. His body was flown back from Florida and was buried at Kimmage. *IPNI* 51 June/July 1982; *ibid.*, 34, Sept 1978.

**NOLAN, Fr Joseph P. 1916-1972**

Born 15 October 1916 in Muinebheag, (Bagnalstown), Co. Carlow, Joe was educated



at the local De la Salle Academy and at Rockwell. He excelled both at studies and games. As fullback on the Harty Cup hurling side he marked Jack Lynch, future Taoiseach, in the Munster Cup competition. In 1935 he entered the novitiate at Kilshane and after his profession studied philosophy at UCD, securing 1st Class Honours in the BA and winning the Pierce Malone Scholarship. He

prefected at Rockwell, 1939-41, at the time when the major new wing was being built under the direction of Fr V.J. Dinan. In normal times he would have been a candidate for a degree course in theology, but the War situation precluded this. Ordained in 1944 he was appointed bursar in Kimmage the following year. His humanity and compassionate approach was appreciated by the scholastics after the austere regime experienced during the Emergency Years. In 1947 he was called on to replace Fr Tim O'Driscoll as bursar in Rockwell when the latter became Provincial bursar. In 1948-9 Fr Nolan also managed to fit in some teaching and attended lectures for the H.Dip.Ed. From 1951 to 1955 he took over the management of the college farm. Then he reverted to the classroom where his talents as an educator were given scope. In 1958 he was called on to take over the duties of Principal in succession to Fr Paddy Murray. Fr Nolan was known to be an idealist in that he held up the highest ideals for himself and for the students. But he was also eminently practical and felt it his duty to give support to worthy public causes. He favoured associations which led to direct service between producer and consumer in farm products. He won a public law-suit to have Rockwell property revalued for rating purposes as he felt there was an inequity to be redressed. He was a supporter of National Action, was a founder member of the Association of Post Primary Teachers of Ireland and was elected President of that association. He also made a notable contribution to educational theory and practice through his published articles and addresses. It was then with universal shock that news of his sudden death broke on the school and the country. Fr Joseph Nolan died literally at his desk, 17 May 1972, aged 55 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPArch*; *RCA* 1972, 55,81; *MA* Aug. 1972, p.34.

**NOLAN, Fr Patrick 1910-1999**



Born on 9 August 1910 in Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Paddy or 'Pa', as he was often affectionately known, did his secondary studies in nearby Rockwell, 1924-29. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed in 1930. After Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he prefected for two years in Rockwell, 1932-34. He did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in Daingean, Co. Offaly, in 1937. The following

year he was appointed to promotion work where he served for two years before being appointed in 1940 to succeed Fr Michael Comerford as Director of the Juniorate in Rockwell. After nine years service in this post he was transferred to the Novitiate in Kilshane where he worked for one year. In 1950 he was appointed bursar in Willow Park Preparatory School, Blackrock, where he served for eleven years. In 1961 he was appointed Director of St Michael's Preparatory School, then attached to Blackrock. Fr Paddy was to see St Michael's develop into a fully-fledged separate secondary school under the direction of Fr Seamus Galvin, who became its first superior in 1971. Fr Nolan remained at St Michael's until 1996 when he moved to Marian House where he died on 18 November 1999 aged 89 years. Pa was a much loved member of the Spiritan communities in which he lived, and was seen to be very close to his own extended family where he was in attendance for all special occasions, looking after family christenings, weddings and funerals, and was especially attentive to the sick and the dying. He had many friends and no enemies. Not over-dynamic in his temperament he took a rather laid-back approach to the day's events. And he had his foibles, which were the subject of many a jocose anecdote. When teased - as he frequently was - his regular signature tune was, "Ah here!" . He was himself a fine singer - his party pieces being "Bless this house" and "Keep right on to the end of the road". And when he did not altogether like the decisions of his superior he was known to mutter disapprovingly: "Bucko in his big chair!" But never really an unkind word. A former student commented: "Like so many of his generation Fr Pat's faith and values were deeply rooted and clear and he communicated them by example and a process of osmosis. He was a man who was gentle, generous, kind and humble..." Fr Pat was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No. 5 1999

**NOLAN, Fr Thomas Joseph                      1886-1975**



Born 5 June 1886 in Derrylahan, Ballacolla, Co. Laois, Tom and his brother Frank came to Blackrock in 1903. Tom was a classmate of Frank Duff but he remained on in the secondary school for an extra year to do the RUI Matriculation. He prefects in Rockwell the following year, 1908/9, and at Blackrock, 1909/10. He then went to France to do his novitiate, being a member of the last group of Irish to do their novitiate in France. He began Philosophy at Chevilly but was among those recalled by Fr John T Murphy to attend the new University College at Earlsfort Terrace. In 1914 Tom was on the move again - this time to America as part of the scheme drawn up between Mother (Blessed) Katharine Drexel and Fr Murphy by which funds would be given for the building up of the senior house of studies in Ireland in exchange for personnel to work in special parishes for blacks in USA. Ordained at Ferndale in 1917, Fr Tom became in 1919 the first pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Marksville, La. In addition he had charge of Hickory Hill mission. He quickly built up both the parish and the mission. In 1921 he was transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he taught for five years. In 1926 he joined the staff of Rockwell College and earned a high reputation for his ability to awaken interest in the English literature classes, mainly by his wide knowledge and his infectious enthusiasm. Even those in neighbouring classrooms benefited from his declamation of poetry in his stentorian voice. A practical joker in the community, hearing that Fr Tom was billed to preach a retreat to a particular convent, told him that most of the Sisters were hard of hearing like himself, so he was to turn on the volume; he then told the Sisters that as the preacher had a weak voice they should seat themselves near his desk! Fr Tom tended to keep to his room, being a voracious reader, but once his brother Frank arrived home from the American

mission, the community were treated to the amusing spectacle of the two brothers constantly wrangling, though, in fact, they were very close to one another. Fr Thomas Nolan outlived most of his contemporaries, dying 30 March 1975 aged 88 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCA* 1975, 225; *SpWW* 985; *IPNI* 16, June '75 *RCA* 1975 62

### **NOONAN, Fr Patrick A. 1914-1979**

Born 11 April 1914 in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, Paddy did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1929-33. He was among the first group of novices to make their profession in Kilshane in 1934. He took the B.Sc. degree in UCD in 1937 and then returned to Rockwell for two years as a prefect. Once again he returned to UCD, this time to take the BA in Philosophy in 1941. He did Theology in Kimmage and, appearing to be one of the most robust and best qualified in the scholasticate, it came as a shock to all when on mounting the pulpit during breakfast to preach his first sermon to the assembled body he fainted in the face of the ordeal. The accepted treatment at the time was to face the music again next morning. Paddy succeeded at the next attempt, but it highlighted the ordeal that many faced when called on to 'preach' before such a packed hall of peers and professors. Ordained priest in 1944, Fr Paddy's his first appointment was to the Novitiate in Kilshane where he was bursar till 1949. He joined the staff at Rockwell for one year and was then transferred to Kenya. Appointed to St Mary's, Nairobi, he proved an excellent teacher of Maths and Science. He was elected a member of the Institute of Physicists and a Fellow of the Royal College of Preceptors. Among the extra curricular activities he took on with remarkable success was the training of the Senior Rugby Team and of the School Boxing Team. Fr Paddy also proved a skilful producer of school dramatics. As straight as a die himself he was known to counter duplicity in a rather forthright manner. He was seen to rise very early each morning and after Mass and morning prayer set off in the school bus to collect the students from outlying areas. Though he always seemed to be in excellent health he was obliged in 1976 to return to Ireland for medical care. From that time until his death 21 December 1979 his health required that he have constant medical and nursing supervision. Fr Patrick Noonan died in a nursing home in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, and was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI*, 41, Feb. 1980; *RCA*, 1980, 97



### **NORRIS, Fr John S. 1860-1893**

Born 23 August 1860 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, John entered the Rockwell juniorate in 1875. He prefected at the college from 1879 to 1883. After some time at Chevilly he was forced by the onset of tuberculosis to interrupt his studies. He returned to Rockwell where he helped Fr Prosper Goepfert in editing *The Messenger of St Joseph*. As it was hoped that the climate at Braga, Portugal, would be more conducive to a recovery, he spent two years at the college there, 1887-9, teaching English. Professed in 1890 he was appointed to the newly-opened college, St Mary's, Rathmines, to act as bursar. He is described as being amiable and popular. Never having managed to recover from his illness, Fr John Norris died 3 January 1893 aged 33 years. He was buried in Deansgrange. *BG* XVI 804f.

### **NUGENT, Fr Laurence Owen 1910-1955**



Born 12 January 1910 in Drimnagh House, Bluebell, Dublin, Larry attended Scoil Éanna, Rathfarnham, and Blackrock, 1927-30. Professed in 1931 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and prefectured at the college there, 1933-4. Ordained in 1937 Fr Larry was appointed to Kenya the following year and he was to fill many posts there in education work and in parish ministry over the years. His first major challenge came when he was called on by Bishop J.W. Heffernan to take charge of the Vicariate of Nyeri, Kenya, when the Italian Consolata Fathers were all interned by the British after Italy had entered the war on the side of the Germans. His confrere, Fr Con McNamara, who was with him at the time, wrote: " In a sure, patient and thorough manner he learned the new language, Kikuyu; he re-established the schools, visited his flock, and proved himself in every way a good shepherd. The local Kikuyu Catholics, very quick to appraise the missionary worth of their new pastor, were all deeply appreciative of his devotion, patience and charity. Fr Nugent's work among the Kikuyu was most fruitful and his memory is in benediction among these hill tribes of Karema as a missionary of great devotion and Christ-like charity." His last mission was a newly opened station at Malindi, on the sea-coast; and there he spent three years. He worked hard, perhaps too hard for one not over robust at any time. When it was seen that his health was undermined, he was sent to Mombasa for hospital treatment. He died some weeks later, unconsciously edifying those about him in his death as he had in life. He left behind him "the memory of a sincerely devoted, unselfish and spiritual apostle". Fr Laurence Nugent died 24 October 1955 aged 45 years. BCArch; *BCA* 1956 49f.

### **NWEDO, Bishop Anthony 1912-2000**



Born 1912 in Ogula, Owerri, Anthony opted for the priesthood when that was not as yet a popular decision among relatives and neighbours. He was ordained in 1945 as a diocesan priest. Four years later he entered the Congregation at Kimmage where he had as professor Fr Jim Cronin whom he had previously had as professor in the Senior seminary in Nigeria. He studied for some years at Kimmage taking the BA at UCD in 1950 before entering the novitiate at Kilshane where he was professed 2 February 1951. Assigned to the Diocese of Owerri he joined the staff of St Paul's Junior Seminary at Okpala. While he was Principal of Madonna High School in 1959 the Holy See named him the first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Umahia taken from the territory of Owerri. He was ordained bishop on 17 May 1959 at Aba. He was the first Nigerian Bishop to head a diocese. The diocese was inadequately staffed by a mere twenty-one priests, nine of whom were Nigerians. He appealed for volunteers from other more developed dioceses, set about the training of Nigerian priests and founded two congregations of Sisters - The Daughters of Mary in 1961, and the Sisters of Mary Mother of Mercy in 1970. He is quoted as saying that his ministry as the first indigenous Bishop of Umuahia was an experiment designed to sound out the capability of native clergy to rule the local church. He saw it as a challenge and willingly shouldered the responsibility. He lived a life of striking simplicity and austerity. And he was noted for his care of the poor. He fostered good relations with the Protestant community who had not been noted earlier for their ecumenism. By the time he retired in 1990 he had handed over three dioceses, many

schools, hospitals and orphanages. Priests from his jurisdiction were by then serving in other territories and overseas. Though retired as bishop he remained active in pastoral work to the end. Bishop Anthony died on 11 February 2000; he was aged 88 years. Nigeria CSSp Provincial Newsletter Vol. 64, 2000; *KNSM* No. 278.

### **O'BRIEN, Fr David 1876-1932**



One of three brothers ordained priests in the Congregation, David was born 3 September 1876 in Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary. He came to Rockwell as a boarder in 1889 aged 13 and when it was seen that he had obvious signs of a vocation he was placed in the juniorate at Blackrock in 1894 for his final year of secondary studies. The following year he was sent as prefect to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he proved so successful in class and outside that he was retained for five years. In 1900 he went to France to do his novitiate and in the photo taken of the Irish students in formation in France at the time, 1901, we see David with his brothers Thomas and John. Once again the notes given in reports on David show that he was appreciated as a most promising candidate, but his elder brother Tom had to warn him against damaging his health by an over austere régime. Ordained in 1904 he was appointed the following year to Blackrock as director of the juniorate in succession to Fr Pembroke, who was being appointed to Rockwell as superior. In a photograph of the juniorate in 1907 we see several faces that were to be familiar in Ireland and in the missions over the next half century: The two Nolans, Tom and Frank, the two Heerey's, Paddy and Charlie, Bertie White, J.J. McCarthy, later President of Rockwell, Phil O'Connor, Pete Walsh, James Flynn and William (Liam) O'Donnell. In 1908 it was decided that David's state of health called for a warm climate so he was transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he joined his brother John. After eight year's service he returned to Europe in 1916 when he was called on to serve as military chaplain at the front. He served in Belgium and spent himself so generously that his frail health never recovered from the ordeal. He spent some time at Kimmage recuperating and then in 1920 joined the Irish Mission Band in the USA. By 1923 it was realised that he was at the end of his active service. After another period of recuperation he asked to be allowed to resume work in the classroom and in pastoral ministry at Rockwell. Progressive paralysis set in but he struggled on, trying to teach class and attend community exercises until he was completely invalided. Even then he made his contribution to community life by his flashes of good humour and his gratitude for all services rendered to him. Like the good soldier he was, he never said die; he just faded away and as he answered the last call he was surrounded by his confrères - among them his fellow-countyman, Bishop Joseph Shanahan, then recently retired from Nigeria. Fr David O'Brien died 21 September 1932 aged 56 years and was buried in Rockwell. *BG XXXVI* 329ff; *SpWW* 393.

### **O'Brien, Fr. Denis Mary 1914-2002**

Denis was born in Donabate, Co. Dublin on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1914. He made his First Profession on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1934 in Kilshane. He studied for a B.A in Classics and an M.A. in Philosophy from the Castle in Blackrock. On completion in 1939 he went to Rome to study theology. Denis was ordained to the Priesthood in Rome on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1942. He continued his studies after ordination and in 1944 was awarded a Doctorate in Divinity 'magna cum laude'. Fr. Denis made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1944. His first appointment was to the Scholasticate in

Kimmage Manor. For four years he taught philosophy and for one year moral theology. In 1950 he joined the teaching staff in Rockwell College and was appointed Dean of Discipline in 1953. In 1956 he took on the job of College Bursar and continued at this for the next ten years. In 1967 while Farm Bursar he laid the foundations for the Agricultural School. He also pioneered the development of the new Catering School and was its first Director. In 1974 Fr. Denis was appointed Superior of Rockwell and this mandate was renewed in 1977. He then served a three-year term as Bursar of Ardraccan. After a well-deserved sabbatical he joined the Provincial Council as Provincial Bursar. During this time he was a member of the Ardraccan Community. In 1988 he joined the Blackrock community and was in residence in Willow Park. Due to declining health Fr. Denis was admitted to Marian House on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2001. He died 21<sup>st</sup> March 2002. He is buried in the community plot in Shanganagh.

**O'BRIEN, Br Francis (Christopher) 1858-1932**



Born 28 December 1852 in Dublin, Christopher emigrated to Philadelphia and in 1906 at the age of fifty he entered Cornwells Heights to join the Brothers. Professed in Ferndale in 1908 he was to spend the rest of his life in that community leaving it very much in debt because of his dedication to the religious life and to the strenuous work of transforming the rough terrain, breaking many a plough share as he tilled the stony ground. When informed that death was very near and that he should receive the last sacraments, he asked for three days to study the 'last rites' so as to profit fully from receiving them. He was called to the Lord 15 April 1932 aged 73 years and was buried at Ferndale. *BG* 35, 1014ff; *SpWW* 388

**O'BRIEN, Fr James MI 1912-1979**



Born 3 December 1912 in Belclose, Tuam, Co. Galway, Jimmy later moved with the family to Dalkey from where he attended Blackrock, 1925-31. His father had studied at Rockwell and Blackrock. On the advice of Dr J.C.McQuaid Jimmy entered the Juniorate for his final year. Professed in Kimmage, 1932, he graduated from UCD in 1935. After a year's prefecting in Rockwell he worked in the office of the newly established Holy Ghost Confraternity and then in the 'Burse'. He did Theology in Kimmage, 1937-41, being ordained 1940. Fr Jimmy received his obedience for Sierra Leone but because of the war he was called on to replace Fr Gerry Curran as editor of the *Missionary Annals*. He was to be widely known as 'Father Brendan' in his organisation of mission work for the young and he was also active giving retreats. In 1946 Archbishop Matthews was so impressed by his statistical knowledge of Africa and its missions that he asked to have him seconded to him as secretary to the Apostolic Delegation, Mombasa. He served there till 1954 and was awarded the Papal decoration, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici*. Fr Jimmy then went to Paris as secretary to the Superior General, Fr Francis Griffin. He was also very helpful in giving guided tours on foot and at top speed to newcomers to Paris. One noticed that he was very simple in his lifestyle and that he never wasted a moment: he even managed to read his breviary while trying to keep his balance in a packed Metro. Fr Jimmy taught briefly in Neil McNeil High School in Toronto before returning to Kenya in 1959. He was the last Holy Ghost Father to teach at Mangu High School, 1960-61. For the next seven years he was Headmaster of Ituru High School near Nairobi. At this time he

was discovered to be suffering from Parkinson's disease, and in spite of this paralysing condition, he filled - in his own words- "some minor missionary posts". He was seen by all to be a man totally committed, always on the job and always a gentleman. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in the summer of 1977. Fr James O'Brien died 13 December 1979 aged 67 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 41, Feb. 1980.

#### **O'BRIEN, Fr John 1879-1937**



Born 25th April 1879 in Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, John was a younger brother of Thomas and David who had entered the Congregation before him. John came to Rockwell in 1891 as a boarder and later joined the juniorate. Having received the soutane 2 February 1897 he was appointed prefect that same year at Rockwell, and from 1898 to 1901 he prefected at Blackrock. He and his brothers, Thomas and David, feature in the photograph taken at Orly in 1902 of the Irish members of the two novitiate years 1901 and 1902. Ordained in 1905 John was appointed the following year to Trinidad, but he had to spend some time in a sanatorium in France to cope with tuberculosis. He was to teach at St Mary's for 28 years - mathematics and languages being his subjects. For a number of years he was also Dean of discipline with the duty to foster and supervise sports. He devoted his free periods to parish ministry, especially at Trinidad's ancient capital, St Joseph's, where he acted as assistant to Fr James McDonnell, q.v. His recurring malaria flared up at a time when his system was weakened by illness and he succumbed to the attack, dying 15 May 1937 aged 58 years. He was buried in Trinidad. *BG*, 38, 497; *SpWW* 438.

#### **O'BRIEN, Fr Michael 1868-1894**

Born in Clogheen, Co. Tipperary, 15 December 1868, Michael came to the boarding school in Rockwell in 1882 and after three years joined the juniorate. Quoting from the brief notice about him in the *Freeman's Journal*: 'His amiable disposition, his playful and winning ways and his talents which were as solid as they were brilliant, made him a general favourite.' But the killer disease of the age - TB, had no such favourites. It was realised after his ordination and profession in 1893 that his condition was critical. He was stationed at Blackrock as being the community which might be in the best position to care for him. It is reported that 'he fought the disease for a year, edifying all by his patience and perfect resignation, and that his sense of humour gave a charm to his life to the last'. Fr Michael O'Brien died 24 September 1894 aged 26 years. He was buried in Deansgrange. *BG* V 122; *BCCJ*.

#### **O'BRIEN, Br Rumold (Patrick) 1848-1920**



Born 22 February, 1848 in Kilmaley, Ennis, Co. Clare, Pat selected the occupation which he saw was most likely to put himself at the centre of social life so as to be well informed. He decided that being a master tailor was the only such occupation within his grasp. He served as an apprentice to a master tailor in Clare in 1863. In 1867 he went for further training as a cutter in Dublin. He later moved to Manchester and worked for periods in Leicester, Worcester and London, climbing higher in the social scale in his clientele. Then, finding that such a career really led to



nowhere he opted for the religious life. He tried the Christian Brothers. That type of life closed too many doors for him. He turned up at Blackrock in December 1875 asking to be allowed join the Brothers. Being a master tailor he found the doors were wide open for him. In 1876 he was sent to the demi-novitiate at Rockwell and then to Chevilly where he was professed. In 1879 he was appointed to Pittsburgh, USA. The German superior there was more interested in someone who could do the shopping errands, act as infirmarian, scrub the floors and look after the housekeeping. As an after thought there was some little tailoring to be done. Br Rumold, as he was now known, protested against such treatment; he refused to doff the soutane while working. All this landed him back at Cellule in France where he was very far removed from the madding crowd. His French superior could make no fist of him. Neither could they at the college in Epinal. He was on the move again, to Merville College where the services of a master tailor were not high on their list of priorities as they struggled to keep the college afloat. Beauvais College was the next stop on Br Rumold's tour. It proved a longer stop than expected. He found himself in his element with a large community, with teachers as well as students needing to be clothed, and a number of apprentice tailors - young Brothers - there to learn the trade and do the work. Rumold did the talking and he seems to have been quite a raconteur. The bottom fell out of this world when in 1902 the anti-clerical government of Emile Combes decided to close schools run by religious. Returning to Ireland, Blackrock proved a welcome haven once more for him. He just picked up the threads from his regime in Beauvais; he took charge of the tailoring department and regaled all who had time to listen with hilarious anecdotes from this travels abroad, especially in France. Displayed in his workshop were his Certificates and an extract from a writeup from some local paper dated 1902. Rumold tried his hand at composing verses on mundane topics. Yet behind all this act he was seen to be a serious minded man who was faithful to the regular religious observance. And when he felt the end was approaching he sent for his confessor, made his confession and asked to receive the last rites. Br Rumold O'Brien died 15 September 1920 aged 72 years, but his memory lived on in many a humorous anecdote as long as those who knew him lived. And it was stories like these which helped create and foster a family tradition. Quite a collection of his letters survive in his dossier in the General Archives, Chevilly, where he defends himself against superiors who did not appreciate his talents. He was buried in Deansgrange. (He may have been related to Br Benignus Connellan from the same locality; his mother was Kate Connellan). *BG XXX 911; SpWW 274*

### **O'BRIEN, Fr Thomas F. 1871-1928**



Born 23 February 1871 in Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, Tom was the first of three brothers who were to be ordained priests in the congregation. Tom entered Rockwell as a boarder at the age of 14 in 1885 and was one of seven students who changed from the boarding school to the Juniorate in January 1887, influenced by the personality and the recruiting zeal of Br Dalmas Colgan. When the Juniorate was closed in Rockwell, 1888-90, because of the decline in the fortunes of the college, the scholastics were transferred to Blackrock. This, incidentally, was one of the reasons why Joseph Shanahan, then in Beauvais, was not able to join his brother Michael in the Juniorate at Blackrock: it was bursting at the seams at that time. Tom, who had made his mark already in Rockwell by winning several exhibitions in the public examinations, continued his studies under the RUI system and acted as editor of the literary magazine (ms), 'The Gleaner', produced by the

scholastics under the aegis of Fr George Lee. Tom also played title roles in *Rienzi* and in *Richard the Third* produced by the scholastics. In 1890 he returned to Rockwell as prefect where his ability and zeal played no small part in the recovery programme put into operation by the new Dean of studies, Dr Edward Crehan. In 1893 he started his senior studies at Langonnet under Fr John O'Gorman, future bishop in Sierra Leone. Tom volunteered to go to Sierra Leone in 1894 when Br Adelm, Bishop Shanahan's uncle, had to give up teaching there due to illness. Tom's offer was not accepted by the director, Fr F.X. Libermann, but a year later, when Tom was by then in Chevilly, he was asked by the director, Fr Henri Vanhaecke, was he still ready to go on the foreign missions. This time he was called on to go as prefect in the college in Lima, Peru. He agreed without any hesitation. Two years later, when the college closed its doors, Tom was asked to transfer to Trinidad as prefect. Again he accepted without demur. It was only as the new century started that he was free to start his novitiate in Grignon where he was conspicuous not merely by his maturity in years but also by his uncommon spirit of prayer and self-denial. In the photo taken, 11th November 1901, of the Irish scholastics, we have the three O'Brien brothers featured, Thomas, David and John. Ordained in 1903, Fr Tom was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he was director of the Juniorate for one year in succession to Fr Hugh Evans. In 1904 he was appointed Master of novices in the new novitiate opened in Prior Park, Bath. He was called the following year to cross the seas, this time to take over as director of the Juniorate in Pittsburgh, USA. Next, he served on the Irish Mission Band operating from the provincial house at Clareville. St Mary's, Rathmines, claimed his services for two years, 1912-14, and for the following two years he served in the parish confided to the Congregation in Peasley Cross, Lancashire. During the war he, like his brother David, became an Army Chaplain; he served in Salonika, 1916-18. After the Armistice, 1918-20, he went as chaplain with a troopship to India, to Mauritius and to Japan. He was awarded the Military Medal (M.C.) and the O.B.E., and was several times mentioned in despatches. These matters were never mentioned by Fr Tom himself, who was a very shy and modest man. On retiring from his military chaplaincy he went to the USA to work again with the Mission Band there. Worn out, he was forced to take a rest in 1923 and he spent the year at Rockwell. 1924 saw him in a new role as editor of the *Missionary Annals*, residing at St Mary's, Rathmines, which after the closure of the school in 1916 had become the provincialate and the centre from which the Promotions team operated. Fr Tom brought his many gifts to fruition in this new and congenial post. He worked himself literally to death at the job. Like the founder of the *Missionary Annals*, Fr T.A. Pembroke, Tom died in his sleep to the shock of all who had known him. Quoting a paragraph from the splendid tribute paid to him in *Annals* by his confrère Dr James O'Neill: "He was a gentle, loveable personality, full of charm, and enlivened by a daintily grave sense of humour. Refined, artistic, fastidious, he was retiring and sensitive, almost to a fault. Yet for all his gentleness and self-effacement, there was about him a certain quiet, self-contained virility that could, at need, make him firmly uncompromising. Finally, his large and generous sympathy for the poor and the distressed, was from start to finish, an outstanding trait of his character." Fr Thomas O'Brien died 13 December 1928 aged 57 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *MA* 1929, reprinted in *RCA*, 1930, 27ff; *BG*, 34, 268ff; *SpWW*, 352.

### **O'BRIEN, Fr Turlough 1914-1966**



Born 15 June 1914 in Morley Terrace, Waterford City, Terry did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1929-33. where he received the habit of the Congregation in 1932. He then went to Kilshane, being one of the first group to do their novitiate there under Fr, later Archbishop, J.J.McCarthy. After Philosophy he did two years prefecting at Blackrock, 1937-39, and having completed his course in 1943 Fr Terry set out for Nigeria. The voyage to Africa in those days was a testing experience as the troop-carriers tried to avoid the attentions of enemy submarines. Fr Terry was stationed at Ahiara, Owerri, till his return to Ireland. In 1950 he was appointed director of St Michael's school, then attached to Blackrock. He immediately set about reorganising the programme of primary studies, calling on professional advice. He had not the opportunity to put his plans into action as the following year he was appointed director of the Junior School at St Mary's, Rathmines. St Michael's loss was St Mary's gain: Fr Terry drew on his prepared programme and was always known to have a progressive approach to improving the management of the school. This extended to working sedulously at the fund-raising drive to provide adequate classroom accommodation. Here he demonstrated his ability to motivate others to join with him in this project. Fr Terry's health was far from perfect, but it was not discovered that he was suffering from diabetes until he had developed pneumonia. Complications led to his unexpected and deeply regretted death 15 March 1966 aged 51 years. He was buried in Kimmage. It was said of him: "Here was a good priest, a faithful religious and a gentle man always, and he endeared himself to the hosts of young boys who passed through his hands." *St MIA*, 1966

### **O'BRIEN, Timothy Bernard 1923-2001**



Born on 20 August 1923 in Clontarf, Dublin, he later went to live in Nenagh. Tim did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1937-43. Professed in Kilshane in 1944 he was ordained to the priesthood in 1950. The following year he was appointed to Onitsha Diocese, Nigeria. He served first as assistant at St Mary's, Port Harcourt at Ezinehite and Ohaji parishes. His final posting was to St Patrick's parish at Awo Onamna. He had to leave Nigeria unexpectedly and in a hurry when the Biafra war broke out. It was a traumatic experience for him. Returning to Ireland in 1968 he served for three years in the Diocese of Ossory. He was then transferred to the community at Ardracran where he served as superior. He was a teacher in the Vocational School Navan until a heart attack obliged him to retire from that post in 1975. When he ceased to be Superior in 1980 he was appointed chaplain at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan and continued in this ministry until ill health forced him to retire in 1997. Tim's life centred on a number of great loves: his family, his congregation, his priesthood and his people. His great love of music stayed with him to the end. Even when he was ill or on holidays it was seen that his day centred round his recitation of the office and mass. He had a special devotion to Our Lady and was happy to have acted as chaplain to pilgrimages to Lourdes on over thirty occasions. Many stories were told at his funeral about his commitment to others, especially those in trouble of any kind. He described himself as a 'sacramental priest.' Bouts of illness finally obliged him to go to Marian House where he died on 10 February 2001 aged

77 years. Fr Timothy was buried in the Rockwell community cemetery. IPrNI No. 2, 2001Arch; KSNM No. 300

**O'BOYLE, Fr Anthony Oliver 1950-2001**



Born in Shragraddy, Bangor-Erris, Ballina, Co. Mayo, on the 8th July 1950 Tony did his secondary school studies at St. Muredach's College, Ballina. His First Profession was in Kilshane on 8 September 1970. Following his philosophy studies at Milltown Park he prefected for two years in Rockwell College (1972-74). He returned to Kimmage Manor for Theology. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 19 June 1977. After ordination he attended the Development Studies Centre at Kimmage Manor. Fr Tony's first appointment was to Sierra Leone. He was in parish ministry first at Kailahun and then at Segbwema and Kenema. In 1990 Tony took a sabbatical year at St. Anselm's in England and then returned to Sierra Leone to serve as Spiritual Director in the Major Seminary at Makeni. He remained at Makeni until the seminary was closed due to the civil war in the country. After 14 years in Sierra Leone Tony returned to Ireland in 1995, and joined the Pastoral Team of Bawnogue Parish in Dublin. In 1997 the people of Bawnogue celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving and Mission of Father Tony. Tony then took up an appointment in Malawi. There he was appointed by SCAF to the post of Spiritual Director at the Inter Congregational Seminary at Balaka in Blantyre Hospital, Malawi. Suffering from an embolism, Fr Tony was taken unconscious to Blantyre Hospital. Fr. Lockey Flanagan spent the night with him there. At one stage Tony rallied for a while; he recognised Lockey and they prayed together. He died on 17 October 2001 and was buried at the Balaka Seminary where he had worked.

**O'BRIEN, Timothy Bernard 1923-2001**



Born on 20 August 1923 in Clontarf, Dublin, he later went to live in Nenagh. Tim did his secondary studies in Rockwell College, 1937-43. Professed in Kilshane in 1944 he was ordained to the priesthood in 1950. The following year he was appointed to Onitsha Diocese, Nigeria. He served first as assistant at St Mary's, Port Harcourt at Ezinehite and Ohaji parishes. His final posting was to St Patrick's parish at Awo Onamna. He had to leave Nigeria unexpectedly and in a hurry when the Biafra war broke out. It was a traumatic experience for him. Returning to Ireland in 1968 he served for three years in the Diocese of Ossory. He was then transferred to the community at Ardraccan where he served as superior. He was a teacher in the Vocational School Navan until a heart attack obliged him to retire from that post in 1975. When he ceased to be Superior in 1980 he was appointed chaplain at Our Lady's Hospital Navan and continued in this ministry until ill health forced him to retire in 1997. Tim's life centred on a number of great loves: his family, his congregation, his priesthood and his people. His great love of music stayed with him to the end. Even when he was ill or on holidays it was seen that his day centred round his recitation of the office and mass. He had a special devotion to Our Lady and was happy to have acted as chaplain to pilgrimages to Lourdes on over thirty occasions. Many stories were told at his funeral about his commitment to others, especially those in trouble of any kind. He described himself as a 'sacramental priest.' Bouts of illness finally obliged him to go to Marian House where he died on 10 February 2001 aged

77 years. Fr Timothy was buried in the Rockwell community cemetery. IPrNI No. 2, 2001Arch; KSNM No. 300

### **O'CALLAGHAN, Fr Daniel P. 1913-1950**



Born 3 September 1913 in Mayor's Walk, Waterford, Donal did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1926-1931. He was recalled by his contemporaries as 'intelligent, ruddy, fair-haired, hard working, had-playing, elusive on the football field and an intrepid bundle of muscle as a gymnast.' Professed in 1932 he went on to study at Kimmage and at UCD where he secured the BA in 1935. As he cycled home from the university on one occasion his gymnastic training saved him from serious injury when thrown from his bicycle in front of an oncoming tram. After one year as prefect in Rockwell he started Theology in 1936 and was ordained in 1939. Appointed to Nigeria Fr Donal served in Owerri. He was principal of Stella Maris College, Port Harcourt, when he was involved in a fatal accident while travelling on a motor-cycle. It was written about him: "Those who were privileged to be his colleagues in the Senior Scholasticate and on the missions will be mindful of Fr Donal's devotedness in his scholastic and priestly duties, the amazing degree of perfection to which he had brought his missionary educational work, his supernatural comradeship, the dry wit, the calm and placid will to carry on even in serious illness. He died at his station with his fellow missionaries around him, in full possession of his faculties until the end, answering the prayers which were being said on his behalf." Fr Donal O'Callaghan was 37 years when he died 7 November 1950. RCA 1951, 74.

### **O'CARROLL, Fr Patrick 1907-1967**



Born 8 December 1907 in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, Pat studied at Blackrock, 1922-25, at a time when the college was entering a dynamic phase under Fr Edward Leen as Dean of studies and Fr Bertie Farrell as Director of the Juniorate. Professed in Kimmage 1926 he was appointed as prefect at St Mary's, Rathmines, which was then in the process of reopening after an enforced closure of ten years. In 1929 he began his studies of philosophy and theology at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained priest in 1934. He was then sent to Rome to study at the Gregorian University where he took the D.D. The subject he took for his degree was 'Divine Providence in the Church's Magesterium'. Returning to Ireland in 1937 he was appointed director of theologians in succession to Fr John Kearney, thus bringing to a close an era begun in 1918. His arrival also helped to infuse a welcome note of humanity into the house because of his youth and infectious humour. He also held the post of professor of Moral Theology and taught Liturgy. After the unexpected death of Fr Edward Leen in November 1944, he was called on to succeed him as Superior while also serving as Director. Again in 1947, on the resignation of Fr Michael Finnegan as provincial superior, Fr O'Carroll was appointed in his place. During his term of office as provincial the problem of providing suitable accommodation for returned missionaries at Kimmage was solved with the building of the White House, and a separate location for the Brothers' Novitiate was secured at Ardbraccan, Co. Meath. To familiarise himself with mission conditions and needs he made a tour of missions in West Africa. When his term ended in 1956 he was appointed to the USA where he taught for a period at Duquesne. In 1957 he was appointed Superior of Notre-Dame High School, Riverside, Cal., and in 1963 he

became Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers attached to St Francis de Sales' High School, Chicago. While there he became a founder member of the Chicago Priests' Association - a body which was to form the nucleus of the American Priests' Association. Fr Pat had the gift of a cordial and unaffected interest in people, which proved a great help in administration and in his ministry. He was a man who radiated peace and confidence. His two favourite themes in his public talks were the efficacy of Divine Providence and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. While director in Kimmage he had published a booklet on the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He had to suffer for some years from an illness, uraemia, which was to encompass his death 26 October 1967 aged 59 years. He was buried in the USA. Fr Patrick O'Carroll was a brother of Fr Michael CSSp. *BCA* 1968 30f; *SpWW* 799.

#### **O'Carroll, Father Michael John 1911-2004**

Michael was born in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1911. After his secondary school studies at Blackrock Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kimmage where he made his first profession on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1929. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. in 1932 and then prefectured in Rockwell College from 1932-33 and in St. Mary's for 1933-34. He received the H.Dip in Ed. in 1934. Michael studied Theology at Fribourg where he graduated with a Doctorate in Divinity. He was ordained to the Priesthood on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1937 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate in Fribourg on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1939. In 1939 Father Michael was appointed to the teaching staff at **Blackrock College**. For many years he was Dean of the Castle and Editor of the College Annual. Father Michael was an excellent teacher. He taught French, Latin, English, History and Religion. He would ask his pupils to ask him the hardest questions they could think of and we are told that he was always equal to the task. He was entirely dedicated and achieved some very notable results. Countless students and staff members held him in very high esteem. Fr. Michael was a man of prodigious and apparently inexhaustible energy. Nothing was too much for him; daily ministry, preaching retreats, lecturing, radio talks and writing. He was a prolific writer. His first pamphlet was published in 1940, *The Secret of Knock*. This **Marian theme** was to be his passion for the rest of his life. In an interview in 1998 when asked what gives him the greatest pride? "That I have written so much on Our Lady". And his greatest regret? "That I should have written more." His published twenty-four books include; *Life of Edward Leen*, *Saint Joseph*, *Francis Libermann*, the Marian encyclopaedia *Theotokos*, *Corpus Christi* - a study on the Eucharist, *Life from the East*. His last volume *A Priest in Changing Times* is a reflection on the variety and breath of his own life. Fr. Michael was an International figure and served as secretary of the International Association of Priests. He had a deep commitment to **Ecumenism**. He will be remembered as one who pioneered inter-faith bodies which promoted dialogue- the *Mercier Society* between Catholics-Protestants and *Pillar of Fire Society* between Catholics and Jews. Maynooth College recognised Fr. Michael's distinguished career by conferring him with an Honorary Divinity Doctorate in 1995. Father Michael 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004 in Blackrock Clinic, Dublin. He is buried in the Community Grave at Shanganagh.

### **O'CARROLL, Fr Thomas 1860-1912**



Born 17 July in Graiguevalla House, Rathdowney, Co. Offaly, Thomas was twenty years of age when he came to Blackrock as a boarder in January 1879. He soon opted for the Juniorate and on completing his studies he prefectured at Blackrock 1881-83. He then went to France to begin his studies for the priesthood, but these were interrupted when he was asked to do another year as prefect at Blackrock, 1886-87. Professed at Orly in 1890 he was appointed to Bathurst, The Gambia, but he seems to have moved early on to Sierra Leone where he worked at Bonthe. Always rather independent and somewhat abrasive, he clashed with Bishop Maagloire Barthet. In 1893 he returned to Europe and was appointed to the USA. He taught in the High School in Pittsburgh and served the special parish for blacks at St. Benedict the Moor. Nine years later we find him teaching in Portugal in the colleges at Braga and Oporto. From 1902 he was attached to the college at Langonnet. Then in 1906 he returned to work in Sierra Leone being assigned to Moyamba Mission. Tuberculosis this time forced his return to Europe. Fr Thomas O'Carroll died at Langonnet 12 May 1912 aged 52 years. He was buried in Langonnet. *BG*, XXVI, 667; *SpWW*, 206.

### **O'CONNELL, Fr Daniel A. 1917-1972**



Born 31 December 1917 in Grovesnor Sq., Dublin, Dan did his secondary studies at Synge Stand at Blackrock, 1933-36. Professed at Kilshane in 1937 he did 1<sup>st</sup> Arts the following year at UCD and then prefectured at Blackrock for two years. Continuing his university course he obtained the BA in 1943. He did Theology at Kimmage, being ordained in 1945. Appointed to Nigeria in 1946 Fr Dan was to give 23 years of packed service to that mission. The early years were spent in the Port Harcourt area, for a period in charge of Stella Maris College in that town and later in the Abonoma area, a huge territory where the only mode of transport was by river or creeks. It was a lonely life where he often found himself a hundred miles from his nearest confrere. It was a very demanding life as he travelled continuously trying to keep in contact with his scattered flock. In 1953 he was transferred to Elele on the Northern side of Port Harcourt. At last he had a house of his own. There were some roads so that he could use a bicycle and later a motor cycle, but the territory was vast and the work demanding. The area was the size of County Cork and the conversions so numerous that within a few years of his work there, several parishes had to be set up. In 1953 Bishop Joseph Whelan asked Dan to take charge of the parish of Mbieri in the heart of the Owerri country. This was a densely populated area with an extensive network of schools which entailed a lot of administration work. There were some 200 primary-school teachers to be supervised as well as endless pastoral work with baptisms, confessions, sick-calls, examination for confirmation, adult catechism classes to be organised and taught. On Sundays he said three masses and distributed some 2000 Holy Communions, besides dealing with endless 'palavers, crises and the problems that are the lot of a missionary establishing the church'. In 1967 the Civil War brought extra problems, not the least being the constant threat of starvation. Children died in their hundreds. People recalled how Fr Dan doubled his efforts as he suffered with his people during this crisis. At the end of the war he found that he had to quit Nigeria. He worked for a year in New York but



he wanted to return to the missions. He volunteered for one of the most demanding - new Guinea. Illness delayed his departure. A visit to the Hospital of Tropical Medicine in London revealed that his illness was incurable. The news shocked all who knew him, recalling his many outstanding traits, his openness and uprightness of character, his enthusiasm for work, his generosity with people, his constant cheerfulness and good-humour. He had spent himself in the service of the Lord and, though he was rearing to go and repeat that service in pastures new, the Lord called Fr Daniel O'Connell to himself 2 September 1972 aged 54 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1973 250f; *SpWW* 539.

#### **O'CONNELL, Fr Eugene 1886-1936**



Born 27 September 1886 in Ballinaskill, Co. Laois, Eugene studied at Blackrock, 1899-1907. Professed at Chevilly, 1908, he professed at Blackrock, 1908-11. He was among the first group of senior scholastics to attend the new National University College at Earlsfort Terrace while residing in the recently acquired property at Kimmage Manor. This was part of Fr John T Murphy's strategy to start the Irish Province off on a quality basis. Eugene secured his BA, 1913, and then because of his delicate health was sent to Fribourg to do Theology. Blessed with a splendid voice he did much to lift the morale of the community when he was given charge of organising the liturgy. He was ordained in 1916 and made his final consecration to the apostolate the following year. His first appointment was to the Irish Mission band in the USA but after one year he was transferred to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he was to serve for the rest of his life. He was appointed Dean of discipline in 1922 and was given charge of the Sodality of Our Lady, through which he had a marked influence on the students. It was written about him: "There seemed to be a magnetic atmosphere in his approach to people, suggesting a soul fully at peace with God and man." He helped at parish work where he was very welcome and took over as assistant to Fr James McDonnell in St Joseph's parish when Fr John O'Brien became ill. Fr Eugene took ill himself shortly after and soon it was obvious that his condition was critical. Fr Eugene O'Connell died 23 October 1936 aged 50 years and was buried in Trinidad. BCArch; *BG* 38, 495f; *SpWW* 432.

#### **O'CONNOR, Fr James 1862-1892**



Born 7 May 1862 at Meenbanivan, Co. Kerry, James entered Rockwell as a student 8 Jan. 1879, and went to the Senior Scholasticate at Chevilly, 1885. Ordained in 1889 Fr James did his novitiate at Grignon being professed in 1890. Having shown signs that he was affected by tuberculosis he was sent to Trinidad as was the custom then in the hopes that the climate might arrest the progress of the disease. Fr James Browne, the first Irishman to be superior of the community, soon had to report that Fr O'Connor's health continued to cause concern. He succumbed to the killer disease 10 Feb. 1892 aged 30, and was buried in Trinidad. Fr James O'Connor was a brother of Bartholomew (+1892) and Fr Patrick (+1917), and was an uncle of Fr Kerry Keane CSSp. *BG XVI* 407



### **O'CONNOR, Fr John C. 1916-1976**

JC was born 10 December 1916 in Cratloe East, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick - a fruitful nursery of Spiritan vocations. Having entered the Juniorate in Rockwell at a slightly later age than the average, he then went on after profession in 1937 to receive an honours BSc in Botany and Chemistry, 1941, and then the MSc in Botany, 1943. His first appointment was to the district of Zanzibar in 1947, and he continued his missionary work in East Africa at Mangu High School and in Nairobi as assistant in Our Lady of Visitation parish. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in 1964.



Despite poor health he taught for periods in Rockwell and Templeogue, and served as chaplain to the Irish Christian brothers in Balheary while teaching in Swords vocational school. His final appointment was as chaplain to the Christian Brothers' Novitiate, Baldoye, where his conferences were greatly appreciated by the novices and community. To prepare the better for his work of spiritual direction and retreat-giving, he did an intensive course on counselling in Marianella in 1976. Always interested in the affairs of the Congregation, very shortly before his death he forwarded some enlightened suggestions and comments to the preparatory commission for the recent Irish Chapter. Fr JC, who has been described as the most kindly and gentle of men, had been suffering from an angina condition for many years. He died suddenly 11 June 1976 aged 59 years and was buried in Kimmage. *RCA* 1977 89; *IPNI* 1976 No. 23.

### **O'CONNOR, Fr John Joseph T. 1940-1975**

Born 7 March 1940 in Whitehall, Co. Dublin, Seán did his secondary studies at Coláiste Mhuire. He contracted polio and when he applied for admission to the congregation he was advised to pursue his studies first at UCD. He persevered in his desire to be a missionary and was admitted to the novitiate in 1962. Ordained in 1970 he was very anxious, in spite of his disability, that he be appointed to a mission territory. He was posted to Sierra Leone where he taught in Segbwema secondary school of the Sacred Heart and was noted for his continued house visitation in the district. His health deteriorated but he was reluctant to admit defeat. When eventually he was admitted to hospital for surgery it was discovered that his illness was terminal. A confrere summoned to his death bed made the sixty mile dash arriving in time to administer the sacraments to him. Fr Seán O'Connor died 18 May aged 35 years. *IPNI* No.18, June 1975



### **O'CONNOR, Fr Michael A. 1885-1957**

Born 2 May 1885 in Gleann Seathrúin, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, (Red) Mick came to Rockwell at the age of 13 in 1897. He was soon recognised as a student of promise and when the juniorate was suppressed the following year to make room for a senior scholasticate, Michael, together with Edward Leen and some other bright students, was retained in the boarding school when the rest, including Pádraic O'Conaire, Dick Harnett, John English etc., were transferred to Blackrock. Fr O'Connor's life-long admiration for his school companion, Ned Leen, began early. They both excelled at Classics and as prefects played on the Rockwell club team. The Juniorate was re-established in 1900 after the failure of the experimental senior scholasticate,



and Fr Hugh Evans began his long stint in the work of formation as he was appointed Director of the juniorate which Red Mick and Ned Leen rejoined. This was the time when Fr Joseph Shanahan was Dean of discipline, and all students of the period had the highest regard for him. With the attempt in 1904 to start a novitiate for the English-speaking scholastics, Mick was among the first group to go to Prior Park where Fr John T Murphy was Superior and Fr David O'Brien was Master of Novices. After one year's Philosophy at Chevilly, Mick was appointed to Rockwell as prefect in 1906. From the outset he was to prove an excellent teacher of the ancient Classics. He was highly praised by a visiting Inspector for the standard attained by his students in Greek, an assessment which was borne out by the results in the public examinations. Among his fellow prefects were the Leen brothers, Ned and James, Dan Murphy, Denis Joy and James Mellett. Forever after, Fr Mick regaled confreres with anecdotes about those years, and most of these seemed to centre on Mellett who proved an unintentional comedian. Mick, like many others, had begun part of his university course under the RUI before going on to the novitiate. With the establishment of NUI these students were allowed to continue where they had left off years earlier. He qualified for the BA in 1912 and then went to Chevilly to start Theology, being among the last Irish group to do so. Once again Fr Mick never tired of relating anecdotes about this international seminary, dominated of course by the French, but where the Irish and the Portuguese made their distinctive contributions, often to the intended bewilderment of the French directors. One of his more hilarious anecdotes was about when the Irish complained that the soup tureens were over-due for replacement. The director shopped around and came back with a set of vessels obviously meant for the bedside rather than for the table. When the Irish refused to take their soup from them, he protested in desperation : 'But they have never been used!' The onset of World War I brought more serious problems. The Irish opted for early ordination, so Mick was ordained in September having completed but two years theological studies. After one year at Langonnet he was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1915, and on the closure of the college he left for Sierra Leone in 1916. Appointed by Mgr John O'Gorman to Bonthe on Sherbo, he had as colleague his former fellow-prefect at Rockwell, Dave Lloyd. Fr Mick built up a very successful primary school in a short time, so successful that it provoked jealous opposition. It was ill-health, however, in the form of the 'flu which followed the Great War, which forced him to come to Freetown to recuperate. His presence there inspired Mgr O'Gorman to launch the first Catholic high school, St Edward's. Fr Mick's great talents and application helped lay the sure foundations of the success of St Edward's in the academic and athletic arenas. In 1922 ill-health forced him to return to Europe and the effects of the black water fever were to remain with him for the rest of his life. Not that his activity was notably diminished. On recovering sufficient strength he took to touring Ireland on promotional work for his mission, editing the *Missionary Annals* etc. His cheerful talks, backed up with lantern slides and a vivid delivery, were long remembered wherever he went. From 1925 to 1930 he was attached to the teaching staff of Blackrock where he served under his former classmate Dr Edward Leen. This partnership brought out the best from Fr Mick in class, as Dean of the Day-school, and in his support of sporting activities of all sorts. He was a man of strong loyalties and uncomplicated judgements trenchantly expressed. When asked for his memories of superiors he had known, he volunteered this typical if oversimplistic comment: 'Ned Leen had always to try to remember that he was president; McQuaid could never forget it.' His heart was in Sierra Leone to where he returned in 1930. Stationed at St Edward's, he took over the management of the school in 1932 to allow

Fr Con Mulcahy take a well-earned holiday. Then Fr Mick felt free to return to Sherbo once more to rejoin Fr Dave Lloyd. But only for two years. The climate of Sierra Leone had undermined his health. Though he loved the people and was loved in return he was well aware of certain weaknesses. This he epitomised jokingly when he said that the only truthful statement he saw in Freetown was the misspelt notice in a shop window: "Foul eggs!". In 1935 he was posted to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he took his place once more in the classroom under the direction of his contemporary in Rockwell, Fr Leonard Graf, the Dean of studies. His skills as a teacher were much appreciated, but once more the climate proved too much for him. He was on the move again, this time to Duquense University, Pittsburgh, where he put in two years service on the teaching staff there before taking up pastoral work at St Joachim's, Detroit, where his former teacher in Rockwell, Fr Henri Blanchot, had served for eight years. Transferred to Holy Spirit parish in North Tiverton, RI, Fr Mick worked for three years until recurring ill-health obliged him in 1946 to return to Ireland. Once again he managed to muster sufficient energy to take up duty in the classroom at Blackrock. He had the same zest for sport and amazed people with his phenomenal power of recall for names and scores in sporting events. A new generation of boys more familiar with the film world soon christened him 'Barry Fitzgerald' because of his resemblance to the well-known Irish film actor. He was now less of a success in teaching the new generation, but had lost none of his ability in coming up with instant ripostes that from another might provoke resentment but faced with his patent lack of venom, laughter was the only appropriate response. One example: Critical of his perceived less than totally impartial refereeing he took Fr Tom Maguire to task for his rather one-eyed vision in his refereeing of an Under 13 match. 'I tried to be as fair as I could', was the limp reply, only to be hit for six with: 'Even if you were telling lies since you were under 13 yourself you have told the truth at last!' Suffering from serious trouble of the pancreas and a heart condition, the final whistle blew for Fr Mick 15 June 1957 at the age of 72. He was buried in Kimmage. Shortly before he passed away a close friend went to his room to announce that 'Rock had just won the Leinster Senior Cricket Cup, an event he had earnestly hoped for. He waved the visitor away as if he were already in sight of the Elysian Fields of his Classical studies. *RJR; RCA 1957 47ff; SpWW 673; CIC Annual 1958 33f.*

**O'CONNOR, Fr Michael C.**

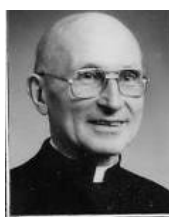
**1892-1978**



Born 12 August 1892 in Gortroe, Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, (Black) Mick came to Rockwell in 1910. Professed in Kimmage in 1917 he studied at St Mary's, Rathmines, and at UCD, taking the BA in 1920. Ordained in 1923 in St Mary's, Fr Mick was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar the following year and was to spend all his long life in the service of the missions in East Africa, apart from a short period working with the Promotions team in Ireland. He worked at Bagomoyo with Fr Eugene Butler, later bishop, Frs Patrick Wallis and J.J. McCarthy, later Archbishop. In 1927 we find him stationed at Giriama. And later at Mhonda where there were over 3,000 parishioners in his mission. When the Dutch Fathers were entrusted with the care of Bagomoyo, he came to the Vicariate of Zanzibar with Fr Bill Danaher, and later moved on to Nairobi. He served for a period at Giriama and in 1968 he was attached to St Peter Claver's. He was among those who helped Edel Quinn when she arrived to organise the Legion of Mary in East Africa. He served for a period in the Island of Pemba and later was pastor of the newly established parish Our Lady of the Visitation in Nairobi. In a few years there were 10,000 parishioners and some 2,000 students

being taught by 55 teachers in this new parish. He has been variously described as being gentleman, a man without any resentment, one whose serenity was very striking, a magnanimous man who seemed to bear a perpetual smile. He was made a "Mzee" in the land of the Wazee. Naturally, after his long life lived in changing times for church and state, he had his memories and was ever ready to recall some of them. In later years he suffered from depression, associated some said by the unexpected death of his friend, Fr James Flynn. Fr Michael was long known as 'Black' Mick to distinguish him from his fellow-countyman, Fr 'Red' Mick O'Connor. Fr Michael died 20 December 1978 aged 86 years. *IPNI*, 36, Feb. '79; *État*; *RCA*, 1980.

### **O'CONNOR, Fr Michael Joseph 1915-1992**



Born 6 April 1915 in Dingle, Co. Kerry, Michael did his secondary studies in Rockwell and was among the first group to their novitiate in Kilshane being professed in 1935. After Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, Michael prefect in Rockwell. Ordained in 1943 he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. Fr Michael served for some time in the multinational Parish on the island of Zanzibar and then worked in St Mary's School in Nairobi, teaching and taking charge of the liturgy which was to be a life-long interest. From 1949 to 1951 he was at Klunga where as well as pastoral work he took charge of the Teacher Training School. While travelling by car with the two White brothers, Fr Jim and Fr Paul he mentioned that he had refused the application of a teacher who had been recommended by Fr Jim. Till then the two Whites had been engaged in a fraternal verbal slanging match with one another as was their wont, but then they both turned their guns on him! Michael was appointed to Pemba in 1951 and later to Makura where he did teaching and pastoral work. From 1958 to 1965 he was stationed at Makura again where he is listed as being involved with the press, in administration as well as in pastoral work. Returned to Ireland he was once again assigned to Rockwell where he was to serve in the class room and take care of the liturgy, a *métier* he had learned under the tutelage of Fr Edward O'Shea while prefecting. Fr Michael was to have problems with his health over the years but his death came suddenly just as he was coming from the opened oratory recently opened on the fathers' corridor for the convenience of the older members of the community. Fr Michael O'Connor was 77 years when he was called by the Lord 30 July 1992. *IPArch*; *IPNI* No. 4 1992

### **O'CONNOR, Fr Patrick 1890-1966**



Born 19 April 1890 in Marlborough St, Dublin, Paddy received his early education at the Carmelite Brothers' School, Monastery Rd, Clondalkin, He came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1901, and after Middle Grade in 1906 he joined the Juniorate. When his prefect, Denis Fahey, found it difficult to concentrate on his studies for the RUI examinations while supervising the junior study, he used cede his place at the rostrum to young Paddy, and a scowl from him was enough to keep would be trouble-makers mute. He was known to his companions as "The Mosquito" because of his rather diminutive size and his sharp tongue. He studied for the Matriculation, 1907-8, and after four years as prefect at Blackrock he entered the novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1913. He was ordained in 1919 by Bishop John O'Gorman, who was in Europe for the General Chapter. The following year Fr Paddy was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar and stationed at

Giriama, where he worked till 1927. He gave himself with all his energy to Giriama, setting about the work of understanding the people, and improving the mission buildings in spite of chronic lack of funds. Br Josaphat helped rebuild the mission house and put up a good stone school house, and Fr Paddy replaced the old mud-chapel with something more fitting. To the end of his life the people of his first mission remained in his heart. But his health forced him to withdraw from East Africa after seven years' service. Transferred to Trinidad, he taught for one year at St Mary's. Then it was back to Africa once more, this time to Nigeria, where he worked at Ogoja and Eke until 1935. His health once more obliged him to quit Africa. From 1935 to 1946 he resided at Blackrock and thereafter at Kimmage. His nerves made life difficult. This change in his disposition was commented on by his former schoolmate, Frank Duff, as follows: "When I first knew Paddy as a student at Blackrock he was a gnarled little fellow. I met him in later years and he had blossomed into a charming young priest. When I met him recently I found that he had become gnarled once more." Fr Paddy's mind remained active and he was ever ready for a serious discussion on theology or history, especially Irish history as the events immediately before and after 1916 had helped mould his outlook. He could be scarifying when commenting on the pro-British sentiments of writers about this period. Fr Paddy O'Connor, who had become one of the "characters" who enlivened the senior scholasticate for years and provided anecdotes for much longer, was called home by the Lord on the Feast of Our Lady to whom he was very devoted: he died 8 December 1966 aged 76 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1967, 30f; *SpWW* 777

#### **O'CONNOR, Fr Patrick 1878-1917**

Born 25 December 1878 in Meenbanivan, Co. Kerry, Patrick was a younger brother of Fr James (+1902) and Bartholomew who died while a senior scholastic (qv), and he was an uncle of Fr Kerry Keane CSSp. He entered the Holy Ghost College in Pittsburgh in 1896, and prefectured there for a year. After his profession in 1904 he did another year as prefect in Pittsburgh before going on to do Theology in Chevilly and later in Fribourg. Ordained in 1908 he was appointed the following year to the USA serving for periods in Cornwells and as assistant in the parish for blacks in Philadelphia. Like his older brothers he was affected with tuberculosis from which he died 20 January 1917 aged 38 years. *SpWW*,237; material supplied by his cousin Fr 'Red' Mick O'Connor.

#### **O'CONNOR Fr Patrick Joseph 1922-1995**



Born 19 June 1922, in Cranny, Co. Clare, P.J. received his secondary education in Rockwell, 1937-42. Professed in Kilshane in 1943 he took an Hons BA in Philosophy at UCD. Having begun Theology in Kimmage in 1946 he was ordained in 1949. During his years in Kimmage he played an active part in caring for the grounds, and was noted for his genial disposition and good humour, characteristics for which he was to be appreciated throughout his life. Appointed to Nigeria he was to work in the Owerri Diocese for the next twenty years, serving first at Mbutu and later at Emekuku. His last assignment was as pastor at Obibi. At the end of the Biafran war he was among those sentenced to six months imprisonment but was released after one week and deported. On being appointed to The Gambia he attended an intensive course in agriculture in Canada and from 1970 he taught commercial and community development at the Agricultural and Technical

College in Lamin while also being The Gambia representative of Caritas. On being obliged by ill health to quit the tropics he returned to Ireland where he became involved in parish ministry in Terryglass. Due to his inspiration the local town won the Tidy Towns Competition. Fr Patrick O'Connor died 19 June 1995 aged 73 years. IPArch: *SpNM*, No. 271.

### **O'Connor, Father Patrick Joseph 1924-2004**

Patrick was born at Ballyferriter, Dingle, Co. Kerry on July 16<sup>th</sup> 1924. He did his secondary school studies at St. Brendan's Killarney after which he entered the novitiate in Kilshane. He made his first profession in the Congregation on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1943. He studied philosophy at U.C.D. and was awarded a B.A. Hons, in 1946. He perfected in Rockwell College for the year 1946 – '47. He studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the priesthood on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1950. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1951. In 1951 Father P. J's first appointment was to **Nigeria**. He worked in the parish of *Nsu* in the Owerri area. He returned to Ireland in 1952 and spent some time at the farm in *Enfield*. In 1953 Fr. P.J. was appointed to **Blackrock College**. Being a native speaker he was fluent in Irish but found it hard to cope with the low standard of Irish among his students. He was perfectionist in all that he undertook. He joined up with old Br Gerald as a gardener in his spare time and became very expert in plants and flowers and took over care of the glass house where he tended grapes and some rare plants. He also took on leather work as a hobby and became an expert there too. Another hobby was repairing rosary beads for confreres and others. His main interest for a period was photography. He became a member of the Photographic Society of Ireland. He started a Camera Club in Willow where again he was seen to be a perfectionist. The Vatican Council gave P.J. a new interest as he purchased copies of the official documents and the best commentaries which he used for his class work and his homilies. He used spend the week preparing his Sunday homilies while assistant chaplain at the **Linden Convalescent Home**. His homilies in Irish at **Merrion Church** were highly appreciated – drawing people from other parishes once his expertise was known. P.J. was a great admirer of all things connected with his native county Kerry. He loved to play Irish music. Though low sized he was a useful Gaelic football player during his years in Kimmage. But his big cross was ill health. He suffered from an extreme form of diabetes which often landed him in comas day and night and requiring hospitalisation. Due to his failing health P.J. was admitted to Marian House during 2002. He died 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 in St. James's Hospital, Dublin. He is buried in the Community plot at Shanganagh.

### **O'CONNOR, Fr Philip 1889-1960**



Born 6 July 1889 in Milford, Co. Limerick, Phil studied at Blackrock, 1904-08, and perfected there, 1910-14. He then went to Kimmage Manor for his novitiate and his university studies at UCD. He began his Theology in France but finished his course in Ireland where he was ordained in 1919. He was among those who had the benefit of Monsig. Shanahan's fireside talks on the missions while he was recuperating from surgery in the months before his episcopal ordination at which Fr Phil assisted. Appointed to Nigeria the following year he set out with Bishop Shanahan and his team. There were several of Fr Phil's schoolmates at work in Nigeria but it was with two Alsatian missionaries, Frs Krafft and Biechy, that he

began his work at Anua. He travelled much to open new stations within a radius of 50 miles and he soon became a much loved personage, accepted by pagans as well as Christians because he radiated friendliness, kindness and peace. He was made head of Calabar mission station c.1924 but continued his work in the surrounding country. In 1930 he opened up a new station at Port Harcourt which was soon to become a major centre of evangelisation. He was approached by the members of St Patrick's Missionary Society at one period to take over direction of the society until they had sorted out their difficulties in choosing one of their own men. In 1940 he was appointed Religious Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Nigeria and held that post, together with Vicar Delegate of the bishop, until the Vicariate was divided and Onitsha and Owerri became distinct ecclesiastical territories in 1948. He then became Religious Superior of Owerri. In 1950 he was forced to retire to Ireland on medical advice. He was appointed superior of the Novitiate House in Kilshane, 1951-7, and then Spiritual Father for the senior Scholasticate in Kimmage where he remained till his death 19 April 1960 aged 69 years. He is buried in Kimmage. His life-long friend, confrère and fellow missionary in Nigeria, Fr Mellet, wrote of him: 'He passed through life like an angel of peace'. Fr Philip O'Connor was uncle of Frs William P. and David O'Connor. BCArch; BCA 1960 211f .

#### **O'CONNOR, Fr Ruairé 1945-1997**



Born 14 June 1945 in Dingle, Co. Kerry, Rory came to Blackrock as a boarder in 1958 and in 1963 he decided to enter the Congregation, following in the footsteps of his uncle Fr George Lahiffe CSSp. Having done Philosophy in Kimmage he prefectured at Willow Park, 1966-68. Ordained priest in 1971 he was appointed the following year to Kenya. He worked there in various ministries, teaching, parish ministry, retreat and youth work at Kereita Mission, Lari High School, Kamunga School, Queen of Apostles Seminary. For those who reached to him for advice, guidance and help, his patience and self-sacrifice was endless - especially the thousands of students deeply influenced by his prayerful explanation of the scripture, many of whom became priests in the Nairobi diocese. Until December 1979 he taught Scripture and was Chaplain to Catholic Students at Lari High School, Central Provinces, a school sponsored by the African Inland Mission Church. He then transferred to a well established Catholic High School at Kanunga, Kiambu. He went to the USA where he followed a course of studies and did pastoral work. Returning to Kenya he acted as chaplain at the Mater Hospital, Nairobi. A monument to him is the beautiful chapel at the hospital which he planned, fund-raised for and directed up to its completion only a few months before his death. His rather unexpected death was felt as a tragedy by all who had known him and the vast crowds who came for his funeral at the Holy Family Basilica, many from deprived backgrounds, bore eloquent testimony to the many lives he had touched and changed by his pastoral care and practical concern. Ruairé died 19 July 1997 aged 52 years. *BCA* 1980 p.66; *IP Obituaries* Nov. 1997.

### **O'CONNOR, Fr Thaddeus 1882-1959**



Born 16 November 1882 in Millstreet, Co. Cork, Thady came to Rockwell as a boarder in 1898 where he was classmate of Edward Leen, 'Red' Mick O'Connor and John English. He joined the Juniorate when it was reopened 1900 and was prefect, 1902-6. He captained the 1904 Rockwell Munster Cup Team 1904 which included the Ryan Brothers, Jack and Mike - former internationals - Edward Leen, and Eamon de Valera. The doings of that team on and off the field were the source of unending anecdotes at reunions in later years and Thady featured in most of them because of his dashing and daring disposition. He did his novitiate in Prior Park, Bath, with Fr Tom O'Brien as novice master, and he then went on to France for his senior studies. Ordained in 1911 he received his obedience the following year for Nigeria. His first appointment was to Holy Trinity, Onitsha-Waterside. He was called on by Fr Joseph Shanahan to launch the first training centre for teachers at Igbariam and he helped coach catechist Joe Delaney in philosophy and theology in preparation for his ordination in 1920. By then Fr Thady had been invalided home to Ireland, but as he recuperated at Blackrock he got actively involved in promotion work for Nigeria, giving illustrated lectures using the slides made with the assistance of Fr Jim Burke, who had coached him in this art when they were together in the senior scholasticate in Chevilly. He helped organise the Missionary Exhibition during the 'Donnybrook Fair' held at Blackrock in 1919, and was at hand to help organise Fr Joseph Shanahan's appointments during the months when he had to undergo serious surgery. In particular, Fr Thady supplemented Shanahan's addresses to the students in Maynooth using his slide projector to good advantage. Though active in making the arrangements for Bishop Shanahan's team as they set out for Nigeria late 1920 he found himself still unable to travel with them. At Shanahan's suggestion Fr Edward Leen was invited to replace him. Fr Thady continued his work on the Promotions team at home and for a period joined the Mission Band in the USA but, once he was allowed by doctors to return to his mission, he set out for Nigeria in September 1923. He served for periods at Emekuku and Port Harcourt. It was generally agreed that he was no longer capable of serving in the tropics. Forced to return home once more, he had to undergo several operations. When he was sufficiently recovered he returned to his alma mater, Rockwell, as professor of chemistry, a post he held till his death in spite of recurring ill health. A dynamic personality and a most obliging confrere he was highly respected by his students as " a great character" but one who would take no nonsense when it was a time for work. He retained his sense of humour, his lively gait and alert intellect to the end, and when the end did come, it came unexpectedly as he was staying with his retired sisters in Millstreet, Cork. Fr Thaddeus O'Connor died 14 August 1959 aged 76 years. He was buried in Rockwell. He was an uncle of Fr Frank Mulloy CSSp. GenArch. Nigeria; RCA 1960, 79; Farragher, *Dev and his Alma Mater*, 73ff.



**O'CONNOR, Fr Timothy J. 1929-1962**



Born 30 August 1929 in Inchologue, Bodyke, Co. Clare, Tim did his secondary studies in Blackrock, 1942-47. The records show that he took the Leaving Certificate with Honours and won 1st place in Latin in the college examinations for that year. In games and studies and personal qualities, he was one who impressed all who knew him as friendly, upright, and hardworking, without ever trying to seek attention. Professed in 1948 he studied at UCD, taking the BA in 1951 in French and Spanish, and the H.Dip.Ed. in 1952. He prefected at Rockwell, 1953-54. Ordained in 1957 Fr Tim was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he went early 1959. He served on the staff of St Paul's Secondary School, Pujehun, where he was Dean of the boarding school. A very competent teacher, conscientious and thorough, his influence outside class was readily accepted by the students and highly valued by the staff. His advice was given in a helpful and sympathetic spirit, and was the product of a sound and balanced judgement. Fr Tim met with his tragic death as a result of a boating accident after less than four years of missionary work 20 December 1962. Fr Timothy O'Connor was 33 years of age at the time of his death. *BCA*, 1963, 28.

**O'CONNOR, Fr William . 1925-1986**



Born 24 February 1925 in Ahadagh, Feenagh, Co. Limerick, William did his secondary studies in Mungret, 1938-43, and then followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Fr Phil. O'Connor, in joining the Congregation as did his younger brother, David. Professed in 1944 he studied at Kimmage and UCD, and prefected with the Burse, 1945-47. Ordained in 1952 Fr William was assigned the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served at Makupa, 1953-56, and the following year at St George's, Giriamia. He was involved in pastoral work, teaching religion and serving as prison chaplain. He was then director of St Anthony's station at Malinda. Having suffered spinal injury while operating a tractor over very rough terrain he was invalided to Ireland. After a period in hospital undergoing surgery, he attended the university and secured a degree in 1969. While residing in Kimmage he devoted much time to fraternising with the retired confreres who appreciated his interest in them. He returned for service in East Africa, being attached to Holy Ghost Cathedral, Mombasa. Suffering from heart trouble, he had to have surgery in London in 1979. Fr William O'Connor returned to East Africa once more but he never regained his health and died 13 November 1986 aged 61 years. IPArch O56

**O'CONNOR, Fr William P 1912-1968**



Born 18 August 1912 in Bagnalstown (Muinebeg), Co. Carlow, Bill did his secondary studies in Rockwell where he won a scholarship to UCD. Having secured the BA and done his novitiate, he was professed in 1935 and prefected at Rockwell, 1935-37. He then returned to UCD where he qualified for the B.Sc. Having secured 1<sup>st</sup> Class honours in both his degrees he was sent to Rome to study theology at the Gregorian University. He again showed his calibre as a student in winning a Gold medal. Ordained in 1942 he qualified for the DD the

following year. His first assignment was to follow Dr Jim Murphy, 'The Doc', as professor of Dogma in Kimmage, 1945-54. The total difference in style was greeted by the students with a sigh of relief as he was found to be approachable, gentle - even diffident. His mode of delivery lent itself to mimicking by the students but never with anything but affection. He took a special interest also in overseeing the Liturgy making sure that Kimmage kept abreast of every aspect of the renewal of sacred worship. He was called on to teach Moral theology, 1954-55. Transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, he filled the new role of Dean of studies or Principal from 1955 to 1962. It was said of him: " His kindness was like himself, sensitive, human and considerate. He recoiled almost physically from the hurtful word or deed. If he felt he did the slightest wrong to the smallest boy he was ready to apologise. His brethren will remember the self-reproaching way he used say: 'I shouldn't have said it.' He was interested in everybody. Indeed his interest was sometimes mistaken for curiosity.." He was very happy to have an opportunity of visiting Africa as he was asked to attend the centenary celebrations of the arrival of the Holy Ghost Fathers in East Africa. In 1962 it was back to Kimmage again, this time as Superior. It was not a happy experience for Fr Bill. Kimmage, like many senior seminaries at that time, was going through a period of ferment where the moulds that had been looked on for years as eternal were beginning to crack up. As Fr Bill was suffering from a heart ailment for many years, the strains of presiding over a community in ferment must have been a severe challenge. He entered the Mater for a check up and was planning a short period of convalescence in another community when the Lord called him unexpectedly. Fr William O'Connor died 2 July 1968 aged 55 years and was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *St MA* 1970 47f.

#### **O'CONNOR, Mr Bartholomew 1868-1892**

Born 12 April 1868 in Kocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, Bart came to Rockwell in 1884. Having gone to France to do his senior studies he was forced by ill-health to return to Ireland after having advanced to major orders. He died at his home in Kerry 25 June 1892 aged 24. He was buried in the family cemetery. Bart was a brother of Fr James who died in Trinidad in February the same year, and Fr Patrick who died in USA 1917. All three brothers suffered from tuberculosis. They were uncles of Fr Kerry Keane and cousins of Fr (Red) Michael A O'Connor who died in 1957. RJR 146

#### **O'Connor, Father Bernard (Bryan) 1920-2004**

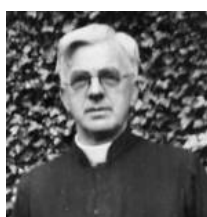
Bryan was born at "Woodbine", Cashel, Co. Tipperary on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1920. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939. In 1944 he was awarded a B.Sc. from U.C.D. and the H.Dip.Ed in 1945. He prefectured at St. Mary's College, Rathmines. Bryan was ordained to the Priesthood in 10<sup>th</sup> July 1949. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1950. In 1951 Father Bryan's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** where he began at a teaching post in *St. Edward's Secondary School in Freetown*. In 1955 he transferred to *Yengema* where he was involved in pastoral work. In 1957 he returned to teaching, this time at *Christ the King College in Bo*. In 1962 he was again appointed to St. Edward's where he continued until 1975. In 1975 Father Bryan took up pastoral ministry in **England** and in the following year was appointed to *Rockwell College*. In his post on the staff of the College he was an entirely dedicated teacher. When he retired from teaching he stayed on in the Rockwell Community. Fr. Bryan celebrated his Golden Jubilee of

ordination in 1999. For a number of years Fr. Bryan had failing health. He came to Mission House late in 2002 and during the course of 2003 was admitted to Marian House. He died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004. He is buried in Rockwell.

### **O'Connor, Fr. William Laurence 1919-2002**

Liam was born at Ballytore, Co. Kildare on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1919. He did his secondary school studies at Rockwell College. He made his first profession in Kilshane on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1938. He graduated from U.C.D. with a BA in philosophy in 1941. Liam prefected in Blackrock College from 1941 until 1943 and while there he took the H.Dip in Education. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1946 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1947. Father Liam's first appointment was to the **Vicariate of Zanzibar** and was assigned to a teaching post at **Kabaa, Kenya**. In 1950 he was transferred to **Pugu in Tanzania** and taught there for 14 years until 1964. When he returned to Kenya in 1965 it was to teaching at **Githunguri**. In 1969 Father Liam was appointed to mission and parish work and until 1985 served at: **Eastleigh, Kagwe, St. Austin's** and **Kalimoni**. During this time from 1980-'82 he was Bursar at **St.Mary's, Nairobi**. Father Liam retired to the Mission House, Kimmage Manor in 1985, where he died 14<sup>th</sup> April 2002  
He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **O'DEA, Br John Joseph (Michael) 1896-1956**



Born 10 October 1896 at Cooraclare, Co. Clare, Michael entered the Brothers' novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1916. A group photograph of that period taken of the Kimmage community shows him with four future bishops, including John Charles McQuaid, for whom he was to retain an unbounded admiration, having lived with him at St Mary's, where he was transferred in 1917, and at Blackrock, where he was to live from 1922 till his death.. His main duties for many years at Blackrock connected him closely with the students. While he was responsible for the students' dining room, he maintained discipline with ease at all times. Later he was very much at the centre of things as receptionist when he manned the telephone exchange and received visitors and was usually the first to hear the items of news that mattered. A few extracts from a sensitive obituary notice which appeared in the college Annual will help to bring his world back to life: "He revelled in the big occasion, nor was he ever defeated by a crisis. Neither forward nor gauche, he could greet a Cardinal or a curate at the Hall door with the same easy grace. On the other hand, when a bumptious boy strode with noisy arrogance into the telephone room, he was met with a disapproving stare emerging over the Brother's spectacles. Not a word was uttered in reply to the urgent demand. The wilting silence quickly transformed the bellicose intruder into a bland pupil. His tongue was swift. He was quite a specialist in Ecclesiastical statistics, and liked to be - and usually was - the first to be informed of the latest appointments. He scanned the Death Column each morning and if the name of a past-pupil occurred he informed the Superior in order that he should be prayed for. Behind his amusing foibles we all realised that there was a humble lay-Brother, devout, earnest, detached; a man of simple charm and reserve, genuine, reticent, obliging and even-tempered in spite of much ill-health in recent years. He had a child-like devotion to Father Libermann, and asked him for the necessary miracles when his two friends, Brother Declan and Fr Daly, were dying. His own health, too, he committed to the same

patronage. He had been resting for at least two months under the doctor's orders. On the morning of 18 July 1956 he rose to serve Mass at 9.30. He returned to bed and passed away peacefully at 11.30". He was 57 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1959 55f.

**O'DEA, Br Mary Ignatius (John) 1841-1897**

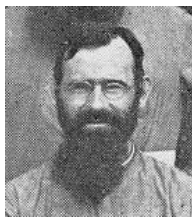
Born 10 May 1841 in Baldoyle, New Inn, Co. Tipperary, John was the regular parish mass-server and later the sacristan. He served for a period as monitor or junior master but being unable to enforce discipline, he was advised by the parish priest, Fr John Ryan, to apply for admission to a religious order. In 1869 he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell then being conducted by the superior, Fr Pierre Huvéty's. Professed in 1873 Br Ignatius was assigned to the Rockwell community and thereafter was never away from that community for even one night. He was engaged all his life in the minor but essential functions of looking after the tidiness of rooms and dormitories, replenishing the supply of water for wash basins and baths - 'chambrist', as he is listed in the *État* time and again. All his monotonous chores were attended to with total commitment and in prayerful silence, often having to contend with the pranks played on him by the students, who made fun of his old fashioned ways; but whenever they mislaid anything or lost even a button from their clothes, they knew they could count on him to find it. He was interested only in good news about the Church or the Congregation. As he lay helpless during his prolonged illness he frequently remarked how blessed he was to be in a religious community where all were so ready to care for his least needs. He obviously brought the best out of those around him. Br Ignatius died, as he had lived, peaceably 11 February 1897 aged 56 years. He is buried in Rockwell. *BG XVIII* 624.

**O'DOHERTY, Fr George F. 1926-2000**



Born on 13 April 1926 in Newtownbutler, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, George did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1940-45. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he made his profession in 1946. He prefectured at Blackrock, 1948-50, and was ordained priest in 1953. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, he was assigned to the Onitsha district. He served as assistant at St Paul's parish in Eke; its congregation counted over 28,000 while nearly 10,000 pupils attended its 38 primary schools. Thereafter he became pastor of St John Baptist at Agbani in the Enugu diocese, where over 17,000 Catholics and catechumens were entrusted to his care and that of two African priests. In May 1967 he left Nigeria because of the Biafra War and the following year took up ministry in New Orleans, USA. In 1971 he transferred to Zambia in the company of six other confreres who had served in Nigeria. They worked in Monze diocese. In 1974 George was appointed to Sunyani Diocese, Ghana, where he served for four years. His final assignment was to Skipton, Yorks, England, where in spite of ill health he ministered at St Stephen's parish. His contribution to the pastoral work of the parish was deeply appreciated. He died unexpectedly on 22 June 2000 aged 73 years. Fr George was buried in St Stephen's Cemetery. *BCArch; KNSM* No. 358; *IPNI* No. 2 2000

**O'DONNELL, Fr John 1889-1932**



Born 24 November 1889 in Knockjames, Tulla, Co. Clare, where his father was the National School teacher, John came to the juniorate at Blackrock with his brothers Martin and Owen in 1905. In 1911 he went on to Kimmage, where he took part in the first ever novitiate in Ireland in the company of future archbishops Leen and Heerey. He suffered an injury from football during his philosophy course in Kimmage and that injury was aggravated during his three years as prefect at Blackrock, 1914-17. It called for the wearing of a metal brace and John bore this inconvenience cheerfully for some years. Due to the partial paralysis of his forearm, a dispensation had to be sought from Rome before he was allowed to advance to major orders. Ordained in 1920, he was appointed to Sierra Leone. Very self-effacing and somewhat lacking in self-confidence, he was judged by his first superior at Moyamba to lack ability for that demanding station. Changed to Freetown, it was soon realised that he was not merely very hardworking, but had a special gift in dealing with youth and in supervising the schools there. After two years he was appointed director at Ascensiontown where he built a new church and spent himself in the service of the people who highly appreciated his devotion. As his health was somewhat precarious due to chronic uraemia, he showed signs of serious fatigue. During a period of recuperation in Ireland, he gave a conference to the Senior Scholastics on the special problems of Sierra Leone and the future outlook of the mission. This moving conference was long remembered. On his return to Sierra Leone, Fr John was appointed once again to Moyamba, where he gave of his best, supervising the work of the catechists, and going on punishing treks into bush territory. He returned from a five day trek coming up to Christmas 1931 and then undertook the Christmas pastoral work including confessions and midnight mass. Fr John took ill and died 2 January 1932 aged 42. *BG XXXV 784ff; BCA 1932 101ff.*

**O'DONNELL, Br Theonas (John) 1851-1884**

Born August 1851 in Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary, John came to the Brothers' novitiate in Rockwell, 1872 and was professed in 1876. He worked at Blackrock, 1876-7, returned to Rockwell for two years and afterwards served again at Blackrock till 1882. He was then asked to set off for the Vicariate of Zanzibar to replace Br Peter Bowes who had died in 1881. Br Theonas worked at Morogoro. When that mission suffered severe damage as a result of an accidental fire, 3rd October 1884, he is reported as having taken this loss very much to heart and over-exerted himself in trying to repair the damage. Br Theonas took ill and, as there were no medical facilities, he died within a short time 2 November 1884 aged 33 years. *RBR; BG 13 1112*

**O'DONNELL, Fr William (Liam) 1889-1965**



Born 7 July 1889 in Dollymount, Dublin, Willie came to Blackrock in 1902 as a boarder and joined the Juniorate in his final year, 1907/8. He took an active part in extracurricular activities - school plays, Fr Kearney's band etc. He did his novitiate and philosophy studies in France, 1908-11, and for the next three years he prefected at Rockwell. During these years, especially when attending Irish summer courses in the Gaeltacht, he came into close contact with leaders of the Republican movement, in

particular Seán McDermott and Liam Mellows. In 1914 he was sent to the senior scholasticate in Ferndale, CT, USA, as a member of the group sent to work in special parishes for the blacks. This was part of the Mother Drexel contract involving the sending of men in exchange for money needed to help build up the houses of formation in the Irish province - "white slavery" - as Fr O'Donnell referred to it in his usual forthright manner. When asked by an official to sign as a British subject en route to USA he replied: "I may be a British object but I am d\*\*d if I am a British subject!" Ordained at Ferndale in 1917 Fr Willie was appointed to the staff of the juniorate at Cornwells Heights (Bensalem). Having attended post graduate courses at two universities he qualified for the M.A. degree. He was in close contact with Dev in 1919 when he was in USA organising his campaign as President of Dáil Eireann. Fr Liam arranged for his secret visit to meet the Irish Spiritans at Cornwells, most of whom he had known as students. In 1922 Fr Liam set out for Nigeria where he served for a period, first at Onitsha and later at Calabar where he was Director of the Junior Seminary. When it was decided to prepare lay workers Pat Doyle and Charlie O'Donoghue for the priesthood, Fr Liam took on the work of coaching them in philosophy and theology. From 1927 to 1929 he was once more on the staff at Rockwell, teaching Irish and French. He then returned to the United States where he was to spend the rest of his active life as professor of French and Chairman of the Modern Languages Department at Duquesne. He then spent two years in pastoral work and as High School Principal of St Peter Claver's in Charleston, S.C. Again he returned to Duquesne resuming his former duties and remained there till 1950. He then went to the retreat house for laymen in New Canaan, Conn., till 1952, and the following year he served as assistant in St Joseph's, Bay City. Once again he returned to Duquesne, this time as community bursar - a post he filled till he retired to Kimmage in 1963. Fr Liam held rather strong convictions about some things and this did not make life easy. Typically, he strongly opposed Dev's acceptance of the legitimacy of Dáil Eireann in 1926, preferring the more intransigent Republican stand. Fr William O'Donnell died 18 March 1965 aged 75 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCAch; BCA 1965 51F; SpWW 744: *Dev and his Alma Mater*, 93

### **O'DONOGHUE, Fr Charles                      1911-1986**



Born 13 March 1902 in Drung, Cootehill, Co. Cavan, Charlie volunteered in 1923 to serve in Nigeria as a lay catechist, influenced no doubt by Bishop Joseph Shanahan who was busily engaged at the time founding the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary at Killeshandra. Charlie went to Nigeria together with Pat Doyle, then a member of the De La Salle Brothers. When it was realised in Nigeria that these two men had a vocation for the priesthood they were advised to enter the newly founded seminary for African students for the priesthood where they had as their professor, Fr Charles Heerey. After a year's theology they were sent home to Ireland in 1926 to do their novitiate and to complete their theology. Ordained in 1929 Charlie was appointed anew to Nigeria where he was to serve in the vicinity of Onitsha. In 1933 he suffered a serious motor-cycle accident which forced him to return to Ireland. For some time his life was in danger and though he eventually recovered the injuries to his head left him a victim to nervous disorders for the rest of his life. This led to much suffering for himself and not a little for others, especially during the period when he served as Mission Procurator. In his dedication to duty and to the missions he lacked the human touch and made his appointments for people by the calendar without much consideration for personal preferences. But he treated

himself in the same manner. As soon as he was his health permitted, he applied to return to Nigeria, which he did in 1961. Much had changed since he had worked there previously in the peak of his health. He did not find life easy there and his connection with the Nigeria he had once so loved was terminated for good by the Civil War. Still determined to preach the Gospel he worked for a time in England. Later he transferred to the USA, where he worked in a parish till he retired to Kimmage in 1975. Though he had related well to people as a pastor in Nigeria and in the USA he did not find it easy to live in community. His final years were lonely. He kept much to himself and not many found it easy to communicate with him. His nervous trouble intensified with the years but he bore the cross of illness quietly, just as he had tried to adjust early on to be side-lined by illness when he was all set for action in the mission field. Fr Charles O'Donoghue was called home by the Lord 1 September 1986 aged 84 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI*

### **O'DONOGHUE, Fr John J. 1914-1999**



Born on 24 June 1914 in Toomevara, Co. Tipperary, John did his secondary studies in Rockwell where he excelled at rugby and hurling. He entered the Congregation in 1933 and was among the first batch of novices to do their novitiate at the newly acquired Kilshane house, Bansha, Co. Tipperary. Professed in 1934 he did two years Philosophy in Kimmage and returned to Rockwell as Prefect. He was popular with the boys because of his prowess at sport, his enthusiasm for all connected with the life of the school and his perceived fairness. He played on the Rockwell club rugby team. Ordained in 1941 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. It was wartime and while awaiting a boat the young priests were located at Kilshane where they spent most of their time felling tress for fuel. On reaching Nigeria it was soon discovered that his health condition ruled out life in the tropics. Returned to Ireland he served at Rockwell until 1949 when he was re-appointed to Africa, this time to the more benign climate of Kenya. The Mau Mau troubles began to erupt and life was difficult at John's mission. Returned to Ireland in 1955 he served as bursar in Ardbraccan, Co. Meath. In 1957 he was transferred to Blackrock where he served again as Bursar, and it was at Blackrock that he was to spend the rest of his life. He was a passionate supporter of the College and Club rugby teams - rarely missing a game. He was also a keen golfer playing at Elm Park. He served as chaplain for years to the Loreto Sisters in Dalkey and he officiated as chaplain at many sporting occasions. John's spirituality was simple. Little place for anything complicated or new revelations. He liked to travel on pilgrimages to trusted places, Lourdes and the Holy Land. All he wanted was plenty of happy pilgrims. He remained active to the end, a man with a fund of stories, having many friends and no enemies. After a brief illness in Marian House he died 1 January 1999 aged 85 years. Fr John is buried in the Spiritan plot in Shanganagh Cemetery, Dublin. *BCA 1999 p.350f*

### **O'DONOGHUE, Fr John 1868-1937**



Born 7 January 1868 in Toureennagon, Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, John came to Rockwell in 1887, and when the Juniorate was closed he was sent with others to Blackrock in 1888. After prefecting for three years at Blackrock, 1891/4, he went to France to do his senior studies. In 1896 he joined in the extraordinary novitiate when there were actually three canonically erected novitiates to enable all to make

profession before going forward to ordination; till then profession came at the end of formation. Ordained in 1898 Fr John went to Trinidad the following year together with Fr Martin Moloney. There he was to work for the next 36 years, and work he did, inside and outside the school. His robust constitution seemed to give him an inexhaustible supply of energy as he undertook his various tasks as professor, Dean of discipline, bursar, interim superior and continual assistant pastor in various parishes. He learned Spanish in order to be able to minister to the needs of the Hispanic community who flocked to his confessional. He was close to the less well-off - sailors, local boatmen and domestic helpers in the school. He was strict and somewhat brusque in his manner, but they recognised his almost childlike simplicity and took his strictures without umbrage. The fact that they named a street after him in Diego Martin parish shows that he was highly appreciated. He was also valued by Archbishop Dowling who appointed him Synodal Examiner and Diocesan Consultor. In 1930, when he was already sixty-two, he was appointed pastor of San Juan. This post was to prove very challenging and eventually it wore down even his robust constitution. He was advised to take a prolonged holiday in his own home surroundings in the hope that this might restore his flagging powers. He did spend some nine months with his people in Kerry, but he had to go for hospital treatment in Dublin. Fr John O'Donoghue died in the Hospice at Harold's Cross 30 March 1937 aged 69 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG XXXVIII*, 436ff; *SpWW*, 437.

### **O'DONOGHUE, Br John Jos. (Michael) 1835-1913**



Born 20 April 1835 in Castlefarin, Hospital, Co. Limerick, Michael entered the Congregation at Blackrock 31 March 1862. Sent to the central novitiate in France he was among the first group of novices to make their profession in the newly acquired Chevilly. Immediately after his profession in October 1864 he was appointed to the new community at the Scotch College, Rockwell, thus qualifying to be numbered among the founding fathers of that community. His main function then as during the rest of his life was in charge of the kitchen garden - a very vital service in the days before the advent of supermarkets. From the Brothers' register at Blackrock we learn that Br John Joe returned to Blackrock in 1872, remaining on till 1883. Once again he was posted to Rockwell, always as gardener. From 1893 till his death in 1913 he was stationed at Blackrock. His death came suddenly on the 3 September 1913 just as Fr Ebenrecht called to his room to wish him Goodnight. Br John Joe O'Donoghue was then 78 years of age. He was buried in Deansgrange. BBR No 9; *État*; BCCJ

### **O'Dwyer, Father Richard John 1929-2003**

Dick was born at 36 Infirmery Rd., Phoenix Park, Dublin, on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1929. After his secondary school studies at O'Connell's C.B.S. he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1947. In 1950 he was awarded a B.Sc. from U.C.D.; in 1951 the H.Dip in Ed. and a B.A. in Philosophy in 1953. He prefectured at Blackrock College for the year 1950-'51. Dick studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1956. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1957. In 1957 Father Dick's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** where he was teacher and chaplain at *St. Edward's Secondary School, Freetown*. From 1965 until 1969 he was a teacher and boarding dean at *Christ the King College, Bo*. In 1969 he moved into pastoral ministry at the



parish of *St. Francis in Bo*. From 1970 until 1976 Fr. Dick worked in administration and animation as *District Superior*. During this time he helped at the school in *Koribundu*. After his six-year term as superior he moved from Bo to *Njala University Secondary School*. In 1979 he was appointed to *Moyamba*, where he worked in the parish. In 1982 he returned to Bo, to the Junior Seminary as a formator. In 1987 Fr. Dick took a sabbatical study leave from Sierra Leone, at the end of which he was appointed as *Superior of the Ardbraccan Community* in Ireland. He served nine years as Superior. In 1997 he was transferred to *St. Mary's College Community, Rathmines* and worked part-time with the *Pontifical Missionary Societies*. Due to failing health Dick retired to Kimmage Mission House in 2002 and due to failing health was admitted to Marian House, where he died 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

#### **O'DWYER, Br Oswald (Thomas) 1840-1869**



Born 1 September 1840 in MiltownMalbay, Co. Clare, Thomas served for a period in Dublin as a shop assistant before coming to Blackrock in December 1864 to join the Brothers. He was sent to the central novitiate at Chevilly in May 1867 and was professed there in September. His first appointment was to Guadeloupe where it was hoped he could succeed as teacher of English in the seminary-college which was being confided once more to the Congregation after it had gone through a very troubled period. Br Oswald, however, did not measure up to the challenge: His lack of fluency in French is given as the main reason. He was transferred to St Mary's College, Port of Spain. His term of service there was cut short by the epidemic of yellow fever which hit the island. Br Oswald O'Dwyer died 6 September 1869 aged 29 years, and was buried in Trinidad. *BG VII 342f; SpWW 40.*

#### **O'DWYER, Fr Martin 1909-1996**



Born 19 October 1909 in Kilrush, Co. Clare, Mattie entered the boarding school at Blackrock College in 1926 and a few months later entered the Juniorate. Professed in 1928 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock and prelected in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1930-1932. Having done Theology in the Castle and in Kimmage he was ordained in 1935. Fr Mattie spent one year at Blackrock working for Propaganda and was then appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad where he was to spend the rest of his life involved in education and pastoral work in the school and in parishes. He was known for his gentleness in his dealings with all, young and old. He was seen to have remarkable rapport with young people even when advanced in years himself. Among his favourite pastoral activities was his devotion to the Legion of Mary as spiritual director of a Praesidium, Curia and even the Regia of Trinidad and Tobago. Having given fifty-eight years of devoted service as a priest and teacher in Trinidad it was suggested that his name be proposed for a National Award. Fr Mattie gently but firmly opposed such a suggestion. At the age of 87 years the Lord called Fr Martin O'Dwyer to his heavenly reward on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 1996. *BCArch; IPArch; IPNI Jan. 1997; BCA 1997 276f*

### **O'FARRELL, Fr Desmond 1936-1995**



Born 3 September 1936 in Shanballymore, Mallow, Co. Cork, Des did his secondary studies in CBS, Doneraile. Professed in 1956 he studied in Kimmage and at UCD. He prefectured at Rockwell, 1959-60, and was ordained in 1963. Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1964 he was stationed for a brief period in Bo and served at Moyamba where there was a secondary school and 1,510 Catholics and 650 Catechumens. Due to an accident he had to return home. He served for a year at Rockwell, 1971-72, and he was appointed to California where he engaged in pastoral ministry, mostly in chaplaincies at the Juvenile Probation Department and in Los Gatos and in hospitals. To assist him in this work he took a Master's degree in counselling in 1975. In 1987 he was appointed superior of the Irish confreres working in California. In failing health Fr Desmond O'Farrell returned to Ireland early in 1995 and died 4th November aged 59 years. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 6 1995

### **O'GORMAN, Bishop John 1866-1935**



Born 8 May 1866 in Hackettstown, Co. Carlow, John was a student at Blackrock, 1880-83, winning Exhibitions in Junior and Middle Grade. Due to illness he was allowed off class and devoted himself to cataloguing the library and absorbing its contents in between times. He was sent to Langonnet where he continued his classical studies for another two years while teaching English classes for the other students. The Dean of studies there was an Irishman who had spent most of his life in France, Fr Edward Conyngham. John continued with his senior studies at Chevilly in 1885 and was ordained in 1890. In the official letter to the Superior General, Fr Emonet, where he was expected to state fully his natural preferences before receiving his obedience, he quite frankly admitted his liking for studying and teaching theology but added that the needs of the missions were still his priority. He was appointed professor of Dogmatic theology at Langonnet where the first year students had been transferred in 1889 because of lack of room in Chevilly. He was still there and acting as director in the month of August 1894 when Joseph Shanahan arrived from Cellule to start Philosophy. These two men, who were to develop a life-long friendship, had this in common that, due to having spent so many years in France, they were more familiar with their French confrères than with the Irish. The French knew O'Gorman as Ogorman! In 1895 the senior scholastics moved back to the enlarged quarters at Chevilly, and when in 1896 the whole student body was divided into three official novitiates to get into line with demands from Rome about profession before ordination, Fr O'Gorman was appointed assistant master of novices in the novitiate being conducted by Père Jean-Marie Gizard - the accepted guru in the Congregation over the years. When the new superior general, Mgr Alexander Le Roy, set about erecting the various provinces in 1897, each with its separate houses of formation, Fr O'Gorman was appointed master of novices for the American province, operating at Cornwells Heights. They were neighbours to Mother Katharine Drexel, who had already close relations with the Congregation as she sought its help in the running of special parishes for the blacks. Mother Katharine availed of Fr O'Gorman's expertise, especially when she set about drawing up a rule of life for her congregation before applying to Rome for official recognition. In 1903, on the death of Fr James Browne, Pro-vicar-apostolic of Sierra Leone, Rome appointed Fr O'Gorman Vicar-apostolic in his place. He was ordained bishop in Philadelphia by Archbishop Ryan, and though

this demanding assignment may not be what he had visualised for himself, he pledged his full support for Mgr Le Roy's plans for developing this unpromising mission. Mother Katharine, contrary to her declared practice of devoting all her wealth to the work for the coloured people of the USA, gave financial aid over the years to the various works undertaken by Bishop O'Gorman to expand the pastoral and educational works of the mission. He would be back to the USA in 1906, 1912 and 1925 "preaching before the most distinguished audiences, both lay and clerical, astounding everybody by the extent of his uncommon knowledge and amidst the most engrossing business transactions, delving with delight in his Thomistic studies as he travelled by rail or on board ship". In his pastoral work he was very supportive of his missionaries; and his understanding, good nature, and good humour, not to mention his outstanding scholarship, were appreciated by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. A sudden illness forced him to retire to Europe in August 1931 and his last years were spent in Montana, Switzerland. In his final year he had the consolation of the visits from the Irish senior scholastics sent to Fribourg to do Theology. They noticed that reading St Thomas and reciting his Rosary were his preferred devotions, and they were assured by the French provincial, Fr Piquet, that Bishop O'Gorman had one of the finest intellects in the Congregation. Bishop John O'Gorman died 13 April 1935 aged 69 years. To him belongs the distinction of being the first Irishman to be ordained bishop in the Congregation. He was buried in Switzerland. BCArch; *BG* XXXVII 245ff; *BCA* 1935 15ff; 1962 226f; *SpWW* 416; *Hammelberg* CS SL 43ff.

#### **O'GRADY, Master Thomas 1847-1862**

Born in Murroe, Co. Limerick, ca 1847, Thomas entered the juniorate Blackrock in 1861. He proved a brilliant student and was such a model of behaviour that high hopes were entertained for him. Unfortunately, he contracted tuberculosis and had to return home. When it was realised that his case was terminal he begged to be allowed to make his vows in the Congregation though not yet 15 years of age. Père Leman sent what must have been the first telegram to the Superior General asking for the authorisation to accept his vows. This permission was granted and Père Leman travelled to Limerick to receive him into the Congregation. Thomas, who died 22 May 1862, has the distinction of being the first Irish member of the Congregation to be called by the Lord. He was buried in Limerick. BJR; Leman-Paris 24 May 1862; *BG* 2 p. 533f; Dead List of Blackrock College Students p.2

#### **O'HALLORAN, Fr Henry 1861-1900**



Henry, whose parents were from Ballybunion, Co. Kerry, was born in Limerick 5 July 1861. He is reported as having come to the Juniorate in Blackrock in July 1879 after having spent sometime at the junior diocesan seminary in Dublin. He was among the first group of scholastics and prefects to study at the Castle, Blackrock, for the examinations conducted by the RUI. It would appear that Henry was not called on to do prefecting. He was described as being "*trop tranquille*." He went on to Chevilly in 1884 to study for the priesthood, being ordained in 1888. As he suffered from weak lungs Fr Henry was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where he taught classics. Fr Henry O'Halloran died of tuberculosis 21 September 1900 aged 39 years and was buried in Trinidad. BJR 377; *BG* XX 630; *BCA* 1962 221.

## O'HANLON, Fr Thomas 1862-1939



Born 17 March 1862 in Gurteen, Nurney, Co. Kildare, Tom came to Rockwell in 1877 just as schools were gearing up for the first ever public examinations organised by the Intermediate Education Board. He took part in the first examinations, and for the rest of his life he was never to be far from the academic arena as teacher and dean of studies.

The Dean of studies in Rockwell at this period was Fr John T. Murphy, who was just beginning his dynamic career as a priest having served with distinction as a prefect for several years in St Mary's, Trinidad, where a similar competitive system of examinations existed. Tom was called on to play his part as prefect in 1882. He then went on to the senior scholasticate in France where he was ordained in 1890. The following year Fr Tom was appointed to Blackrock where he was to be remembered as an excellent and well-loved teacher, kindly by disposition and always taking a personal interest in his students. He knew how to impart the knowledge of which he was full without ever having had to resort to the *argumentum ad baculum*. Blackrock had slipped gradually from the dizzy heights attained in the public examinations under Fr Edward Reffé. When Fr Larry Healy took over as Dean of studies in 1894, matters began to improve, but it was only when Fr Tom was appointed Dean in 1896 that the Exhibitions or scholarships began to increase: 17 came in '97 and when Fr Tom read out the results he made a statement which was cheered to the rafters then and often recounted later namely: "These are the results for '97...And now Who fears to speak of '98?". 18 Exhibitions came in '98 and 25 in '99. One student at that time who recalled Fr O'Hanlon with gratitude was Eamon de Valera, future President of Ireland: depressed by the bad note given without sufficient justification by one of his teachers noted for this practice, he went to the Dean's office almost in tears. Fr O'Hanlon's words were: "Edward, Are you doing your best?" "Yes Father". "Then never mind what anybody else says or does." Fr Tom ceased to be Dean in 1900 and tradition has it that he felt he could not work with Fr John T. Murphy watching over his shoulder as in days of yore in Rockwell! He moved to St Mary's in 1902, and in 1904 became Superior there in succession to Dr Edward Crehan. He endeared himself to the pupils, past and present, as well as to the clergy in the surrounding parishes, partly because he was readily available for ministry. He failed, however, to improve the financial situation of the school which continued to deteriorate. When the school was eventually closed in 1916, Fr Tom returned to Blackrock and took up duty in the classroom where he was seen as an excellent teacher of English. He was also a favourite confessor with the students and indeed with nuns in surrounding convents. In this connection it is worth recalling that on hearing of his death, Sr Manes OP in Sion Hill, referred to him in conversation with Dr J.C. McQuaid, saying: "Fr O'Hanlon was such a woolly priest!" "In God's name, what do you mean by that?" was the reaction. As she knew Dr McQuaid well from early years, she replied: "Well, if you don't mind me saying it, it's the last thing I could say about yourself!" Others remarked about Fr O'Hanlon that he saw people through golden glasses, and "that all his geese were swans." It was said in his obituary that an unkind or uncharitable word never passed his lips. A disease which had earlier threatened his life, bronchial pneumonia, eventually proved his killer. Fr Tom O'Hanlon died 22 October 1939 aged 77 years. In spite of a busy schedule in the early months of World War II, An Taoiseach Eamon de Valera was among those who followed his mortal remains to the grave in Dean's Grange. *IPNI* 1940, 2, Jan.; *BCA* 1942,55; *Dev* 21ff.

### **O'Hanrahan, Fr. John Anthony 1913-2002**

Father Jack was born in Limerick City on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1913. He went to Blackrock as a junior scholastic and then to the Noviciate where he was professed on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1934. He was ordained to the priesthood on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1940 by Bishop Neville in Rockwell. He was appointed to Kenya and set out for there in 1941 going via Iceland to avoid U-boat attacks. Father Jack worked in Lioki, Kilimambogo and Nyeri mostly in the education apostolate. During these years he knew Bishop Shanahan who was in retirement in St. Austins in Nairobi. In 1951 Father Jack took leave of absence from the Congregation for health reasons. He went to Hong Kong where he taught for many years in a Jesuit high school. Father Jack returned to Limerick in the 1970's and was attached to Kilshane Community. Two years ago he retired to Marian House, Kimmage. He died 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2002 in St. James's Hospital.

### **O'HART, Fr John Jos. 1865-1934**

Born 7 August 1865 in Auckland, NZ, and reared at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, John came to Blackrock in 1879 and remained on till 1886 having by then qualified for the BA in classics at the RUI. A note sent to France at this period refers to him as '*trop tranquille*'. He certainly was known for his gentleness all his life. Ordained in France in 1890, Fr John was appointed the following year to the recently opened St Mary's College, Rathmines. Within a few short years he fell a victim to tuberculosis and had to move to a warmer climate in the hope of prolonging his life. After a period spent at the Spiritan community at Misserghin, Algeria, he returned for duty once more at St Mary's; but not for long. His illness returned with such force that he was transferred to Our Lady's Hospice at Harold's Cross. His condition was pronounced terminal unless he kept to bed and followed a prescribed regime. Fr John said he would prefer to live in a community, so he was transferred to Kimmage where he cheated death for another fourteen years. His unflinching cheerfulness was a living sermon to all in accepting the cross of illness as from the Lord's hands. When he felt that death was at last at hand he asked to be taken back again to the Hospice where he died in a matter of hours, 5 August 1934 aged 68 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG* 37, 438; *BCA* 1934, 120f



### **O'HARA, Fr John 1920-1980**

Born in Belfast 5 February 1920 John entered the junior seminary at Castlehead, Grange over Sands, Lancs. in 1937. At the outbreak of World War Two he returned to Belfast and in 1947 he re-entered the Congregation at Bickley. He did his novitiate at Cellule in France where he was professed in 1951. Returned to England he did his senior studies at Upton Hall and was ordained in 1956. Appointed to Nigeria he served in Onitsha-Owerri where he served for some twelve years. He ministered at Ozubulu in the archdiocese of Onitsha and later in Diobu in the Port Harcourt diocese. He suffered hardship during the Biafra war and in 1969 he returned to England where he ministered in the Spiritan parish at Peasley Cross. He returned to the north of Ireland serving in the diocese of Down and Connor. He was known to have strong republican sentiments all his life. He was much appreciated as a pastor and felt so much part of the pastoral situation there that he applied for incardination in the diocese. Before the incardination became effective he died of a heart attack 22

December 1980 at Portaferry, Co. Down. He was aged 60 years. *English Provincial Newsletter*, April 1981; *KSNM* No.423

**OHMANN, Br Agathon (John-Baptist) 1831-1896**



John was born 24 June 1831 in Ammerschwihr, Colmar, in Alsace - the birthplace also of Fr Ebenrecht, who wrote his extended biographical notice in the *Bulletin Général*. Educated by the Marist brothers he was recommended to the Congregation by his pastor, l'Abbé Simonis, député au Reichstag and cousin of the Superior General, Fr Ignatius Schwindenhammer. Br Agathon did his novitiate at Langonnet where Père Leman was director in charge of the Brothers' Novitiate. Later, when Leman was looking for suitable staff for his community and college at Blackrock in 1860, he asked specifically for Br Agathon as cook and as 'auxiliary' in view of the proposed novitiate for Brothers; he knew Agathon was a splendid cook and an exemplary religious. In fact, the recital of his virtues in his obituary would seem to be too good to be true were it not known that these things had been repeated in the official correspondence with the Mother house over the years by successive superiors e.g., his spirit of constant prayer as he worked day in day out without respite in the kitchen; kind and patient with his young untrained helpers, always at hand to serve; forgetting no detail for the big occasions - even when that meant being up late and early as when preparing the hampers for school outings, or planning treats for feast days like the much coveted 'potato stuff' or boxty; never known to waste a morsel of a moment, yet never giving the impression of being hurried or over economic. Leman is quoted as referring to him as the most exemplary religious he had known; the students referred to him as 'the saint', and gratefully recalled in later years his expertise as chef. And still he had the human touch: when he failed to get a raw recruit from testing every pot and jar with his nose he placed a jar full of ammonia as a trap. The cure worked! The superior in 1896, Fr Jules Botrel, wrote: "Br Agathon is dying. Needless to say, he is a 'saint' in his illness as he has been as long as we have known him. Resignation, obedience, patience, charity, mortification are his virtues. For some time now all he could do was to help out a little in the kitchen, but his edifying presence in the community was worth his weight in gold." Fr Larry Healy, the first Irish superior of the college, wrote years later of Agathon as follows: "He was a treasure in the house. A most efficient cook, patient, reasonable and obliging; he was also a model of hidden, self-effacing saintliness. He spent all his spare time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and never missed the daily round of the Stations of the Cross. He spoke little, he never mastered English. One seldom saw him except in the kitchen or chapel... He died as saints die.. on 24 February 1896." He was buried in Dean's Grange *BG* XXVIII (V) 196f; 434ff; LH 263

**O'KEEFFE, Fr Denis Francis 1912-1991**



Born 23 November 1912 in Meenscovane, Duagh, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Denis followed his elder brother Francis in joining the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1926. Francis soon discovered that his vocation lay elsewhere. Denis won his place on the 1931 SCT and entered the new novitiate in Kilshane, being professed in 1934. After completing Philosophy he served as prefect for one year in Rockwell and then began Theology in Kimmage. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria but, because of the problems of travel during the war, he

spent some time at Kilshane where he was called on to act as bursar. When Fr Michael Frawley was called on without any preparation to teach Dogmatic theology and Ethics in Kimmage on the death of Fr Edward Leen and the retirement of Dr Jim Murphy, Fr Denis wrote to him, tongue in cheek, congratulating him "on succeeding to the joint chairs of the two most eminent professors in the history of the Irish province". Fr Denis eventually reached Onitsha and served for some years at Maku together with Fr Thomas Macken, and later at Onitsha Waterside with Fr Stephen Cloonan. His was then and always a simple unquestioning faith which he saw as so obviously true and essential for salvation that he dedicated himself totally to communicating that faith to all. When it was decided that a week-long mission following the pattern accepted in Ireland should be preached to those already living the Christian way of life in Nigeria, Denis was appointed full time to this ministry. His success exceeded expectations. He put great effort and devotion into the conduct of these missions, dramatising the Stations of the Cross in particular, and at the end of the week a team from the Legion of Mary went from house to house collecting pagan amulets and charms for the ceremonial bonfire during which they were called on to renounce the devil and his works. On one occasion Fr Denis was called to the house of a lapsed Catholic who not merely refused to part with these pagan symbols but threatened Fr Denis with a loaded gun. All fled leaving Fr Denis to face the challenge. The man gave him till he counted up to eight before shooting. Denis held up his crucifix and as the man was about to count eight he suddenly threw down his gun and ran to embrace Fr Denis asking to be received back into the church. The attendance at the closing session that night broke all records. Because of the Biafra war Fr Denis had to quit his beloved Nigeria and his special ministry. He was asked to go to the USA and to engage in the uncongenial chore of fund raising. He took to this new and demanding role with total dedication and was again remarkably successful. Eventually, he was allowed to engage in pastoral work again and was attached to St Sebastian's Parish, Woodside, New York, where his earnestness, self-sacrifice and simple faith were noted and appreciated. Very traditional as ever in his beliefs and practices, he was somewhat perturbed by certain aspects of the church in America in his later years. When his health began to give cause for anxiety, he returned to Ireland to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his ordination and to receive medical attention. His death came rather unexpectedly 11 November 1991. He was then 77 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.6, 1991

### **O'KEEFFE, Br Augustine (Patrick) 1938-2000**



Patrick was born on 14 April 1938 in Milestown, Fethard, Co. Tipperary. After two years of secondary school at Fethard he entered the Juniorate at Kimmage in 1953. In 1957 Patrick made his first profession in Ardbraccan taking the religious name Augustine. He made his Perpetual Vows and Consecration to the Apostolate in 1963. During his training and afterwards Br Gus worked on the farm at Kimmage Manor. Appointed to Nigeria in 1969 he was forced to return to Ireland within eight months due to the civil war there. For two years he studied Community Development at St Francis University, Antigonish, Canada. In 1972 together with Fr Henry Mullin he was appointed to the newly founded Holy Ghost Mission in Ethiopia, in the south of the country. The country was hit by a devastating drought that led to the failure of the harvest. Many voluntary bodies offered to help but the situation was complicated by an ongoing civil war and by the fact that the Socialist Government mistrusted the Western world and outside bodies

were reluctant to channel aid through the then government agencies. Non Government Organisations and Church Relief bodies formed an organisation, Christian Relief and Development Association, to cope with the situation and in 1977 Br Gus was appointed its head and then its Executive Director. When he took over it was a small organisation with three on the staff, with limited resources, operating out of a small office. Over the years under guidance of Br Gus it developed to a point where it had a staff of over 260 and a convoy of 53 trucks for the distribution of famine relief to the different parts of the country. Gus' skills as a manager and a bridge builder between all the agencies involved proved the godsend necessary to save the country from a major disaster. He had the total trust of the overseas agencies and saw to it that indigenous workers were trained to help in the operation. Among the many generous tributes paid to him after his twenty years in charge of this great relief work was that of the leader of the Orthodox Church Commission for Inter Church Aid. He said "Br Augustine was sent by God to Ethiopia from Ireland to save the lives of so many in the famine and war years, like God sent Joseph to Egypt during the seven famine years". Many foreign dignitaries called on him to encourage him in his work - among them Bob Geldof who did his part to inspire the world to come to the aid of the famine victims. Br Gus was seen to be a man characterised by kindness, patience, modesty and good humour. The man who took over from him as Director of the CRDA said in the farewell tribute: "What is so surprising is that he never sought recognition for what he did. Determined to save lives, he would let others get the limelight, as well as take the credit, if they would let him get on with the job". Returned to Ireland in 1997 he was put in charge of Mission Procure and acted as Provincial Projects Officer. In 1999 he also took on the role of Director of Marian House where he was himself cared for when afflicted with serious illness in 2000. Transferred to Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, he died within a few hours on 4 December 2000. Br Augustine was buried in the parish cemetery Clooneen, Fethard, Co. Tipperary. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 1 2001;

### **O'KEEFFE, Fr John            1852-1877**



The first student of Rockwell to be ordained for the Congregation, John was born 19 June 1852 in Golden, Co. Tipperary. He came to Rockwell as a day student and when the juniorate was established 12 December 1866 he had the distinction of being the first name to go on the roll there. As was the custom then and for many years after, he received the soutane or habit of the Congregation 8 December 1867. He went direct to the senior scholasticate in France in 1868 but returned to Ireland in 1870 because of the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War. He was appointed to Blackrock where he prefectured for three years, 1870-73, before returning to France to continue his studies. August 1876 he was appointed to Rockwell. When he heard of the death of his classmate, Fr Daniel Mulleady, in The Gambia within three weeks of his arrival there, he volunteered to replace him. He was told by the Mother House to stand by for a decision on the matter. In the meantime he contracted a severe cold which developed into bronchitis. When tuberculosis was diagnosed, Père Leman invited him to Blackrock for a change of air and to be nearer medical attention. His health, however, continued to disimprove, and he died at Blackrock 9 May 1877 aged 25. He was the second to be interred in the vaults built into the foundations of the college chapel, the first being Fr William Ryan. *RJJ*; *BG*, XI, 40.



### **O'LEARY, Br Epiphanius (Redmond) 1847-1925**



Born 1 August 1847 in the Glen of Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, Redmond came to the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1870, being professed in 1873. He helped Br Kieran Egan in running the farm, deputising for him when he was absent attending the farm owned by the Congregation at Moycashel, Co. Westmeath. In 1879 Br Epiphanius was transferred to Blackrock where he helped as refectorian till 1890. Then he made history in being the first member of the Congregation to stay overnight in the newly acquired house in Rathmines which was to be soon named St Mary's. He served as gardener, 'commissionaire' etc. till 1901 when he returned to Rockwell for a year. In 1902 his services were called for at the new provincialate at Clareville where he served for three years before returning once more to Rockwell. In 1913 he was called on to take charge of the farm at Kimmage, but in 1917 we find him going to the new senior scholasticate located at St Mary's where the school had been closed the previous year. As his health had seriously deteriorated by 1924 he was transferred to the Hospice at Harold's Cross where he died, revered as a saint by the Sisters. In the obituary published in the *Bulletin Gèneral*, he is referred to as being simple, with nothing complex in his views or devotions; keeping to the straight essentials in life, strict in the observance of poverty, normally taciturn but not afraid to speak out when principle was at stake. He met death with no fears, dying 23 July 1925 aged 77 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. RBR; *BG* XXXII 621.

### **O'LEARY, Fr Daniel 1908-1978**



Born 15 February 1908 in Derrivane, Inchigeela, Macroom, Co. Cork, Dan did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1921-25. A native Irish speaker, he retained a life-long interest in Gaelic culture - and he succeeded in passing on that interest to in his students when a prefect at Blackrock, 1928-31. This outlook helped himself to appreciate the value of native African culture as a support to his work of evangelisation. Professed in Kimmage in 1926 he did Philosophy and Theology at the Castle, Blackrock, and was ordained in 1934. Appointed to Zanzibar, Fr Dan mastered Kiswahili early on. Then he was moved up country where he spent some time in what is today Machakos diocese. His principal work, however, was to be among the Kikuyu people. He set out to master the Kikuyu language, which he was to use extensively for the rest of his life. One of his initiatives was to prepare an adequate prayer book in Kikuyu which was also a missal and a hymn-book. This he later updated in line with the reforms introduced by the Vatican Council. It was an instant success and has remained so. Realising the value of native culture, he set out to foster and preserve what he saw best in Kikuyu oral lore, especially the wisdom found in their proverbs. He composed a textbook for use in schools entitled *Ruhlu rua mugo*, utilising native *seanchas* and *sean-fhocail* as aids to interpreting the Good News for his beloved Kikuyu people. He was known to be a dedicated priest, a tireless worker for God's Kingdom and a considerate confrere. Dan had the privilege of spending thirty-five years as a missionary in Kenya where he saw the original diocese of Zanzibar develop into the Archdiocese of Nairobi, three other dioceses and a prefecture. Fr Daniel O'Leary died peacefully in his sleep 11 March 1978 aged 70 years. He was buried in Kenya. BCArch; *Forum* 32 1978; *BCA* 1978 200.

## **O'LOUGHLIN, Fr Nicholas J      1884-1968**



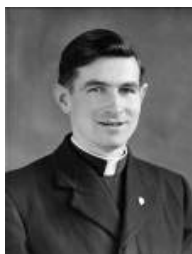
Born 20 February 1884 in Ballincuntunig, Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, Nicky came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1896. Having passed Senior Grade in 1902, he then continued his studies for the Royal University examinations till 1905, and served a prefect, 1904-7. He went to France for his senior studies, was professed 1911 and was then recalled by Fr John T. Murphy in his effort to build up a senior scholasticate at Kimmage together with the novitiate. Nicky continued his Arts course, now under the new National University, taking his BA with honours in 1912. He returned to France to complete his theological studies being ordained in 1914. The final year was done at Langonnet far away from the war zone. His first appointment in 1915 was to Blackrock, but the following year he and others released by the closure of St. Mary's, Rathmines, were sent to join the Irish Mission Band in USA. They devoted what they earned by their ministry to the support and development of the Irish houses of study. Fr O'Loughlin's main base was St. Peter Claver's black parish in Philadelphia. He continued this work until the end of 1933 when he was recalled to replace Fr Evans as superior of Kimmage Manor, a post he held for the next six years while also acting as Director of the Holy Ghost Africa Mission League. He bore a large part of the responsibility of supporting the missionary expansion of the Irish province orchestrated by the Provincial, Dr. Dan Murphy. Fr O'Loughlin objected strongly to the manner of the removal of Dr. Murphy from his post as provincial and for the next two years he was to live in semi-retirement in the novitiate at Kilshane. In 1950, however, he resumed active work again when he helped Fr Richard Harnett in the organisation of the Holy Childhood. It has been written of Fr O'Loughlin's sterling contribution to the Irish Province: "The great growth of the Irish Province and its missions owed much to his work during the thirty-two years from 1916. He was completely devoted and unsparing of himself and poured his great fund of energy and zeal continuously into all his efforts for the organisation of the very necessary propaganda effort of the Irish Province: the building of a large new house of studies in Kimmage, the missionary exhibitions and the sales of work, the raising of money for 'burses' for the training of missionaries, the recruiting of vocations, spreading goodwill towards the African missions; a multitude of tasks and anxieties were constantly preoccupying him, and the last thing he seemed to think of was ease or repose for himself, or any personal glamour. All he did, in sermons, exhortations, appeals for the missions, words of encouragement for his confreres and many lay helpers, sprang very evidently from an unselfish and very spiritual soul; and when the Irish missionary effort of this last half century is finally assessed much of its worth will be seen to be due to this completely dedicated worker who had never been sent by his superiors to any mission territory." Fr Nicky was recalled in joke and in serious mood for his oft repeated statement: "Aren't we all one happy family". For one who loved to be out among the ordinary people it was a severe cross in later years that he progressively lost his memory of people and places. Fr Nicholas O'Loughlin died 29 August 1968 aged 82 and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1969, 171f; *SpWW*, 818.

**O'LOUGHLIN, Fr Thomas Joseph      1916-1956**



Born 21 May 1916 in Punchersgrange, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Thomas qualified as a pharmacist, played rugby for Garryowen and was working in Kissane's chemist shop in Tipperary town when he decided to join the Congregation. He entered the juniorate at Rockwell and was professed at Kilshane in 1945. He did Philosophy at Kimmage Manor and was ordained in 1950. The following year he was appointed to Sierra Leone. At the time of his death he was in charge of the newly opened mission at Kono (Yengema). He had already built several schools and had plans for a big drive to develop this new territory. He was a very hard worker with no signs of ill-health. He died suddenly as a result of a heart attack 26 April 1956 aged 39 years. He is buried in Sierra Leone. IPB 34 18f.

**O'MAHONY, Fr Cornelius      1931-1990**



Born 21 October 1931 in Ballyduff, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Con received his secondary education at CBS, Thurles. He entered Kilshane and was professed in 1950. He did his studies at Kimmage and UCD. Having qualified for the BA in 1954, he did 2 years prefecting at Blackrock. Ordained in 1958 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He served in Onitsha, first in the junior seminary and then as curate in the teeming parishes of Adazi and Ogui. His concern for detail, accuracy and punctuality fitted him well for his next post as assistant Education Secretary for the Diocese. His final years in Nigeria were spent at Nnewi which suffered heavily from bombing raids during the Biafran war. Others might lose their heads in the confusion but not Con: He is recalled as being cool and calm as he went about attending to the dead and wounded. Deported with the other missionaries he was given a hero's welcome in his home territory. All that Con wanted, however, was to be able to return to Africa. In the meantime he did a year's study at Maynooth and qualified for the BD. Then it was back to Africa again, this time to Machakos in Kenya. Posted to Kaumoni he transformed an unpromising school by dint of hard work and attention to detail. Having put in nine years of hard work there, he was transferred to Tala High School where he experienced relative comfort. In 1985 he responded to a request from the English Province for help in the homeland. Con began a new career once more, this time New Barnet, North London. Total dedication was once again his hallmark. He suffered from heart trouble which he took lightly, perhaps too lightly, as it transpired. Being very keen on hurling since his school-days, he attended the All-Ireland Hurling Final at Croke Park. Fr Cornelius O'Mahony had a heart attack during the match from which he died two days later 4 September 1990. He was 58 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 6, September 1990, and *IPArch*

### **O'MAHONY, Br Finian (Brian) 1904-1980**



Born 24 March 1904 in Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Brian entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1920 and made his Profession in 1922. Versatile and hardworking, he was equally competent as plumber, chef and farm manager. From 1925 to 1938 he was in charge of the kitchen and grounds at Kimmage, and from 1938 to 1940 he worked at Blackrock. During the Emergency years he worked with Fr Jim White, manager of the Congregation's farm at Kill, Co. Kildare, and later he was assistant manager of the farm at Enfield. In 1962 he returned to Kimmage. A man of retiring and shy disposition and manner, one was struck by his quaint and picturesque descriptions of people. One man, who was stingy with money, he described as being "as tight as tuppence on a stool." Behind his quiet exterior was a diligent, painstaking and dedicated man of great kindness and wholehearted fidelity to the demands of his religious commitment. As he had got through his work without fuss all his active life so also in his later years he bore his share of suffering quietly, courageously and without complaint. Br Finian O'Mahony died 30 August 1980 aged 76 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 44, Nov. 1980.

### **O'MAHONY, Fr Martin 1879-1944**



Born 28 May 1879 in Bullockfield, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, Martin did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1894-1901. He was later described as "a man of outstanding mental powers." From the start he devoted his talents to the study and promotion of the Irish language which he had known from childhood. At Blackrock he had as professor, Tadhg O Donnacha (Tórna), future author and professor of Irish at UCC. In the 1898 class at Blackrock with Martin were two who were to make their mark on the Gaelic revival namely, Padraic O Conaire, short story writer, and Tomás O Raithille, professor of Old Irish and author of many learned works in that discipline. Martin prefect at Rockwell, 1901-03, did his novitiate in France the following year and prefect at Blackrock, 1905-6. Ordained in 1909 he was appointed to Rockwell where he taught for three years. He was called on in 1913 to join the Mission Band in USA but preaching was not his forte. After one year he returned to Ireland and was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines. When the school closed there in 1916, he was transferred to Blackrock. He was closely associated with some of the men involved in the 1916 Rising and in the struggle for independence, and he made no secret of his sympathy with the revival of the Gaelic culture. It would appear that he was to be sent to Trinidad because of this. He protested to the Mother House and no action in that line was taken. He continued to espouse the cause of the Irish revival movement, as he threw himself with extraordinary enthusiasm and energy into promoting the Irish summer schools for teachers. He was recognised as the *Ard Ollamh* of the school at Caherdaniel and later at Ballyvourney. He also devoted much time to collecting vocabulary for Dineen's historic dictionary and helped at preparing an tAthair Peadar O Laoghaire's translation of the New Testament for publication. His work was not always acknowledged, it would appear. He was the main editor of *An Síoladóir*, an Irish magazine mainly for the clergy. His knowledge of Irish was profound and extensive but he was not the best teacher for secondary students preparing for examinations. He was humble, devoted to his work, courageous, thoughtful and kind. It is not surprising, however, that all did not share his enthusiasm for the Gaelic

revival. In 1932 Fr Martin was transferred to Rockwell and, though he tried to pick up the threads once more, he had neither the energy nor the appetite, though he is remembered with gratitude for the strong support he gave to the Gaelic League of which he was the president in South Tipperary. His health gradually deteriorated and students in Rockwell in the late thirties who saw Fr O'Mahony and Fr Jim Burke slowly pacing the avenue together were impressed by their quiet dignity. Fr Martin O'Mahony died 15 October 1944 aged 66 years. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal dílis*. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCA* 1945,89f; *SpWW* 522

### **O'Mahony, Fr John Christopher 1924-2005**

John was born at Blackpool House, Blackpool, Co. Cork, on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1924. After his secondary school studies at the Junior Scholasticate in Rockwell he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1944. He was conferred with a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. in 1947. During 1947-'49 he prefected at Rockwell College. John studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1952 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1953. In 1954 Father John's first appointment was to **Kenya**. For forty three years he worked there at parish work and teaching. During the first six years 1953-'59 he taught at; *Riara School, Kabaa Secondary School and St. Mary's Nairobi*. For the next twenty-three years he was in parish work in the **Machakos Diocese** at; *Kaumoni, Kabaa, Mbooni, Kibwezi, Ndithini, Mwala, Thatha and Kiswezi*. He built many churches including those at *Utangwa, Kibwezi, Tawa and Iiani*. In the Kamba language John was affectionately known as "Mwenda Andu" "The Lover of People". In 1983 he took a sabbatical at the Carlow Liturgical Center. John was a lover of music and an organist of no mean ability. In 1984 he returned to Kenya and was assigned to *Catholic Church Karen, Nairobi* where he remained until he returned to Ireland in 1996. Back in Ireland John worked as a curate in Castledermot Parish. Due to failing health John retired to Kimmage Manor in the year 2000. John was admitted to Marian House in January, where he died 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

### **O'MAHONY, Fr William (Liam) 1922-1979**



Born 17 September 1922 in Kilquaide, Co. Wicklow, Liam entered the juniorate at Rockwell in 1936. Professed in 1943 he did Philosophy at Kimmage, 1943-45, and prefected at St Mary's, Rathmines, for two years. Ordained in 1950 Fr Liam was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he worked in the diocese of Owerri and at Port Harcourt. In 1965 he was sent by the bishop to study at the Workers' College and Plater College, Oxford, where he took a diploma in Social Administration. Unable to return to Nigeria because of the Civil War, he went to the USA where he engaged in parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy until 1974. He also followed a counselling course at Iona College and it was in that area he exercised his ministry from then on. He carried on his work despite suffering a stroke early in 1974. In 1975 he was appointed Superior in Kilshane where in spite of his ill-health he was the essence of understanding, friendliness, and hospitality. He even retained that hearty boyish laugh in face of problems which had helped so often to cheer his school pals in the Juniorate in Rockwell and later through life. Fr Liam O'Mahony died suddenly while walking on the avenue in Kilshane 13 September

1979. He was 56 years young at the time. He is buried in Rockwell. *IPNI* No 40, December 1979.

### **O'MAILLE, Fr Joseph (Seosamh) 1920-1979**



Born 1920 in Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway, Joe was a student at St Jarlath's College, Tuam, where he was highly rated as a Gaelic footballer. Influenced by a talk given by Fr Bertie Farrell he entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1940. He prefectured at Rockwell. A man of fine physique it came as a surprise during his Theology when he fell victim of tuberculosis. His prolonged illness disrupted his studies and was seen to have significantly affected his temperament making it more difficult for him to relate to others and to life in general. In spite of this he was ordained in 1954. He spent much time in hospitals and sanatoria, and returned for periods to different communities of the Congregation. He did pastoral work in England and tried his hand as teacher for a short period in Willow Park. He had more success as director of pilgrimages to Lourdes etc. Finally he retired to Kimmage and towards the end of his days he was seen to have come to terms with his illness and with the world around him. He died 15 January 1979 aged 58 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPArch*

### **O'MEARA, Fr John 1909-1970**



Born 8 August 1909 in Inisfallen Parade, Drumcondra, Dublin, John was educated at CBS Glasnevin, and did his final year at Blackrock. Professed at Kimmage in 1926 he prefectured at St Mary's, Rathmines, and took the BA in 1930, followed by the H.Dip.Ed. in 1931. Ordained in 1935 Fr John attended postgraduate courses in education in London, 1936/7, and went to Kenya where he was to be engaged mainly in education for the following thirty three years, except for a period in 1948 when he taught at Blackrock. He was headmaster in Kabaa High School and Mangu High School, and was Education Secretary General for all Catholic missions in Kenya until 1965. He was later in charge of St Francis Xavier's parish, Parklands, Nairobi, and its secondary school. There Fr John died at his desk while engaged in the work of the parish. He was remembered by his confreres for his cheerful and candid manner and an independence of mind which had no trace of self-assertiveness; and, in the work of Education Secretary and Headmaster, his twenty years of dealing with all routine matters and with the frequently delicate problems of liaison between the Missions and the Government officials, won him the complete confidence of all parties. One who knew him well said: "His sincerity and truthfulness were a byword. His deference to authority and respect for it were not allowed to impinge upon what he believed to be the claims of justice from whatever source these arose!" Fr John O'Meara died 15 March 1970 aged 62 years. He is buried in Kenya. *BCArch; BCA 1970 227f.*

### **O'MEARA, Fr William 1916-1995**



Born 26 May 1916 in Barnabaun, Newport, Co. Tipperary, Willie was a student at Rockwell, 1929-34, where he proved his metal in the classroom and as goalie for the Senior Hurling Team. Professed in Kilshane, 1935, he attended UCD where he gained the B.Sc. and the B.A. in Philosophy. While prefecting in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1936-38, he secured the H.Dip.Ed. Ordained in 1945 in Thurles Cathedral

with his brother Denis, Fr Willie was appointed in 1946 to Nigeria. He served in CKC, Onitsha, where, besides teaching science, he trained the athletics and hockey teams. Returning to Ireland he was appointed in 1952 to Blackrock where he replaced Fr Frank McCabe in charge of the Physics department. He soon got involved in many other areas of the life of the college. He was given charge of training the Under 13 rugby team - a chore he relished for years in fair weather and foul. He revived cricket and was to be seen all summer term as coach, umpire and groundsman. He had the satisfaction of seeing the senior team win the Leinster Schools Cricket Cup on four occasions. Willie joined another former Nigerian missionary, Fr John Roche, in taking charge of the school sodalities and acted as counsellor to students with personal problems. The students took to him instinctively because of his non-threatening manner. And he always concentrated on what good he saw in people, young and old. He also took on what had proved a challenging ministry down the years, namely the chaplaincy to the Linden Convalescent Home which entailed cycling against a steep hill every morning to say the 7 am mass and to be on call for further duties there including evening Benediction. In later years this brought him into very close contact with former President de Valera during his retirement in Talbot Lodge. Over and above these routine duties, Fr Willie was seen to act as receptionist, man the phones at off duty hours - which meant that he was on call through the night. Skilled as a photographer he compiled several albums featuring the life of the school and his ministry in Linden. One of his much appreciated services was his continual active interest in the sick in the community and in hospitals. No wonder then that when the community voted for a Vice-president in 1979, Fr Willie was the unanimous choice. The wonder was that with all these services that he had any time to spare, and yet when anyone came to him with a problem or for a social call, he seemed to have all the time in the world for the caller of the moment. He never seemed to have aged in mind or body. But nature has its limits. In his last few years Fr Willie was stricken with Alzheimer's disease and he found that though he still wanted to serve as of old, he was gradually reduced to helplessness himself. In 1993 he was transferred to Marian House where he died 27 November 1995 aged 79 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *IPNI* No. 6 1995; *BCA* 1996 283ff

### **O'NEILL, Fr Christopher 1909-1991**



Born 6 June 1909 in Limerick Christy attended Blackrock College, 1923-29, and was professed in Kimmage in 1930. Having done Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1930-32, he prefectured for one year at the college. Ordained priest in 1936 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. He served first at Ahiara and later at Achina and the Uga station. He was remembered by his flock as being very approachable and in his 'free' time he loved to play bridge with his fellow Limerick confreres Fr Joe Cater and Bishops Joe Whelan and Don Murray. Because of the Biafra War, Fr Christy had to quit Nigeria, moving to New Jersey where his ministry, his hospitality and his courtesy were deeply appreciated. Ill health obliged him to retire to Ireland in 1983. All his life Fr Christy took a keen interest in all types of sport. In his final years in Kimmage he was noted for his remembering the dead in his prayers. Fr Christy O'Neill himself joined the faithful departed 3 June 1991 at the age of 81 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPArch*; *IPNI* No. 4, 1991

**O'NEILL, Fr James      1910-1981**



Born 4 December 1910 in Kilconnaught, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow, Jimmy studied at Blackrock, 1925-29, and made his profession at Kimmage in 1930. He attended University College, Dublin, where he took the BA in 1933 and the H.Dip.Ed. the following year. He prefectured in Blackrock, 1933-34, and, 1934-35, in Rockwell. Ordained to the priesthood in 1938, his first appointment was to Nigeria where he served at Christ the King College until 1944. In 1944-45 he taught Ethics at Kimmage and in 1945-46 he was Master of Novice Brothers. He spent the following two years in Rome where he took a licentiate in Canon law. Returned to Nigeria in 1948 he was involved in formation in the Bigard Seminary, 1948-66, and at Awoamama, 1966-1969. On leaving Nigeria he worked for one year in parish ministry in the United States, before going to the Bon Secour Hospital, Glasnevin, as chaplain. Together with his work as chaplain he was Defender of the Bond in the Dublin Diocese Marriage Tribunal and lectured in Medical Ethics at Temple Street Hospital. He died suddenly 10 June 1981 in the chaplain's residence at the Bon Secour Hospital, Glasnevin, and is buried in Kimmage. He was 70 years of age. BJR No.1086; *IPNI* 1981 No 47 (July).

**O'NEILL, Fr James O.      1873-1948**



Born 14 October 1873 in Irish St, Downpatrick, Co. Down, James began his secondary studies in St Malachy's College in 1883 and transferred to Blackrock, 1886-93. He won a scholarship in 1<sup>st</sup> Arts, in 1893 but, as in those days it was not customary for the scholastics to take degrees, he was sent to St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect for two years. He went to France to study Philosophy in 1895 and was later sent to Rome to do Theology at the Gregorian University while residing in the French Seminary. Ordained in 1900 Fr James qualified the following year for the D.D. and was appointed to Blackrock. From photographs of that period we see that he was a keen cricketer, winning his place on the Castle XI. In 1905 he was transferred to Rockwell, where he served as Dean of studies, 1911-16. When St Mary's, Rathmines, reopened in 1926, 'Doc' O'Neill was called on to take charge of studies there, a role he filled for eight years. During all these years Fr O'Neill was a force in the classroom as well. We quote from an obituary notice: "He was a teacher of uncommon merit. He had a keen sharp intelligence which made him impatient of folly and restive in face of slovenliness. He delighted in order - intellectual and physical. His gift of epigram occasionally changed to mordant reproof; but even those who merited his caustic comment enjoyed the swift play of wit. In community gatherings he enlivened the company by his ready repartee, and in discussion of serious topics he was admirable for information and for lucid statement. Methodical, precise, intelligent, hardworking he certainly was; but over and above such attributes he possessed personality. No one who sat before him in the classroom or had official dealings with him will deny that. It may have created awe or even at times fear, but it was undeniable. His was one of those whose presence obliterated all else. His singular gift was used generously for God and Ireland's youth." Occasionally, when called on to write an appreciation of a departed confrere, what he wrote had that touch of class that makes the personality of that confrere come to life. Fr James O'Neill died 21 December 1948 aged 75 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1949 p.256; *État*



**O'NEILL, Fr John S. 1907-1992**



Born 27 January 1907 in Clonoe, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, Johnny came to Blackrock College in 1921 together with his first cousin, Fred Fullen. Professed in Kimmage in 1925, he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1925-7, and did his prefecting in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1927-31. Ordained in 1934 Fr Johnny was appointed to Angola the following year together with Fr Bernard Keane. They were the first Irish Spiritans to be appointed to that mission since Frs John Hogan and Joseph Lynch, who were victims of its cruel climate after a few short years in the 1880s. Angola's reputation in that matter had not changed but, as the Portuguese had tightened their grip on the colony, it was insisted on that all foreigners become proficient in Portuguese and subject themselves to all Portuguese laws. A year's domicile in Portugal was called for. It was a Portugal which retained much of the anti-clericalism of the Revolution. One small reminder of this was that on their visit to Braga they saw a scientific instrument invented by Fr Hugh O'Toole whom they had known at Blackrock but it was now in the former famous Spiritan college which was state property. Arrived in Angola in April 1936 Fr John's first assignment was to Gambos. The climate had proved deadly for him and the people proved impervious to Christianity. When word of this lack of progress reached Nigeria, there were appeals that these two active young missionaries be redirected to where there were thousands waiting for the Gospel to be preached to them. Gambos was closed and John was transferred to Sendi. It was going to be a hard slog all along the way with a trail of woes because of the climate. But no disaster was to diminish John's zeal or dilute his courage. He concentrated on evangelisation through education, earning for himself from other missionaries the nickname "schoolmaster". He was also remembered for the long journeys undertaken in most trying conditions in this work of "first evangelisation." His mode of transport was the same as that used by Fr Duparquet, Fr John Hogan and Br Onufre Cooney way back in the early eighties of the last century, a two-wheeled wagon drawn by eight oxen. He became known as "*o missionario do apotolado longinquo*." Wherever souls were to be saved he sought them out. He contacted people, became their friend, administered first aid where possible, and brought them the Good News of the Gospel. The school in Sendi became the most successful in the diocese and solid vocations to the priesthood came in outstanding numbers. When Johnny's health gave way and prevented him from such punishing travels, he was appointed director of a Junior Seminary and later was professor in the new Spiritan college in Huambo. He got to know the Angolan mind well and the people realised that he was totally committed to their interests. He listened a lot to their problems, said little and always kept his patience and his humour. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in 1961. He served at Kilshane till 1964 when he was appointed Missionary Procurator, a post he filled with the same calm dedication he had shown all his life. He retained his common sense to the last and his good humour never deserted him. Fr John O'Neill answered the last roll-call 6 November, Feast of the Irish Saints, 1992 aged 85 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNI* No. 5 1992

**O'NEILL, Br Kieran (Joseph) 1867-1950**

Born 24 Dec. 1867 in Rosegreen, Co. Tipperary, Joe was almost thirty years of age when he came to Rockwell to join the brotherhood. He did his novitiate at Prior Park, Bath, and made his profession in Rockwell in 1907. Br Kieran was assigned to

Rockwell where he was to spend the rest of his life. Like Br Kieran Egan (+1905) from whom he took over the name and the function, he was to be for many years in charge of the college farm. He was a familiar figure at the fairs in nearby towns and was still referred to as 'Joe Neil' by local farmers. They recalled him as a member of the Rosegreen tug-o-war team who had emerged as All-Ireland champions. Later in life he was put in charge of the college garden and orchard where schoolboy raiders found him a vigilant custodian whose wrath, however, was not long-lived. His spirituality was not complex; it was the spirituality of the countryman. There was something very straightforward also about his *obiter dicta* some of which passed into the Rockwell fund of legends to be savoured on occasions of community celebration. Most memorable was the occasion towards the end of his life when he approached the superior, Fr V.J. Dinan, during mass for a permission and explained later that it was the only time one could be sure to find him! Br Kieran O'Neill suffered much from 'the pains' and from loss of memory in later years. He died 7 Feb. 1950 aged 83 years and was buried in Rockwell.

### **O'NEILL, Fr William 1915-1999**



Born on 8 January 1915 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Willie did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1929-33. He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane and was professed in 1934. He prefected at Blackrock, 1937-39, and was ordained priest in 1942. The following year he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar.

After doing pastoral work for one year each at Kilungu and Waa, he was attached to the Holy Spirit Church in Mombasa in 1946. In 1949 he began teaching in St Mary's School, Nairobi. Two years later he returned to Holy Spirit Church, soon to become the Cathedral Church of the new diocese of Mombasa. He remained there till 1962, serving at the same time as secretary to the bishop. In 1962 he was put in charge of Malindi and in 1965 the bishop sent him to the USA on a fundraising tour. Due to ill health he returned to Ireland and served there as assistant editor of the *Missionary Annals*. From 1970 to 1974 he served as Chaplain to St John of God Hospital in Stillorgan. In 1975 he was appointed to USA West where he was first appointed to the prestigious Saint Cecilia's parish in San Francisco. He later moved to St Brigid's Parish, also in San Francisco. Later he served in the Parishes of St Bartholomew in San Mateo and St Raphael's in San Raphael. He retired to Mountain View for some time before ill health caused him to return in 1996 to Kimmage where he died 30 July 1999 aged 83 years. It was said of him; "The two big qualities that come to mind: his devotion to the priesthood and to the Congregation. He made many good friends who were very good to him in his illness. Like all of us he had his faults: he could be impatient and cross at times but no one took that seriously as Willie was obviously good at heart." Fr Willie was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No.4, 1999; *KEASM* No. 486

### **O NUALLAIN, Fr Cillín 1926-1979**



Father Cillín O'Neill

Born 24 October 1926 in Botanic Rd., Glasnevin, Cillín did his secondary studies at St Vincent's CBS, Glasnevin. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1944 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD, qualifying for the BA in 1948 and the MA in 1950. He prefected for a year at Rockwell and then went to Fribourg to do Theology. He received the B.S.Th. (*summa cum laude*), in

1953, and the STL (*magna cum laude*) in 1955. Ordained in 1954 Fr Cillín was appointed the following year to the District of Kenya, where he was to work for the rest of his life. He served at St Mary's College, Nairobi. At the time of his unexpected death on 20th December 1979, while on a visit to the novitiate at USA River, he had been teaching philosophy at the East African Foundation where he was director of seminarians. Fr Cillín O Nualláin was 53 years of age. He is buried in Kenya. *IPNI*, 41, Feb. 1980.

**O'QUIGLEY, Fr Michael A. 1916-1973**



Born 12 July 1916 in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Mick began his secondary studies at St Jarlath's College, Tuam, and came to Blackrock in 1932 for his two final years. He entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1934, and after his profession he prefectured at Blackrock for two years, 1936-38. He took the BA in 1941 and was ordained priest in 1943. His first appointment was to Sierra Leone where he served at St Anthony's Church, Ascensiontown, near Freetown. He also acted as headmaster of the Primary school, was secretary to the bishop, Dr Ambrose Kelly, and served as chaplain to the prisons in Freetown. In his spare time he was choirmaster at St Anthony's where his natural musical talent and his sympathetic approach helped him in forming an enthusiastic team. It was a full life and he did not always find it easy. Back in Ireland in 1950 he studied for the H.Dip.Ed. while attached to St Michael's College, Ailesbury Rd. He and Fr Turlough O'Brien gave much time and thought to drawing up a programme for the junior school but at the end of the year they were both posted elsewhere. Fr O'Quigley was stationed at Rockwell for the next seven years where, as well as teaching class, he put his talent in music to use in the production of the college operas and in founding and conducting an orchestra among the students. He broke new ground by teaching the music of Flotow's 'Martha' for a successful schoolboy production. In 1958 he returned to Blackrock and joined the teaching staff of Willow Park. He loved his game of golf and because his style was rather unorthodox it provided some merriment. Indeed the 'Quig', as he was affectionately known, was always associated in people's mind with fun. In the senior scholasticate one recalls his hilarious rendering of the Robin in Aristophane's 'Birds'. He was seen to be really imitating one of the professorial staff. And then that morning as the multitude of scholastics were standing in serried ranks for 'meditation' when a cockroach crawled up the aisle only to be squashed by the boot of J.H.Ryan; the ever-sensitive Quig was so shocked that he collapsed and had to be carried out. But then we should perhaps recall his mellifluous rendering of the special Ninth *Lectio* during Tenebrae. In 1965 Fr Mick suffered a serious stroke which left one side paralysed. With help over a prolonged period at a rehabilitation clinic he managed to be able to drag him self around with the aid of a stick and he even tried to revive his former cheerfulness of manner though he must have often been tempted to give way to depression. And he still could often be the centre of a social gathering. His death took all by surprise as he died suddenly while staying with his relatives during the summer holidays. Fr Michael O'Quigley was 57 years of age when he died on 4 July 1973. He is buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1973 267ff.

## O'REILLY, Br Gaspard (John) 1846-1923 171



Born 24 June 1846 in Ballamacue, Ardagh, Co. Cavan, John entered the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock in August 1869 and was professed 8 September 1871. There was as yet no baker to operate the new bakery at the college, so Br Gaspard was apprenticed to the baker who came in from Dublin and he quickly picked up the trade. A student of that period recalled over eighty years later that the French College provided excellent bread. Gaspard kept up that tradition for the next forty five years. He devoted his spare time to his religious exercises. He and his brother Andy, an *agrègè*, rose in the early hours of the morning to do the Stations of the Cross in quiet contemplation before anyone else arrived. At first, Gaspard was given to excessive mortification but he learned to concentrate instead on accepting the mortifications that came his way and through his work. He was still working at the age of seventy-five and only his belief that the word of the superior was for him the voice of God made him retire from work and devote his full time to prayer. There were those who regarded Gaspard as a possible candidate for canonisation. Dr J.C. McQuaid, who admitted that he owed his vocation to the influence of his fellow-county man, thought of instituting a canonical enquiry into the heroicity of his virtues. He deputed Fr Bill O'Connor to do the preliminary investigation. Not all of those interviewed were enamoured of what they regarded as Br Gaspard's excessive religiosity and they pooh-poohed the stories about his alleged miracles. Then there was the memory of that incident described by Fr Ebenrecht in the community journal when Gaspard interrupted the Benediction ceremony during the visitation by the Superior General, Fr Emonet, and proceeded to perform a consecration ceremony involving one of the students. That action he claimed was done under an inspiration from on high. So, though it was generally agreed that Br Gaspard was a good religious, very devout, and an excellent baker, his rather eccentric way of life and his tendency to go over board in his religious observances left people with the impression that he was somewhat unbalanced. Fr Larry Healy, who knew him very well over the years, wrote about him as follows: "He envied the old hermits their solitude and their penances, and would, if allowed, imitate them in the rigour of their mortifications. He read many spiritual books. He even attempted to write one. In spiritual matters he came to be accepted by many as an authority and guide. Their confidence in him was strengthened by his extremely ascetic appearance and his never-failing joyousness. He had a great esteem for the virtue of obedience, and that fact saved him from getting lost in the giddy heights of mysticism where he loved to live. He died a saintly death 19 March, the Feast of St Joseph, 1923 aged 76 years." Fr Healy had this to write about Br Gaspard's brother: "Quite as well known as Br Gaspard to many generations of students was his brother, 'Andy Reilly'. Andy was a monk in all but garb. He thought that, while retaining his secular dress and his beard, he might sanctify himself and merit heaven as well as if he wore the soutane. He gave his services gratis to the college, and played many parts. In particular he made the altar breads for the college. In his old age, feeble and blind, he was consoled by the esteem and affection of the community that he had served so well. He died 17 March 1923 aged 80 years." He was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR No.79; BG XXXI 286; LH, 269f

**O'REILLY, Br Mary Patrick (John) 1834-1869**

Born John 19 May 1834 in Mullogh, Co. Meath, John entered Blackrock in 1861 aged 27 years and was professed there 8 September 1863. He taught a junior class which was very welcome in the absence of English-speaking members in the community. As Trinidad's needs were considered greater, Br Patrick was posted to St. Mary's, Port of Spain, September 1865, where he taught English and Commerce. Struck by yellow fever he died within a few days. Knowing that death was imminent he asked that he be allowed to make his final vows. Br Patrick O'Reilly died 19 August 1869 aged 35 years. He was buried in Trinidad. BBR No. 3 (9); *BG*, 7, 340f; *SpWW*, 39.

**O'REILLY, Fr John J 1870-1957**



Born 28 Sept. 1870 in Ballinalee, Co. Longford, John came to Blackrock in 1887, a year remembered as being the last year of the Fr Reffé era as Principal and the first year of the Leinster Schools' Rugby Cup competition. John was influenced by both events. He was cut out by nature to be a rugby forward. Being a junior scholastic he was not then eligible for a place on the Blackrock XV but later, when he went to St. Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect (1893-7), he played for the Bective 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the company of the internationals, Louis Magee and the Ryan brothers from Rockwell. Bective did him the honour of electing him Vice-President of their Club, and in later years, when he was in charge of games at St. Mary's, Rathmines, members of the Bective Club on the committee of the Leinster Branch backed him when he proposed that there should be a trophy for competition for Under-15s in Leinster schools. A form of sport coming into vogue during John's student days at Blackrock was cycling. Though it was yet the era of solid tyres, fixed-wheel drive and no brakes, John faced up to the challenge of cycling to Rockwell and from there to Killarney. Better things were being planned by John Dunlop and du Cros, both of whose sons were classmates of John at Blackrock in the early nineties. These were but side issues. John competed with the best in the academic arena, with Ferdinand Senger in languages, with John McGrath in mathematics and with James Craig in Irish, all of whom made their name in later years. John had the benefit of three years study for the examinations conducted by the Royal University and profited from the best tuition provided at the Castle under Fr Hugh O'Toole. When transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect in 1893, he was conscious of a more democratic regime there as the French tradition had been greatly diluted. In 1897 he went to France to begin his studies for the priesthood. Ordained in 1901 he was reassigned the following year to St Mary's. As Dean of discipline he took an active part in organising games and in the classroom he taught English, French, Commerce and Mathematics. There is evidence that in his efforts to improve his mathematical expertise he pooled knowledge with Michael Smithwick and Eamon de Valera. They had another bond in their involvement with schools' rugby. Being close to Portobello Barracks the community at St. Mary's were affected by the military situation in 1916 and after, but the closing of the school in 1916 was brought about by the shortage of personnel and a financial crisis. Fr John taught at Rockwell till 1919. He was then transferred to the Irish Mission Band operating in the USA to raise funds for the Irish Senior Scholasticate. He was stationed first at Blessed Sacrament parish in Philadelphia, but by 1922 he is given as teaching at the juniorate at Cornwells, a post he was to fill till 1932 when he was appointed pastor at Tiverton, R.I. He was still at his post in Tiverton when he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1951. Age and infirmities forced him to resign the

following year. It was said of him then: "An excellent teacher, very popular among the students and he showed his love for the young while he was pastor in Tiverton". After a short period of retirement at St. Joseph's House, Philadelphia, he asked to be allowed to return to Ireland where he spent his last years at Kimmage in poor health. Having been a very strong active man, his physical disability weighed heavily on him, but his great faith and sound common sense endeared him to all. As he often recalled the great old days under Fr Reffé and the professorial staff at the university college at Blackrock, he felt himself somewhat of an '*Oisín i ndiaidh na Féinne*'. Fr John O'Reilly died 26 May 1957 aged 87 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1957, 46f; *SpWW* 672.

### **O'REILLY, Fr John Levins      1918-1985**



Born 7 July 1918 in Anglesea Road, Donnybrook, Dublin, John did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, as a day student, 1927-30, and in the juniorate, 1930-36. Professed in 1937 in Kilshane he then studied for five years at UCD, obtaining a B.A. degree in Maths-Physics in 1940 and a B.A. in Philosophy in 1942. After prefecting for a year in Rockwell College, he did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1946. He spent the year 1947-8 teaching in Blackrock College and obtained a Higher Diploma as well as a Master's degree in Education. He was then sent to Sierra Leone and from 1948 to 1954, and again from 1967 to 1970, he taught in the Catholic Teacher Training College, Bo, where he was also principal. He spent a year as principal of St Edward's Secondary School. From 1956 to 1967 he was Senior Lecturer in Education at the Government Teacher Training College, Freetown, and between 1956 and 1963 he was University chaplain at Fourah Bay College. He was Catholic representative for radio and television from 1958 to 1967. In 1971 Fr John returned to Ireland and for three years taught in Rockwell and St Michael's. Then, after working for a while in Malawi and in California, he joined the Blackrock community in 1977 as College Registrar. He edited the *Blackrock College Annual*, 1978-1983. Fr John was a man of considerable intelligence and understanding, kind to all and supportive of new initiatives. He made a big contribution to education and to missionary use of the media in Sierra Leone. Being somewhat over sensitive he suffered constantly when he felt that his contribution to the project in hand was not acknowledged by others. He took charge of organising the liturgy at Blackrock and supervised the college tennis teams. On the 20th April 1985 he remarked that he did not feel well after a brief bout of tennis but he nevertheless went along to community vespers. He died suddenly during the ceremony from a heart attack. He was aged 66 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1985 179f; *IPNI* 60 1985

### **O'RIORDAN, Fr Timothy A.      1923-1978**



Born 8 November 1923 in Cork, Tadhg studied at Our Lady's Mount CBS School of Technology, Cork, before entering the novitiate at Kilshane in 1942. After his profession in 1943 he did his senior studies in Kimmage, 1944-47, and prefectured at Rockwell, 1948-49. Ordained in 1951 he was assigned to Nigeria. Fr Tadhg was an assistant in Sacred Heart, Onitsha, before becoming pastor at Abatete in 1958. At the same time, he was also the diocesan architect, a function which in 1960 became a full-time occupation. A man of many talents, he was noted as a youth organiser during all his years in Nigeria. The outbreak of the civil war in 1967 found him as pastor at Nise,

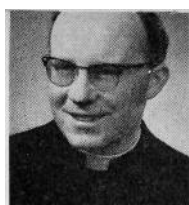
where he was also hospital engineer. Forced to leave the country after the Biafra War, he went to the USA in 1968 and served as an assistant in Our Lady of Mt Virgin, Middlesex, NC. The following year he went to Canada and initiated the Congregation's work in Alberta, where he administered the Christ the King parish of Claresholm in the Calgary diocese. He made a big impact not only as pastor but also in the town's social development. He was one of the prime movers through whom the diocese established a partnership of mutual support and mission consciousness with the Congregation and the Church of Malawi in Africa. After seven years in Canada Tadhg returned to Ireland and was attached to Rockwell. He died suddenly two years later, 12 July 1978, while visiting his brother in Dundalk. He was 54 years of age at the time and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 1978 September, No 34; *SpWW* 1052.

### **O'RORKE, Fr Cornelius 1861-1932**



Born 21 March 1861 in Kilcolgan, Ferbane, Co. Offaly, Cornelius attended a lay academy at Ferbane for three years. In 1878 he asked to be admitted to the juniorate at Blackrock. Just then the first public examinations at second and third level were being launched under the Intermediate Board and the projected Royal University. Cornelius, being intelligent, methodical and hard working, was to the fore in these competitive examinations. He was among the first prefects to secure a university degree from the RUI. He qualified for the MA in 1886. Ordained in France in 1890 he was appointed to Rockwell the following year where together with Dr Edward Crehan and Fr Peter Leimann he helped put Rockwell into the first ranks in the public examinations after a period in the doldrums. In 1894 he was called on to take over as Dean of Studies at St Mary's, Rathmines. The strain of teaching and managing the school proved too great for his stamina. In 1896 he was sent to Braga to recuperate and while there he studied Portuguese. As the climate of Trinidad was considered to be more suitable for him than Ireland, he was posted to St Mary's in 1897. In 1909 he was called on to replace Fr John Neville as superior of the community but he pleaded ill-health. In 1911 he was allowed to move to the USA to get involved in pastoral work. He worked at Rock Castle, Provost, Virginia, 1911-13. He then spent three years at Chippawa Falls, Wisconsin as curate and teacher in a local school. His sermons were very much appreciated, being brief, articulated, well prepared, with practical applications to the conditions of the day. In 1914 he went to help Fr Christopher Rooney with the new Portuguese in Rhode Island where his acquaintance with the Portuguese language served him well. It was there that he was to spend the rest of his life, the last five years as pastor of St Christopher's, Tiverton. Fr Cornelius O'Rourke died after an operation for cancer 15 September 1932. He was 71 years of age. He was buried in the USA. *BG* XXXVI 39F; *BCA* 1962 217; *SPWW* 392.

### **O'ROURKE, Fr J. Noel 1937-1986**



Born 22 December 1937 in Thomond Gate, Limerick, Noel received his secondary schooling at St Vincent's CBS, Glasnevin, Dublin, 1951-56. Professed in 1957 he did Philosophy at Kimmage and prefectured for two years at Blackrock, 1959-61. Ordained in 1964 Fr Noel was appointed the following year to Mombasa diocese, Kenya. There he was to do pastoral work in Malinda, and very briefly taught in the Minor Seminary at Kwale. He was for a period Bishop Butler's secretary, and then came to Kongowea, Malinda again, to Taveta and finally Bura where he worked

from 1973 till the end. Quoting from the homily given at his funeral by Bishop Kirima of Mombasa: "He remains in our awareness as a very obliging person. He was a religious deeply schooled in the virtue and vow of obedience which enabled him to radiate to us the mystery of God listening to all directions in order to meet the needs of every type of human situation. "*Shida gani? Hakuna taabu.*" He would say; What can I do for you? I'll do that with pleasure." This gift is probably what led him to be seen as a European priest who very much adapted himself to the local situation of the African people. This was particularly so in the way he spoke the Kiswahili language and his whole manner of behaviour that approximated very much to that of his flock. Several African elderly women called him "Mwana" i.e. Son. He called them "mama" i.e. Mother. We have received him as an offer from God. His being obliging revealed to us the God who cares for us all always." Fr Noel O'Rourke met with his unexpected death as he travelled with three other priests to their annual retreat 8 December 1986. He was 48 years of age. He was buried in Kenya. IPArch; IPNI No. 64, March 1987

### **O'ROURKE, Fr Vincent 1906-1934**



Born 6 February 1906 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Vincent entered the boarding school at Blackrock in 1919. He excelled at studies and games. Though by no means robust he won his place on the SCT of 1923 and 1924. He was also Prefect of the senior Sodality of Our Lady and it was that experience which influenced him to enter the novitiate at Kimmage where he was professed in 1925. He secured the BA in 1929 and the H.Dip.Ed. in 1930 while prefecting at St Mary's, Rathmines. Ordained in 1934, Fr Vincent was appointed to Trinidad the following year. On his repeated request to be sent to Nigeria, that was agreed to, but during the autumn he took seriously ill as a result of an injury to the muscles of his heart as he tried to jack a car engine, and after a painful illness which lasted two months, Fr Vincent O'Rourke died 5th November 1934 aged 28 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. His death was a shock to all who knew him, especially to Fr Edward Leen who had known him at Abbeyfeale as a boy, at Blackrock as a secondary student, and again in the Castle where he was his professor. In the appreciation he wrote for publication in the *Missionary Annals*, Fr Leen spoke highly of Vincent's striking qualities of character, his generosity of spirit, his devotedness to duty as a student, as an athlete, and his "almost reckless self-sacrifice" - a spirit that made him look forward with such impatience to get to the missions in Africa. *BCA* 1935, 85; *BG* 37 136; *MA* Jan. 1935

### **O'Rourke, Father Brian Thomas 1933-2005**

Brian was born at Riverside Drive, Castle Park, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1933. After his secondary school studies at St. Mary's College, Rathmines, he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane and made his first profession in Kimmage on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1952. In 1954 he was awarded a B.A. from U.C.D and an M.A. in 1957. He spent the year 1955 at Montana in Switzerland. Brian studied theology at Fribourg where he received a B.D. in 1958 and S.T.L. in 1960. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1959 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1960. In 1960 Father Brian's first appointment was to **Tanzania** where he was teacher and chaplain at the secondary school in **Moshi**. From 1964 until 1966 he was a teacher at the Teacher Training College at **Morogoro**. In 1969 he returned to his former post at Moshi and remained there until 1971. He then spent two years at



secondary school teaching in **Monze, Zambia**. In 1974 he moved to **Tabora, Tanzania** where he was a teacher of Moral Theology. In 1976 he took a sabbatical at the Catholic Theological Union at Chicago after which he worked for three years at Vocations Ministry with the French-Canadian Province. In 1981 he returned to Tanzania and took up a teaching and formator post at **Usa River Seminary**. Afterwards he served in pastoral ministry in **Njiro Hill, Arusha**, while being involved in the teaching of catechists and young leaders of both the Lutheran and the Catholic Church. Each Friday he spent teaching scripture at **Njiro Seminary College**. In 1994 Brian moved to **Mbezi**, 10 Klm outside of **Dar-es-Salaam** on the Bagamoyo Road. Here he was involved in initial formation and ongoing formation work with the Religious Superiors' Association of Tanzania. For the past number of years he has served in the EAP **Spiritual Postulancy in Kampala, Uganda**.

Due to failing health Brian returned to Ireland in November 2004. He died 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in St. James' Hospital.

Brian is interred in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

### **ORTMANNS, Br Taurin (John) 1846-1928**

Born 17 August 1846 in Aachen, Germany, John did his military service, 1866-8, and was mobilised during the Franco-Prussian War. He wanted to join the Congregation but, as Bismarck's Kulturkampf suppressed our houses in Germany, John came to Ireland in 1874 to begin his postulancy. After two years he went to Chevilly where he was professed 1876. Being a trained carpenter it was in that *métier* that he served several houses of the Congregation. Apart from three years in Gabon he spent most of his long life in France. While at the orphanage at Grand-Quevilly he helped in many capacities including musician, teacher and baker. After the 1914-18 War Br Ortmanns asked to be posted to Germany and he ended his days at Knechtsteden, dying 15 August 1928 aged 82 years. He was buried in Knechtsteden. *BG XXX*, 296f; *Rath*, 273; *BRB No.149*

### **O'SHEA, Fr Cornelius 1855-1922**



Born 13 September 1855 in Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Con studied at Blackrock, 1870-76, and prefectured there for two years while at the same time doing his philosophy course under the direction of Père Leman, who wanted to make sure that those who were called on to do prefecting would not be unduly held up from ordination. Con went to France in 1878 to begin his Theology and was ordained in 1881. Among his retreat notes of that period were his repeated resolution to be generous towards others and to be supportive of them in word and act. He was seen later to have lived up to these resolutions in community and in his wide pastoral experience. He was appointed in 1882 to St Mary's College, Trinidad, where, apart from his teaching duties, he was active in producing school plays and helping generously in pastoral ministry. From 1893 to 95 he was attached to the staff at Blackrock. He was appointed Bursar at St Mary's, Rathmines, in 1895, but the following year, when it was decided to launch the 'Mission Band', he was an obvious choice for a place on the team because of his well known aptitudes in that direction. A special house for this team was rented in Booterstown Avenue, 1897 namely, Kimberley House. Later, Clareville beside Blackrock was acquired to serve as the Provincial's residence and to house the Mission Band. It was from this house, known as St Patrick's Mission House, that the team operated until 1912, when it was decided that there would be a better financial

return for their work if they transferred to the USA. This was part of Fr John T Murphy's drive to find the necessary finance to launch and maintain an Irish senior scholasticate. Fr Con was called on to act as the director of the Mission Band in the USA. He proved a successful director not merely because of his excellent pastoral contribution but because he fostered good relations with the secular clergy and with the confreres in the USA province of the Congregation. In 1916, when Fr Murphy was appointed bishop of Port Louis, Mauritius, Fr Con was the popular choice to succeed him as Provincial superior. One of his first official acts was to close the secondary school at St Mary's, Rathmines, and the following year it was made over to the senior scholasticate to provide space for those doing "home" philosophy and those attending the University at Earlsfort Terrace. The provincial administration was also located there as from then and a serious effort made to organise a Promotions team for the missions. Fr T.A. Pembroke and others launched the first edition of the *Missionary Annals* in 1919. Returned missionaries, Frs Michael Meagher and James Dowling, were drafted into this team for editing the magazine and travelling the country on promotion work. Fr O'Shea gave them a free hand and joined in the work himself. The most successful publicity came in connection with the ordination of Dr Joseph Shanahan at Maynooth. Bishop Shanahan found he could relate very well to Fr O'Shea whose appointment he had welcomed as that of an 'old missionary'. He kept up the custom started by Dr John T of sending scholastics to the university not merely for degrees in Philosophy but in other disciplines. Dan Murphy and J.C. McQuaid took degrees in Classics, and Fr Edward Leen did a postgraduate course. Approval was secured from the Archbishop of Dublin for the Missionary League which was the first successful attempt to involve the laity in missionary back-up work. Fr Con was noted for fostering good relations with the parish clergy and the bishops. In the biographical notice published in the *Bulletin Général* three years after his death and written by his successor Fr Joe Byrne, we find these enigmatic words: 'Fr O'Shea resigned from the administration of the Province in July 1921, ceding to the wishes of the Mother House. Those close to him had been prepared for that resignation and the priest himself understood that the hour fixed by God had sounded for that decision.' Fr Byrne goes on then to stress the positive side of his term of office for the Irish province and quotes the Archbishop of Dublin as giving high praise to his pastoral work, mentioning especially the long hours spent in the confessional. Tributes were paid to his generosity and his spirit of sacrifice. His health had given signs of serious deterioration. He travelled to his own county for medical treatment. While there the Civil War hostilities were at their height, especially around his home area. With great difficulties he was transferred to a hospital in Cork after he had suffered a serious setback. Fr Con O'Shea died in Cork 28 September 1922 and, as he had requested to be buried at Rockwell, Frs Jack Stafford and Frank Howell, who had been with him at the end, had to run the gauntlet of the Civil War protagonists as they made the journey from Cork to Rockwell with the remains. Fr Daniel Egan, who had died two months earlier at his family's home in Ferbane, had been buried in Ferbane as it was considered too dangerous to try to make the journey to Rockwell because of the disturbed state of the country at the time. He was buried in Rockwell. *BG* XXXII 85ff; *BCA* 1962 185; *SpWW* 294.

### **O'SHEA, Fr Edward      1876-1967**



Born 21 May 1876 in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, he was a younger brother of Fr Phil, and a cousin of the Frs Brennan from the same locality. (q.v.) Edward, Ned as he was best known, came to Blackrock in 1892 where he was a classmate of John Dunlop for whom the pneumatic tyre was invented four years earlier. Having finished his secondary studies in 1895 Ned remained on for two years participating in the course given at the Castle for the RUI examinations. In 1897 he was appointed prefect and it was during this period that he became well known to students John D'Alton, future Cardinal, and Eamon de Valera, future President. Late October 1898 he was transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, as prefect where he remained till 1901. An outstanding cricketer, he used come back to Blackrock during the summer holidays to play for the Senior XI, and by his batting earned himself the nickname 'Sixer Shea'. He was the first member of the Blackrock XI to score a century against a Senior Leinster club. In later life, when he had passed the ninety years mark, he enjoyed the joke that he was heading for another century! That was not to be, however. While prefecting at St Mary's, he played for the Club XV under an assumed name as Fr Botrel and others objected to clerical students playing at club level. In 1901 he went to Grignon to start his novitiate. He often recalled how amazed and amused they were to see their former, awesome professor of Latin, Fr James Keawell, serving tables and sporting a common apron! Fr Keawell had postponed his novitiate for many years. Ordained in 1905 Fr Ned was appointed the following year to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he taught till 1911; he was then transferred to St Alexander College, Ottawa. It was not the happiest of periods due to dissensions between the English and French-speaking members of the community. In 1923 he received an appointment to assist in the development of the English province, teaching in the junior seminary at Castlehead. Because of the lack of space at Castlehead the senior students were transferred in 1924 to Bebbington, near Birkenhead, where Fr Ned was their director. That lasted for five years. In 1930 he returned to Ireland and was assigned to Rockwell where he was to spend the rest of his long life, teaching French and taking charge of the chapel and ceremonies. Always noted for his dry humour he remarked on one occasion when superseded as master of ceremonies on a big occasion by a young man from Kimmage: 'I suppose I am allowed to light the candles'. As the years passed on he became a beloved institution for all in Rockwell. President de Valera made it a matter of duty when in the vicinity of Rockwell to drop in and recall old times with Fr O'Shea and Fr Jim Burke, his former prefects at Blackrock and, to go by the peals of laughter, one would imagine the life in those bygone days was one long laugh! Fr Ned O'Shea died 10 June 1967 aged 91 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCA* 1967 35f; *RCA* 1967 44; *SpWW* 788.

### **O'SHEA, Fr Patrick M      1920-1972**



Born 1920 in Kildimo, Limerick, Pat was educated at CBS Limerick. Due to an accident he walked with a limp and as he always tended to move fast his school pals affectionately referred to him as 'Hoppy! Hence the oft told (apocryphal?) anecdote that when he was in the novitiate, 1939-40, he gave the Provincial, Dr. Dan Murphy, an unexpected answer when asked: "And are you happy? (pronounced Hoppy) "Yes, Father; I fell from a ditch when I was young!" In spite of this disability Pat was

always a keen sportsman. He qualified for the B.Sc. in 1943 and did his philosophy course at Kimmage later. After one year as prefect at St Mary's, Rathmines, he was among those sent to Rome after the war to do their theology course at the Gregorian University where he qualified for the B.D. Ordained in 1949 he was posted to Kenya in 1950 where he taught successively at St. Mary's, Kabaa and Tala high schools. It was said about him that he "was a good priest, a tremendous worker, a simple man for all his B.Sc. and B.D. - and without guile". He loved exercise whether it be a squash or an energetic walk. After a weekend spent at Machakos he complained of a pain in his chest but put it down to indigestion, an old complaint from which he suffered on the many days when parsnips appeared on the menu during the war years at Kimmage. He was loath to consult a Doctor. On the feast of the Assumption he said two masses, preached warmly on Our Lady as was his wont, had his lunch and went that evening for his usual walk. A half hour later he was found dead on the road. His death was felt as a great loss to all. 5,000 of the faithful attended the obsequies and at the request of the people he was buried at Tala. Fr Patrick O'Shea was fifty one years young when he died on the Feast of the Assumption 1972. He was buried in Kenya. *IPNI* No.6, November 1972.

### **O'SHEA, Fr Philip J                    1871-1953**



Born 2 July 1871 in Garnagutty, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, Phil studied at Blackrock, 1885-92, and was a prefect there, 1892-95. He then went to France to do his clerical studies and was among those who participated in the great novitiate year, 1896-7, when three separate novitiate houses had to be set up to cope with the numbers. He was among the group of theology students who were sent to Rockwell, 1898, in the experiment at setting up an Irish senior scholasticate. Unfortunately, the proximity of the college led to some of the senior scholastics being taken at times by Dr Edward Crehan from their studies to act as part-time prefects. The Director, Fr Paul Meistermann, was not enamoured of this situation over which he had no control. He registered his protest by penalising two of the students involved, delaying their advance to ordination. The two singled out were Phil O'Shea and 'Johnny' Byrne. Both protested that they were being made scapegoats, and the Provincial, Fr Jules Botrel, arranged for their being ordained later in Queenstown (Cobh) during the diocesan ordinations there. Fr Phil's first appointment was to Blackrock, 1900-1910, where he was to serve as Dean of discipline for seven years, 1903-10. He proved a strict but fairminded Dean, and though not himself a devotee of games, he encouraged them to the full, and all branches, including gymnastics, were fostered. The senior rugby cup was won five times out seven and the annual Sports day was organised with meticulous care. He worked very hard - too hard for his reserves of energy - and for the rest of his long life he was a semi-invalid. The years 1910-12 were spent at Rockwell, and then he was transferred to the new community in Kimmage where he was to make a special study of rubrics in order to be of service to the scholastics and novices. He acted as bursar, 1916-20, and fostered good relations with the neighbouring farmers. He returned to Blackrock in 1920 and was involved again in teaching in the Elementary department of the school. His health failed him again. In 1924 he retired from teaching but retained his portfolio as Master of ceremonies, and for the rest of his life he assumed the role of custodian of tradition inside and outside the church and oratories. This did not always add to his popularity. He concentrated his efforts on collecting used stamps for the missions, reviving the practice introduced to Ireland by Fr Ebenrecht, but doing his own expert selecting. His room was cluttered with a multitude of boxes

for the various variety of stamps. He also took a keen interest in cultivating plants and flowers in a glass house of which he was very proud and possessive. For many years he had to cope with a heart problem that he knew could take him at any time. As he had to come from Clareville to the college four times a day for meals a confrere, Fr Michael Frawley, used his newly acquired slide-rule to calculate exactly how many miles he had walked to meals since his retirement. The figure was staggering - some 2,200 miles!. Fr Philip O'Shea died Christmas Eve 1953 aged 82 years and was buried in Kimmage. He was a brother of Fr Edward and a cousin of the Frs Brennan CSSp from his native place. *BCA*, 1954, 98f; *État*

**OSTER, Fr Joseph                      1846-1935**



Born 19 April 1846 in Bertsheim, Alsace, Joseph entered the juniorate at Langonnet in 1862. When he finally retired 73 years later, after a long and busy life, it was to Langonnet he went to prepare for death. But even then, in his eighty-ninth year, he had time to write his memoirs. In the clearly readable manuscript we get factual information about his youth, life in the seminary and the beginnings of the Franco-Prussian war as he saw it at close quarters when home in Alsace. We are particularly interested in what he has to say about the three years spent in Ireland after he had finished his course in 1871. On being appointed to Blackrock he did a fifteen days crash course in English and went straight into class where he had as beginners future Bishop John Neville and Martin Hehir, later founder and rector of Duquesne University. When he had mastered English sufficiently he did ministry in Bray where he was shocked to have to distribute Communion at one set of altar rails for those who could pay on entrance and then go to the rear of the church for those who could not pay. He also assisted at sessions of the famous trial Fr O'Keeffe v Cardinal Cullen and was captivated by the interventions by the legal experts on canon and civil law. He was not so impressed by the amateur architects, Fr Ebenrecht and Br Laurence, who designed the big building erected at Blackrock in 1872/3. He claims that he saved the project from possible disaster by insisting on calling in professional consultants. During Ebenrecht's serious illness and a prolonged absence in France, Fr Oster took over as bursar, 1872/3. He reverted to the classroom the following year, but not for long: he was appointed to the Miquelon Islands off the coast of Canada in 1874. He published the life of Marie-Elisabeth Bry (294pp) in 1885. An autographed copy is preserved at Blackrock. In 1890 he replaced Fr Strub as Provincial in USA where he found himself 'trying to reconcile seven different nationalities'. He later served as pastor at St. Joachim's, Detroit, as superior of St. Alexander in Canada, and in 1916 he was nominated Prefect Apostolic of the Miquelon Islands. He retired to France in 1922 aged 75 and was appointed superior of the novitiate house at Orly. At last, at the age of 89, he was given time to prepare his soul for his final call. He found consolation in the fact that during his long life in the priesthood he had the privilege of offering Mass 22,000 times. Fr Joseph Oster passed away peacefully after a stroke 13 May 1935. It was said of him that he walked tall in every sense throughout his life. He was buried in France. *GenArch*; *BG* XIX 7; *BG* 37, 341ff; *SpWW* 417; *BCA*, 1972, 42f; 1973 5f.

### **O'SULLIVAN, Fr Brendan P. 1926-1974**



Born in New York 25 June 1926 Brendan was reared at Tralee where he began his secondary studies before coming to the Juniorate in Rockwell. Professed at Kilshane in 1945 he profected in the Castle, Blackrock, 1949-50. Ordained in 1953 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he worked at Kenema and in the Teachers' Training College at Bo. In 1968 he returned home ill and was later appointed chaplain to the *Bon Sauveur* Order at Carriglea, Dungarvan. He also instructed in religion and other subjects in Dungarvan Vocational School. He was also in his own words half-curate in Aglish and Ballinameela parish. In a tribute in a local paper it was written of him: "Wherever Fr Brendan went he was loved by all and loved all with whom he became acquainted. He was the perfect priest, the friend and consoler. As a teacher he was also a perfectionist. Yet behind all that perfectionist outlook was a man full of pure Irish wit and humour. He was a selfless man, never thinking of himself but always striving in the interests of his friends and others." And all this while his health was a constant cross. Fr Brendan O'Sullivan died 31 August 1974 aged 48 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 13, 1974; *Dungarvan Leader*, 20-9-1974

### **O'SULLIVAN, Fr Daniel 1889-1921**



Born 23 January 1889 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Dan entered the juniorate at Rockwell in 1904. He profected at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1908-11, and in 1911 he was among the first group to do their novitiate in Ireland, having as their Master of Novices, Fr Michael Kelly. The most vivid recollections his confreres had of Dan during his years in the scholasticate, according to his contemporary, Mr J.C. McQuaid, were 'his seriousness during times of silence, his gaiety and humour at recreation and a peculiarly deep love for Ireland.' This deep love for Ireland he shared with his brother, John, who was active during the War of Independence and, on being captured, he was in danger of being executed. His father was known to have called to Kimmage to meet Bishop John T. Murphy, then home from Mauritius, to intervene on his behalf. During the latter half of 1919 the Theologians in Kimmage had frequent visits from the heads of missions who had returned to Europe for the General Chapter of the Congregation held in August 1919 - Bishops John O'Gorman and John Neville and Monsignor Joseph Shanahan. After Shanahan had recovered from his major surgery he spent quite an amount of time with the scholastics before and after his episcopal ordination, and his fireside chats were a great attraction. Dan O'Sullivan as journalist has left us a record of these conversations which shows how deeply they had come under the spell of this great missionary. An example: "We're having great times with Monsignor Shanahan. He often comes to spend an evening with us, and we have a real missionary talk. Mons. is bombarded with questions; he answers as many as he can; he narrates his experiences in Africa; he tells us stories of every description, comic, tragic, pathetic - and so time flies. Last night we sat chatting round the fire, listening to the account of the famous "trek" to the Cameroons. Everyone was so engrossed that even the Regulator forgot to ring his bell at the end of the recreation, so that, *proh dolor*, an hour of study had gone by before anyone noticed the omission." Only four places were allocated to the theologians for Shanahan's episcopal ordination at Maynooth, 6th June 1920. Dan was among them. Later, the four arranged to be photographed with the newly ordained bishop. When Fr O'Sullivan received his

appointment sometime later it was for Sierra Leone. One of his first letters back to Ireland reads: "I am getting into work gradually. I have been down to the school during the week and heard a good many confessions. Thank God my intercourse with the people has made me anxious and happy to live and die working amongst them". A letter from Bishop John O'Gorman some months later has this paragraph about Fr O'Sullivan: "Two months have passed since his arrival. Showing great promise, intelligent, a good worker, excellent religious, won the good will of all, Europeans and Africans..." These words were written as part of his obituary. After fifteen days of a seemingly slight bout of fever, Fr Daniel O'Sullivan died suddenly 23 May 1921 aged 32 years. He was buried in Sierra Leone. *BG* XXX, 217 and 414 and 584; *RJR*; *MA* Aug. 1921, 6ff.

### **O'SULLIVAN, Fr Finbarr**

**1911-1983 104**



Born 3 May 1911 in Bantry, Co. Cork, Finbarr followed in the footsteps of his brother, Harry (+ 1931) in coming to Blackrock as a boarder. And like Harry he gained his place on the SCT, being a member of the cup-winning team captained by Larry McMahon in 1928-9. He was one of three from the boarding school to opt for joining the Congregation that year - the others being Tim O'Driscoll and Jimmy Gosson. Professed at Kimmage in 1930 he took the BA at UCD before going on to do Theology at the Castle, Blackrock. Ordained in 1936, Fr Finbarr's first appointment the following year was to Blackrock where he taught for a year while preparing for a H.Dip.Ed. In 1938 he was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar and he served for most of his priestly life in the part of the Vicariate that later became the dioceses of Mombasa and Machakos. He engaged in school and pastoral work in Zanzibar and at Waa, Mangu, Kabaa, Bura and Mombasa during his 42 years of missionary activity. He was also for several years Financial Secretary of the diocese of Mombasa. In 1981, on account of his ill-health, he was advised not to return to Africa. Because of his great apostolic zeal he found this advice difficult to accept. Towards the end of 1982 Fr Finbarr was glad to be able to take on parish work at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, Nottingham, where he died suddenly on 17 February 1983 aged 71 Years. He is buried in Kimmage. It was said of him: "Fr Finbarr O'Sullivan was a quiet and retiring man, strict on himself, a stickler for the religious rule and loyal and devoted to duty. He was a generous and thoughtful friend. His conversation was always priestly and he was known to be most faithful in the observance of his spiritual exercises each day." *IPNL*, 52,1983; *BCA*, 1983, 155.

### **O'Sullivan, Fr. Jeremiah Patrick 1919-2002**

Jeremiah (Jer) was born at Drumroe, Tournafulla, Co. Limerick on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1919. He did his secondary school studies at Blackrock Juniorate between 1933-'38. He made his first profession in Kilshane on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939. After 1<sup>st</sup> Arts he prefected in Blackrock College from 1940 until 1943. He graduated from U.C.D. with a BA in Philosophy in 1946. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1948 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1949. Father Jeremiah's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** and was assigned to pastoral work in *Bo*. In 1955 he was transferred to a teaching post in Christ the King College, Bo. After only one year, in 1956, he moved to *St. Edward's Secondary School, Freetown*. He remained there for the next 23 years with a break in 1961 to complete the Higher Diploma in Education. In 1980 Father Jer returned to Ireland and in 1981 was appointed to the

Blackrock Community as **Bursar to Willow Park School**. In 1989 he became **Bursar** of the **Blackrock Community** and served in this office until 1998. In the past four years Fr. Jer continued to be very active in all aspects of College and Community life. On Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> Jer suffered a stroke and was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he died 25<sup>th</sup> May 2002. May he rest in peace. He is buried in the community plot in Shanganagh.

#### **O'SULLIVAN, Fr Geoffrey 1883-1934**



Born 14 July 1883 in The Union, Middleton, Co. Cork, Geoffrey came as a boarder to Blackrock in 1900 and entered the Juniorate in 1902. He was a bright student as witnessed by his successes in the public examinations. He prefectured first at Blackrock, 1903-4, at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1904-5, and again at Blackrock, 1905-8, doing five years in all. He went to the novitiate at Orly in 1908 and was ordained priest in 1913. His first appointment was to Blackrock in spite of the fact that he had very clearly expressed a wish to be sent to the missions, adding the expression 'to die in Africa'. He was welcomed in Nigeria the following year by Monsig Shanahan who was very badly in need of reinforcements as a result of World War I. Fr O'Sullivan proved a keen worker, never sparing himself. When Fr Thady O'Connor had to return ill to Ireland in 1919, Fr O'Sullivan stepped in to keep the skeletal teacher-training college at Igbariam going. He spent himself to such an extent that he too had to return to Ireland to recuperate. He was appointed chaplain to the newly founded Holy Rosary Sisters in place of Fr James Mellett and later took charge of the Holy Childhood. Once again he was seen to exert himself to the utmost. When called on to give the annual retreat to the Fathers of the Province in 1932 he found that there were four missionary bishops among them, all having come home for the Eucharistic Congress. When an urgent call came from The Gambia for a replacement for Fr Michael Doody, who had to return terminally ill shortly after arrival. Fr Geoffrey immediately volunteered. He threw himself heart and soul into pastoral work in the new surroundings. Having contracted a severe bout of malaria he was advised to return forthwith to Europe for treatment. Fr Geoffrey O'Sullivan died en route, 9 September 1934, and was buried at sea. He was 51 years of age. *MA* 1934; *BCA* 1935 83; *BG* XXXVII 307.

#### **O'SULLIVAN, Mr Henry 1907-1931**



Born in Barrack St, Bantry, Co. Cork, - a brother of Fr Finbar CSSp - Harry was in the boarding school, Blackrock, 1920-24, and in the company of two other boarders, Tom Gough and Vincent O'Rourke, he opted to enter the novitiate in 1924. Professed at Kimmage in 1925, he prefectured for a year at Rockwell and then at Blackrock. Though stricken seriously with tuberculosis, hopes were raised for a moment towards the end by the vaunted claims made in favour of a new treatment involving gold injections, but he died in St Vincent's Hospital on Good Friday 1931 aged 24. The last sacraments were administered to him by Fr Bede Jarrett O.P. who was preaching the Holy Week retreat at University Church for the students of UCD Earlsfort Terrace. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1931 66f



## O'SULLIVAN, Fr Thomas E 1911-1986



Born 14 December 1911 in Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Tommy moved later with the family to Drumcondra Rd, Dublin. He did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1927-1930, and gained a scholarship open to sons of Civil Servants, which he used to take the BA course, 1930-33. During these years he was living in the Castle, Blackrock as a "pious layman". He was among the first group of novices to do their novitiate in Kilshane, 1933-34, under the new Master of novices, Fr J.J. McCarthy, later archbishop in East Africa, where Tommy was to serve for the most of his life. As he was more independent in his ways than the other novices who were his juniors, it was remarked that Fr McCarthy singled him out for more strict treatment. He went on to do Theology without having done any prefecting and was ordained in 1937. The following year Fr Tommy was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he was called on to act as Dean of discipline. This brought him in close contact with organising the students' games, and all his life he was a keen participator in sport while also encouraging others to be involved. Not that he was over interested in results. His approach was for each to give of his best, and he was noted for giving the support of his time and presence when anyone with whom he was connected was competing. Appointed to Kenya in 1940, he set off on St Stephen's day with a number of confrères on a long, circuitous and dangerous voyage to East Africa as the war was making travel on the high seas very hazardous. The account of his trip as published in the *Missionary Annals* will no doubt feature in the story of how our missionaries ran the gauntlet of the enemy submarines during World War II. Fr Tommy was to teach at various times in the High Schools at Kabaa, Mangu and Nairobi. It was with St Mary's, in fact, that he was to be in closest and longest association being Headmaster there. He also ministered in the Cathedral in Nairobi. "Tosh", as he was affectionately named by the students, was unique in many ways. He seemed to be able to turn his hand to almost anything and master it. He took out his pilot's licence and made good use of it. One got the impression of his being always on the move, sometimes around the world when he took a well-earned holiday or participated in a summer course which served as a centre from which to investigate what was worth seeing in the environs. One recalls him participating in a course at rue Lhomond, Paris. When he disappeared for the week end, arriving back in the early hours of Monday, he could well have been to Lourdes, Saverne or Moscow, but when asked which it was he just gave his inimitable disarming laugh. While on holiday in Ireland, 1949-50, he not only took classes at Blackrock but revived cricket in the school, devoting much of his free time to coaching the students. Yet, in spite of his perpetual activity, he knew how to relax when the time was right. And always he seemed to bring delight and life to any group he entered. His students admired and loved him, and he kept in contact with them after they had left school and travelled far afield. When a secretary was sought for the Apostolic Nunciature he was an obvious choice as, apart from his many other gifts, he spoke eight languages. He played the piano, trumpet and viola. He was to play the viola in the 'Messiah' with the Nairobi Symphony Orchestra the day he met with his tragic death as he went from one pastoral engagement to another on his motorcycle. He waved to a friend and hit a pot hole at speed, leaving this life in full flight, having lived a full life in the service of others. Fr Thomas O'Sullivan died 20 December 1986 aged 75 years. Shortly before his death he sent for a copy of the anthology of Irish poems he had used when a student namely, *Fíon na Filíochta*, as he liked reciting Irish poetry in his spare moments. He was buried in Nairobi. *BCA*, 1987, 184; *IPNI*, 64, 1987 March.

**O'TOOLE, Fr Andrew 1915-1994**



Born 10 January 1915 in Rush, Co. Dublin, he studied at Blackrock, 1928-34. Professed in 1935, he profected in St Mary's, Trinidad, 1936-38. Ordained in 1944 he was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone where he served till obliged by ill-health to return to Ireland in 1973. He served as Principal of the Catholic Training College in Bo, as District Superior of Sierra Leone and The Gambia, was Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Freetown and Bo and Secretary General of Interterritorial Episcopal Conference of The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Liberia. While attached to the Catholic Training College, Bo, he made a valuable contribution to the drafting of the Religious Syllabus for schools in Sierra Leone. His quiet and genial manner fostered excellent relations with his colleagues in the Methodist Missionary Society. In their tribute to him on the occasion of his death they wrote: "We give thanks to God for his dedicated service in the pioneering of Teacher Training in Sierra Leone. He set high academic standards for hundreds of students over the years who were under his care as Christian Teachers. We greatly appreciated his valuable contribution and wisdom in the drafting of the Religious Syllabus for Schools throughout the country. His quiet and genial manner endeared him to the people of Bo where he was our neighbour and friend for ten years.." On his return to Ireland he taught religion in Swords, Co. Dublin, where he was chaplain for two years in the Vocational Schools. In 1975 he was appointed Pastor to the Spiritan parish, Greenhills, Dublin, and it was in that capacity that he was to serve with total commitment for the rest of his life. He was seen by all to have made a big contribution to parish life in Greenhills. He brought a very serious note to life on all occasions, but was marked also by a great depth of kindness, understanding and a peaceableness that was rooted in his faith and which suffused his countenance. He was full of humour, loved a joke and was most entertaining when he spoke about his experience on the missions. People regarded him as a 'real priest', rather conservative in his outlook but always ready to learn from the parish renewal programme. He was seen to spend much of his time in the church at prayer and to be available to people. His confreres found him always ready to stand in for them when they had to be absent. The warm tributes paid to him by Archbishop Ganda of Sierra Leone and of Bishop Eamonn Walsh on behalf of the Dublin diocese gave evidence of the contribution he had made to the Christian community where ever he worked. Fr Andrew O'Toole was called by the Lord 13 October 1994 aged 79 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 5 Dec. 1994

**O'TOOLE, Fr Hugh 1855-1923**



Born 23 June 1855 in Grennan, Attanagh, Co. Laois, Hugh came to the French College, Blackrock, in 1870. He showed a high degree of talent in all subjects, particularly in Mathematics, Mechanics and French. When a slur was cast on the quality of education given in Catholic schools in Ireland as compared with schools in England, Père Leman issued a challenge through *The Tablet* for a supervised competition. Having failed to evoke a response he decided to enter Hugh O'Toole for a competitive entrance examination for one of the most coveted posts in the British Civil Service. Permission was reluctantly granted for this experiment by the authorities in Paris. Against a field of 300, many of them from universities, in a searching examination that lasted a fortnight in London, Hugh took first place. He declined the lucrative post but his success helped launch the Civil

Service College at the Castle whose fame went far and wide till it ceased to operate in 1914. Having completed his secondary studies in 1875, Hugh was kept on at the College as prefect, 1875-78, while at the same time he did his philosophy course under Père Leman who felt that prefects should not be penalised by being subjected to a prolonged period of studies before ordination. Hugh went to France in 1878 to start his Theology, spending the first year in Langonnet, Brittany, where a section of the senior seminary had been functioning since the upheaval caused by the Franco-Prussian war. In 1879 the main portion of the scholasticate moved back again to Chevilly. Hugh was due to complete the regular four years, including the final pastoral year which was also the novitiate year in those days. His course was cut short, however, by one year as he was being earmarked to join a team to be sent to revive the ailing college conducted by the Congregation at Port Louis, Mauritius. When that scheme was abandoned in 1881, Fr O'Toole asked to be sent instead to a real mission territory rather than to a place affected by colonial rule. Instead, he was sent to Blackrock to assist Fr Reffé in the new university department opened at the Castle in 1881 to prepare students for the examinations being conducted by the Royal University. He was a brilliant success as a teacher and proved adept in maintaining discipline among the third level students while also maintaining a very humane regime in which they were allowed generous scope in organising their own extra-curricular activities. Few breaches of discipline escaped his notice, but his intervention was gentle and kindly, and occasionally humorous, as when he noticed a bag of apples raided from Clareville orchard being hidden in the bushes until it could be safely taken into the rooms. He had the fruit removed and the bag filled with potatoes! Without exception the Castle students recalled Fr O'Toole with affection and gratitude apart from the altogether high regard they had for his professional expertise. He studied Science for his degree while teaching in the Castle and was held in high regard by his teachers at the College of Science. In his efforts to improve the accuracy of some of the recognised scientific equipment available for teaching-purposes he devised and patented new forms of hydrometer and extensimeter. It happened as he was questioned in an oral examination for the teacher's diploma, that he was examined on his knowledge of these very improvements. The examiner, who did not realise that he was testing the inventor himself, was surprised at the obvious amusement of the other members of the Board. Hugh's personal gifts and intellectual bent made him a highly valuable educator, and scholars outside and in the Castle readily acknowledged his worth. Professor John Casey, who was Senior Mathematics Professor in the Castle, 1873-82, and who had helped coach Fr O'Toole for his famous success in the London examinations in 1875, sought his aid later in preparing his mathematical works for publication, and he acknowledged his help publicly in generous terms. Dr Molloy of the Catholic University once spoke of him as the greatest scientist in Ireland. He was forty years associated with the third level department in the Castle as assistant director, 1882-88, and as director in succession to Fr Reffé as from then on. His forty years in this department made the Castle, in the minds of those who should know, including Dr Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, one of the leading education institutions in the country which had paved the way for the establishment of the National University of Ireland in 1908. Fr O'Toole, however, had neither the inclination nor quite the right gifts for administrative posts requiring initiative and decision. He saw too clearly the difficulties of a project and too little of the possibilities and advantages. This was seen particularly in his lack of support for Fr John T. Murphy's schemes to restructure the College frontage along the main road at the beginning of the century. Shortly before his death, Fr O'Toole had a pleasant

reminder of the examination where he had taken first place in London in 1875: the man who had come second and was selected to fill the post Fr Hugh had turned down, came to say "thank you" to him as he had just retired. Fr Hugh O'Toole himself was to die at his post. After a full day's class he mentioned that he was retiring early as he felt fatigued. He died in his sleep 24 May 1923 aged 67 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. LH 101f, 145ff; *BG XXXI*, 290; *BCA* 1962, 185f.

### **O'TOOLE, Fr James MI 1905-1975**



Born 22 January 1905 in Dublin, Jimmy was a student at Synge St. CBS, and then worked in the railways' clearing house. During those years he won notable success at competitive level in cycling, and was to retain his interest in that hobby for many years to come. He entered the Juniorate at Rockwell in 1929 and was professed in Kimmage in 1931. Though small of stature he set a hot pace in the long walks which he helped popularise during his years in the senior scholasticate. Ordained in 1936 Fr Jimmy was appointed to Nigeria the following year. He was presented by his friends with a chalice made from the medals he had won in cycling competitions. He worked successively in Ihiala where Fr Alphonse Bindel was director and in Ahiala where Fr Stephen Cloonan was in charge. We find him in 1952 as director of the mission in Ezinihitte and 1961 as director in Obowo, Diocese of Umuahia, with Bishop Anthony Nwedo CSSp. The statistics for 1961 show that in Obowo there were besides the Girls' Training College, 20 Primary Schools, 121 men teachers and 24 women teachers, 14,202 Catholics and 6,015 Catechumens. Because of failing health, Fr Jimmy was transferred in 1965 to Kenya for a period of convalescence and was attached to the relief organisation Concern in 1968. In January 1970 he went to Yemen on a temporary assignment with Concern; he died suddenly there 21 February 1975 aged 70 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNL* 15 Apr. 1975; *État*

### **OTT, Fr John George 1838-1902**



Born 20 July 1838 at Ostheim, Alsace, George was educated by Marianists and at Gourin (CSSp), Brittany. Ordained in 1862, Fr George spent several years as bursar at Cellule. In 1872 he was sent to prepare a base in USA to receive the German confrères, who were being forced to leave their homeland because of Bismarck's policies. Fr George was moved around frequently to various communities because of his expertise as bursar, but also because of persistent ill-health. He spent some seven years as bursar in Rockwell, 1882-89. It would appear that he was not very happy there and complained to Paris about such Irish customs as supplying punch for the students on the Feast of St Patrick and about there being no glass panels in the parlour doors. The economic situation of the college gave cause for alarm under the leadership of Fr Prosper Goepfert and when he was replaced by Fr Amet Limbour, Fr Ott transferred to the General Archives in Paris where he produced the first ever necrology for the Congregation in 1894. Fr George Ott filled various posts in the houses of the Congregation in France - his last assignment being as bursar at Epinal College where he died 28 February 1902 aged 63 years. He was buried in France. *BG XXI*, 527ff; *SpWW* 148

### **OWENS, Mr Peter Jos 1956-1984**



Born 1 October 1956 in Gowel, Charlestown, Co. Mayo, P.J. was educated in the Vocational Schools at Charlestown and Ballaghaderreen. He entered the novitiate in September 1978, and after his profession he spent three years in the House of Philosophy in North circular Road, attending All Hallows College for his philosophy studies. He then came to Kimmage to begin Theology. Having completed one year, he was appointed to Sierra Leone for two year's missionary experience, arriving there in August 1983 to begin an orientation course. He then joined John Skinnader in Koidu, a mining town in the Kono district in the eastern part of the country. He quickly adapted to his new situation and involved himself in all aspects of the work of evangelisation in the area. As was his wont, he cheered and brightened the lives of those with whom he worked and lived. His cheerfulness and good humour radiated joy wherever he went. He proved a dedicated and zealous missionary and spent much of his time trekking from village to village. He took suddenly ill and was rushed to a nursing home in Freetown where he passed to his eternal reward after a short illness. Peter Jones died 20 November 1984 aged 28 years. He was buried in Sierra Leone. His brother James also profected for a period in Sierra Leone before deciding to part company with the Congregation. *IPNI* 59, Feb 1985.

### **Owens, Father James (Seamus) 1928-2005**

Seamus was born in Clontarf, Dublin on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1928. After his secondary school studies at O'Connell's C.B.S. and Rockwell College he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1947. In 1950 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy. He profected at Rockwell College for the years 1950-'52. Seamus studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1955. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1956. In 1956 Father Seamus's first appointment was to **Sierra Leone** where he was appointed as curate at *Njala Komboya*. In 1959 he was transferred to *Christ the King College, Bo* and in 1960 to *St. Edward's Secondary School, Freetown*. In 1962 he moved to open a new secondary school at *Segbwema*. In 1969 he served for a year as Education Secretary and then took a sabbatical during which he studies for the H.Dip in Ed.at U.C.D. In 1970 he returned to Sierra Leone and was appointed Acting Principal of the *Catholic Teacher Training College in Bo*. In 1972 he became Vice-Principal. He resigned from this post in 1981 and continued on at the College as chaplain and lecturer in Mathematics. While continuing to work at the college, in 1988, Fr. Seamus was appointed as parish priest of the new parish of *St. Pius, Njagboima, Bo*. In 1996 after almost 40 years in Sierra Leone, and 28 in Bo, Fr. Seamus returned to **Ireland** and was appointed *Bursar of the Kimmage Community*. He finished his mandate in 1999 and made some visits to Sierra Leone and the Gambia before settling in to parish work in **Drynam, Swords** and in *Ballybrack*. In September 2000 he set of again for Sierra Leone. He took up residence in Spiritan House, Bo and looked after *St. Theresa's Parish*. He was involved in the extending of the church building as the parish was experiencing a big increase in attendances. Fr. Seamus celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination in Kimmage Manor on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2005. He died suddenly 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

## **PANTIN, Archbishop Gordon Anthony 1929-2000**



Born 27 August 1929 in Trinidad, Anthony was the second child of Julian Pantin, who died in 1939, leaving a family of ten children, of whom the eldest was 11 years old, to be brought up by his widow Agnes and her sister Viola Mazely. They did their job well: the eldest, Gerard, also became a Holy Ghost Father and founder of Servol, a development organization well known in Trinidad and beyond; the third, Rosemary, joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny; Clive became principal of Fatima College and then Minister of Education; and the others have all had successful and dedicated careers. ‘Tony’ became an altar server at St. Patrick’s church in Port-of-Spain and from an early age decided that he wanted to be a priest. He did his secondary studies at St. Mary’s College, where he was also an enthusiastic member of the sea scouts. He went to Lac-au-Saumon in the Canadian Province for his novitiate and was professed in 1947, along with Malcolm Gait, the future Bishop of Bridgetown, Barbados. They did a degree in philosophy in Montreal and returned to Trinidad as prefects at St. Mary’s College in 1949. After three years’ prefecting, they both went to Kimmage Manor in Dublin for theology and were ordained on 3 July 1955. The following year Anthony was assigned to Guadeloupe, where he taught for three years at the Seminaire-College in Basseterre before returning to Trinidad to teach at Fatima College. At Fatima he was also involved in the ministry of retreats and in the Legion of Mary. In 1965 he moved to St. Mary’s College as superior of the community and on 19 March 1968 he was consecrated Archbishop of Port-of-Spain, the first Trinidadian to hold the post. He took as his motto “Omnia omnibus” and for his 32 years as Archbishop was indeed all things to all people. How much this was so was clearly seen in the national outpouring of grief when he died unexpectedly of heart failure in his sleep on the morning of 12 March 2000 at the age of 70. He was mourned by rich and poor, adults and schoolchildren, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The testimonies of grief and admiration poured in from all sides and his funeral was a three-day national event, with full state honours. Among the qualities singled out were his goodness, his humility and his concern for every individual, especially the poor. He treated the poor with the same deference and attention that he gave to the better off. He was accessible to all, saw all visitors, took all telephone calls and wrote innumerable letters. His friendliness, affability and jokes were remembered by all. Becoming Archbishop immediately after Vatican II, he had the task of leading his people in the adaptations that took place in the wake of that Council. He promoted lay ministry, encouraged the charismatic movement and oversaw the renewal and indigenization of the liturgy. His generous nature made him a force in ecumenism and inter-religious activities, and he played a leading role in the Caribbean Conference of Churches and in the local Inter-Religious Organization, and served as a member of the Holy See’s Secretariat for Christian Unity. A highlight of his tenure was the Pope’s brief visit to Trinidad on 5 February 1985, when even non-Christians lining the roads, as well as the packed stadium, greeted John Paul II as “We (i.e. our) Pope”. He played a public steadying role in the Black Power crisis and army mutiny of 1970 and in the Muslimeen attempted coup in 1990. In his early years as Archbishop he opted to live not at Archbishop’s House but as parish priest of a poor parish at Laventille on the outskirts of Port-of-Spain. He was especially concerned with enriching the lives of the disadvantaged and underprivileged, the homeless and the lonely, and he founded the Mary Care centre to provide a temporary home for pregnant, unmarried teenagers. He visited prisoners and hospitals, and on Christmas day visited homes for the elderly,

chatting and singing with the inmates. At the packed Mass in the cathedral on the first anniversary of his death the papal nuncio said: "I recognize in him the man of God with the common touch, the man for others, a friend and brother to all without distinction of class, race, colour or creed. Archbishop Tony Pantin died 12-3-2000.

### **PEELO, Fr Cornelius 1927-1993**



Born 28 August 1927 in Terenure, Dublin, Con did his secondary studies in Synge St CBS. He worked as an architectural assistant for three before entering Kilshane in years in 1950. Professed in 1951 he did his studies for the priesthood in Kimmage and was ordained in 1956. Appointed to the diocese of Owerri he taught in St Joseph's Technical School in Ahiala. He brought to it his accomplished skills as a draughtsman and in the use of carpentry and joinery tools he managed to impart to his skills to this students. This school obtained the best results in the highly-valued London City and Guilds certificate which gave the students almost automatic access to the best positions in both Government and private sections of industry in Nigeria. Later on Con opened another Technical School at Obagku, Owerri. During the Biafra war he was in charge at Izombe Mission near Orlu. In mid-1969 he left Nigeria and served for a year in USA as a hospital chaplain. In 1971 he went to work in Malawi but his health no longer could cope with a tropical climate. He the spent some time in California where he obtained a diploma in Pastoral counselling. This was to be of great value to him as he took up pastoral ministry in Australia where he ministered for fourteen years in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. His health broken, he returned to Ireland and resided in Kimmage. Everywhere he ministered Con left the memory of a thoughtful and devout priest totally dedicated to the ministry of the Lord. Fr Cornelius Peelo passed to his reward 22 July 1993 aged 65 years and was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; *IPNI* No.5 1993

### **PEMBROKE, Fr Thomas A. 1864-1919**



'T.A.P'. - as he was later to be known because of his well-known signature, was born 25 December 1864 in Woodview, Castleisland, Co. Kerry. He came to Rockwell in 1878 as a boarder and in 1882 joined the juniorate. After prefecting, 1884-87, he went to France to do his senior studies and was ordained in 1891. In 1892 he was appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, as its first Dean of Discipline. 'In a few years he had formed and equipped, football, cricket, and bicycle clubs, had laid down a cycling track, had undertaken and accomplished the big task of levelling and rounding of the playing-fields, and of defraying the expenses thus incurred, by organising two bazaars.' In 1899 he succeeded Fr Tom O'Hanlon as Dean of Studies at Blackrock, and maintained the high level of achievement in the public examinations reached under his predecessors Frs Tom O'Hanlon and Larry Healy. Among the students then were future Cardinal D'Alton, the O'Rahilly brothers, Alfred and Tomás, Eamon de Valera and Frank Duff. In 1903 Fr Pembroke succeeded Fr John Kearney as Director of the Juniorate 'a post where his piety, love of the missions, and his power of forming character found scope.' In 1905 he succeeded Fr Nicholas Brennan as president of Rockwell. 'He built the new wing and cloister linking the Br Silas north wing with the chapel, painted and decorated the chapel, introduced a new lighting system, vastly improved the farm and initiated a scheme of tree planting on a large scale.' All the while he taught class and

took an active part in the meetings of the Catholic Headmasters' Association and of the Joint Committee of Catholic and Protestant Headmasters. He was known for his outspokenness and his vigorous defence of Catholic educational interests. He had plans for opening an agricultural school at Rockwell in 1912, but by then his health showed signs of seriously deteriorating. He resigned and returned to Blackrock as an invalid. On the death of Fr Ebenrecht in 1914 he took up his work as Procurator for the missions, in various ways raising funds for missionaries and finding through the columns of the *Irish Catholic* much equipment for churches and schools. In 1919, together with Frs John Kearney, Edward Leen and Jim Burke, he launched the *Missionary Annals*. The first issue was rated a great success and it sold like hot buns at the Mission stall at the bazaar organised at Blackrock in aid of Donnybrook parish. (One of the senior scholastics involved in the selling of the *Missionary Annals* was John Charles McQuaid, future Archbishop of Dublin.) Fr Pembroke left for England, where he was to be the guest of former Spiritan, Fr Dan Murphy. He died suddenly as the boat neared Holyhead 15 July 1919. He was aged 54. He was buried in Dean's Grange. Fr Jim Burke composed the 'De Profundis' hymn in his memory. Though known to be in ill-health, his death was a shock as people recalled his boundless energy, flair for organisation and his dedication to the cause of the missions. He had volunteered in 1898 to replace his fellow county-man, Fr John Walsh of the American province who had died on reaching Sierra Leone. Some found T.A.P. somewhat dogmatic and impatient of slow movers in his drive to get things done, especially when acting as a member of the Catholic Headmasters' Association, but no one could accuse him of harshness. He was known as a good confrere. Finally: the Daniel Jos Pembroke from Castleisland, a student at Blackrock who left as a senior scholastic, may have been T.A.P.'s brother. *BG XXIX 852; Missionary Annals 1920, November.*

### **PENNEFATHER, Mr Richard 1855-1873**



Born 22 July 1855 in Kilkenny but reared in Ballylanigan, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, Richard came to the French College, Blackrock, as a boarder in 1866 and entered the Juniorate in 1869 having previously won the junior General Excellence medal. Noted for his beautiful soprano voice, his skill at games and his winning manner, he was accepted as a leader by the students in spite of the nickname "Holy Dick". He was opposed in his vocation by his father and others but he persisted and succeeded in winning them over. His extant poems, letters and essays and show him as balanced and deeply spiritual. While composing his speech for Prize day debate 1873 he took suddenly ill and was professed on his death bed. He died 29 July 1873 aged 18. He was buried in the family vault at Westland Row church, Dublin. The Director of the Juniorate, Fr Joseph Spielmann, was so impressed by the quality of his life that he composed a biography of him which he published in 1875 with the title *A New Model for Youth*. *BCA 1962 p. 171f*

### **PETERS, Fr Patrick 1940-1991**



Born September 1940 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Paddy later lived in Waterford. Having done his secondary studies at Rockwell he entered the novitiate in 1958. He did Philosophy in Kimmage and took a BA in Classics at UCD. After one year as prefect in Blackrock, 1964-65, he did his theology studies in Kimmage and in Rome and was ordained in



1968. Appointed to Brazil Fr Paddy set himself the immediate task of learning the language of the people, familiarising himself also with their culture and with the initiatives in pastoral work based on a new vision that was then emerging in some quarters of the Church in Brazil. He identified with the situation of the migrants who were coming to the newly developing areas and he influenced his confreres to espouse their cause. This new approach eventually led to tensions with the religious and civil authorities. Paddy played a positive role in this movement at various levels. He was Seminary Director and was later elected District Superior. Then, as Paddy became ill, it was diagnosed that he was suffering from an inoperable brain tumour. His condition made it imperative that he leave his work in Brazil and return to Ireland for treatment and care. His condition steadily deteriorated. He eventually lost his speech and all ability to communicate with those attending him. The Lord accepted the total sacrifice of his life 16th December 1991. Fr Patrick Peters was aged 51 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI*, No. 1, Feb. 1992

**PHELAN, Fr Eugene 1858-1948**



Born 9 March 1858 in Kilcollen, Co. Kilkenny, Eugene came to Blackrock in January 1870 but was transferred to Rockwell in August that same year. He returned to Blackrock for his final year, 1874-5, and went direct to the senior scholasticate without any prefecting. He studied first at Langonnet and then moved to Chevilly where he was ordained, 1879, and was professed in 1880. Appointed to Pittsburgh Fr Eugene taught at the college, 1880-91, being subdirector of the Juniorate for the first three years and Director, 1883-91. He did much to foster physical exercise at the school and took an active part in games himself. He moved out to parish work in 1893, being pastor of Notre Dame Parish at Chippawa Falls. Ten years later he was called on to take charge at Cornwells after the departure of Fr John O'Gorman to Sierra Leone where he was appointed Vicar Apostolic. Fr Phelan filled the triple role of superior, director of scholastics and master of novices. When the novitiate was transferred to Ferndale, Conn., Fr Eugene went there as Master of novices and was superior of the house from 1906. With the departure for Ireland in 1910 of Fr John T Murphy, Fr Phelan succeeded him as provincial of the American province, a post he was to hold till 1933. He presided over many changes in the works of the province at home and overseas, notably the erection of the college at Pittsburgh into a university in 1911. During his 11 years in retirement he amassed some 160 volumes of archival material dealing with the history of the province. He was himself remembered for his sardonic humour, his rather harsh regularity and sternness in the matter of enforcing discipline. He loved the silence of the cloister and was seen to be dedicated to the house of God and the Congregation. Fr Eugene Phelan died 16 October 1948 aged 90 years. He was buried in the USA. *BCA* 1962 186; *SpWW* 571

**PILKINGTON, Mr John 1853-1874**

Born 15 May 1853 in Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath, John entered the Juniorate at Blackrock, 1867, and prefectured there, 1872-74. His principal function was teaching music as assistant to Herr J. J. Stein, the college music teacher from Alsace. John took ill during July 1874, and after a brief illness he died of pneumonia. As death approached he pronounced his perpetual vows in the Congregation. John Pilkington died 26 July 1874 aged 19 years and was buried in the Kill of the Grange (Deans

Grange) before a separate CSSp plot had been acquired in 1875. BJR No 89; BJJ July 26-27 1874; *BG*, X, 170, 353.

**PINARD, Fr Emanuel 1912-1984**



Born 16 August 1912 in San Raphael, Trinidad, Emanuel did his secondary studies at St Mary's. Having come to Ireland to do post graduate studies in 1935 he studied Philosophy and qualified for the BA in UCD in 1938. Assigned to St Mary's College, Port of Spain, in 1943 he taught there for over twenty years until appointed Pastor of Diego Martin Parish Fr Emanuel died 13 September 1984 aged 71 years. He was buried in Trinidad. IPArch; *État*.

**Plunkett, Fr Christopher J 1867-1939**



Born 1 July 1867 in Dublin and reared in Bracklyn, Co. Westmeath, Christopher was educated at Blackrock College, 1882-89, followed by Philosophy and Theology at Langonnet and Chevilly, 1889-94. His first appointment was to Nigeria but that was subsequently changed and he was posted to the USA. For a brief period he taught at Pittsburgh College and was then appointed to St. Peter Claver's black mission in Philadelphia which had been launched at the suggestion and with financial help from Mother (Blessed) Katharine Drexel. Appointed pastor in 1903, he built the parochial school in 1906. He was seen to be such a successful pastor with the blacks that, when the Congregation was asked by Cardinal Farley to take charge of St. Mark's parish for the blacks in Harlem, N.Y. in 1912, Fr Plunkett was the obvious choice as pastor. He was assisted by Fr Joseph Cronenberger, a native of Alsace, who had completed his theology course in Rockwell, 1898-1900, and Fr Patrick Fullen - uncle of Frs. Fred, Paddy and Joe. More than 4,000 converts were made during the 19 years of Fr Plunkett's leadership, and four extra churches were added as well as schools for the blacks. Again, financial support was forthcoming from the Drexel foundation. In 1931 Fr Plunkett was appointed to Puerto Rico to inaugurate a Spiritan mission in this island. Two years later he was appointed provincial superior of the USA province in succession to Fr Eugene Phelan. Following instructions from Paris he directed his attention to providing priests for Africa instead of working among the blacks in separate parishes in USA as had been done hitherto in response to the requests from Katharine Drexel. During his administration 35 Spiritans were sent to Africa, mostly to Kilimanjaro. Fr Plunkett was all his life noted for the utter simplicity of life-style, his dedication to pastoral care of the blacks. He was always greatly esteemed by those who came in close contact with him; he was beloved of his parishioners, deeply revered by his confreres. All recognised his utter lack of self-glorification and transparent sincerity. He was noted in particular for the few personal belongings which he took with him when moving from one place to another. Fr Christopher Plunkett was even uncomplicated in the manner of his leaving this life: he died of pneumonia after a two days illness in Manhattan's Lutheran Hospital August 17, 1939 aged 72 years. He was buried in the USA. He was the last of the non-American provincial superiors. BCArch; *OP* Aug. 1939, Sept. 1939, Feb. 1941; *SpWW* 461; *Serpent and the Dove*, 353 *et passim*.

### **POWER, Br Gregory (James) 1854-1925**



Born 8 March 1854 in Glenafolla, Mountmelleray, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, James was a native Irish speaker and had worked on the family farm till aged 26. He entered the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock in May 1880, shortly before the death of Père Leman. He came with excellent references and made a good impression as a worker. Professed in 1882 his main function was in charge of the dormitories at Blackrock and later at Rockwell. Then in 1891 the hand of God touched him with a mental illness which was to remain with him for the rest of his life requiring hospitalisation with the St John of God Brothers at Stillorgan. Fr Ebenrecht was a regular caller there, often acting as confessor to the Brothers. Somewhere in his journal he made this entry : 'Poor Br Gregory is very bad tonight: he is speaking Gaelic!'. Br Gregory Power died 4th October 1925 aged 71 years. He is buried in Deans Grange. BJR No.181; BCCJ; BG XXXIII 462

### **POWER, Fr Kevin 1926-2000**



Born on 2 June 1926 in Mallow, Co. Cork, Kevin did his secondary studies in Mallow and Blackrock College, 1939-45. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he made his profession in 1946. After qualifying for the BA he prefectured at Blackrock, 1949-51. In Kimmage he sang in the first tenors in the *schola* and played the cornet in the orchestra. Ordained in 1949 he was appointed the following year to Trinidad. Assigned to St Mary's College he taught there for a number of years before transferring to Fatima College where he became Dean, Manager and Games Master. His expertise in developing the college and its educational policy bore all the hallmarks of a capable teacher and an astute financier. During this period of his life he extended his apostolate to becoming a Chaplain to the Cadet Corps and the Trinidad Coast Guards Service. He was seen to look very smart in his captain's uniform. When he retired from this latter post he held the rank of Major. During the attempted coup in 1970, he assisted in negotiations between the Government and the rebel officers. On retiring from school life he decided on parish work as his future career. In order to prepare himself for this new ministry, he decided to take time off to study in the USA because he realised that the church and society had changed since his time in the seminary. Archbishop Pantin was keen that he would take on parish work in his archdiocese. Kevin wanted to be fully inculturated into Trinidadian society, so to make his commitment total he became a Trinidadian citizen on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Suffering from a throat ailment, which seriously affected his voice, he returned Ireland for surgery. Shortly after the operation Kevin died unexpectedly of a heart attack on 17 March 2000. He was aged 71. Fr Kevin was buried in Shangnagh Cemetery, Dublin. BCArch; IPNI No. 2 2000

### **POWER, Fr Henry 1800-1868**

Who was the first Irish Spiritan? One might say Fr Thomas Bracken (cf. 23 July 1867) as he was the first of those who went direct to France before the house in Blanchardstown was opened. Fr James Browne was the first of those who started at Blanchardstown to be ordained. But the first Irishman to be ordained in the Congregation was Fr Henry Power. Fr Henry was a member of a well-known family in Tullineaskey, Co. Cork, which had given many priests to the church in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The most notable was Fr John Power, 1764-

1831. Having been educated in the Irish College, Paris, he was the influence which led several of his nephews to head for Paris to pursue their studies for the priesthood. Henry (1800-1868) and his younger brother Samuel were studying in some seminary there, possibly with the Sacred Heart Fathers at Picpus, before transferring to the Holy Ghost Seminary with a view to serving in the French Colonies. After his ordination in 1824 Samuel taught Philosophy for one year in the Seminary before setting off for service in the West Indies where he had a rather colourful career. His cousin Fr John O'Donovan and others from Cork and Cavan also served in the French colonies. Fr Henry, who entered the Holy Ghost Seminary 1 January 1820 and was ordained priest in 1822. As was the custom in the society at the time he was asked to join the seminary staff and was co-opted as a Director of the society and seminary. In this capacity he was one of the group headed by Fr Jacques Bertout who petitioned Rome in 1824 to have the society given pontifical status. As a director Fr Power was eligible to be elected Superior General under the newly approved Rule but Fr Bertout was the unanimous choice as single-handed he had striven for years to have the society restored after being suppressed by the French Revolution. Little is known of Fr Power at this time except that he was referred to as a man of very gentle disposition. The Society encountered severe opposition from some elements in the anti-clerical government, and came the 1830 Revolution the seminary was forced to close and the staff and students dispersed. Fr Power, like the Cistercians in Montmelleray in Brittany, decided to quit France for the more peaceful pastoral scene in Ireland in the post Emancipation era. Fr Henry reported for duty in his native diocese of Cloyne where, through the good offices of his more famous brother Fr Maurice, he was assigned various chaplaincies over the years. It is not known if Fr Henry was aware of the story of the painful struggle engaged in by his colleague Fr Amable Fourdinier to restore the Seminary of the Holy Spirit in its own premises in Paris, but due to indifferent health, epilepsy it is said, he decided to devote his life to pastoral work in Ireland. He served in Wallstown (chaplain) 1832-1839; Ballymacoda, 1839; Killeagh, 1841-1859. He is on record as having contributed £10 to the Kilmacabea Famine Relief Fund.

In the absence of a biographical notice from Irish newspapers we are happy to avail of this extract from Ronayne's *Reminiscences* a history of his life and Renunciation of Romanism and Freemasonry - a very anti-Catholic document published by the Free Methodist Publishing Co. Chicago, Illinois in 1900:

"...Not only were we diligently instructed in the catechism, but we were also taught our prayers—the Lord's prayer, or "Our Father" as Catholics call it, the Hail Mary. the Creed and the Confiteor. These, however, I had already learned from my aunts a long time before, and never missed an occasion of saying them every night and morning. We had two priests in Killeagh permanently, Father Maurice Power, the parish priest, and his brother, Father Henry. who was nominally the curate. The latter, however, was very much subject to epileptic fits, and hence performed but few pastoral or clerical duties, sometimes celebrating first or eight o'clock mass on Sundays and a mass each morning during the week. I heard it repeated time and again, and it was firmly believed by every Catholic in that whole section of country, myself included, that Father Henry had at one time cured a young woman of epilepsy by his great power as a priest. and that her malady was transferred to himself, which accounted for his terrible affliction.

He soon became very much interested in me, partly because I was an orphan and partly because of the care and fidelity with which my aunts were endeavouring to bring me up. so that before many months I became his especial favourite and I was

almost altogether instructed by him in all the doctrines of the church—its origin, its truly sanctified character, the power of its priests, and above and beyond all else he used to impress upon me the solemn and serious duty of cultivating the most fervent love and veneration for the Virgin Mary. as by her all powerful Intercession with her Son, she could obtain for every one who trusted in her all needed grace and blessing, and finally, at the hour of death, a painless departure and a speedy entrance into heaven. Of course I never questioned anything he said. Why should I? And when he drew as black a picture of Protestants as he possibly could I believed every word of it and became convinced that Protestants always had dealings with the devil, and that if any one looked into a Protestant church he would surely see his Satanic majesty in some corner of the room or sitting in some pew.

And thus, while I diligently continued my studies at school under Dan Sullivan. Father Henry Power charged himself with my religious training, and was rewarded for his pains when in 1842. I passed a most creditable examination preparatory to making my 'first communion'."

Fr Henry Power died 1 February 1868 in Killeagh where his brother Fr Maurice had built the church. He was buried there and the monumental type headstone bears the following inscription: "The people of Killeagh and the surrounding parishes have erected this monumental cross as a tribute of veneration and esteem to the Revd Henry Power who died calmly in the Lord on the 1st February A.D. 1868 aged 69 years. Requiescat in pace Amen." Cf. Biographies (CSSp) 2 pp 276-8; re Power family of Tullineaskey cf. "Fr John Power (1764-1831), the man and the legend" by James Coombes in Seanchas Chairbre No. 1 Dec. 1982; 'Power' file in BCArch; and the above Roynayne's Reminiscences

#### **POWER, Fr Mathew 1854-1888**



Born 11 January 1854 in Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, where his father was the national school teacher, he did his secondary studies at the French College, Blackrock, 1870-76, and prefectured there, 1876-78. During this time he followed the philosophy course which Père Leman introduced so that the prefects would not have their course of studies for the priesthood unduly prolonged.

Mathew's parents had objected to his being sent on the missions, perhaps due to his weak health. Ordained in 1881 he was appointed the following year to Trinidad where he proved a competent classics teacher. His lungs were very weak and on medical advice he was sent to recuperate at St Vincent island. While bathing in the sea he collapsed and died on the beach. An autopsy showed that one of his lungs had been entirely consumed by tuberculosis. Fr Mathew Power died 27 July 1888 aged 34 years. He was buried in Trinidad. BCArch; *BCA* 1962 186; *BG* XIV 716f; *SpWW* 86.

#### **QUINLAN, Br Nicholas (William) 1856-1905**

Born 31 August 1856 in Athassel, Co. Tipperary, of farming stock, William entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1885 and was professed in 1890. He is described as a model of piety and regularity as he went about his daily duties on the farm, in the kitchen and the farmyard. For the last ten years of his life he suffered from a painful illness which was diagnosed as cancer of the bowels and for which there was no remedy. His severe pain was borne in patience and as the end approached he expressed a hope to die on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The Lord

took him instead on the Feast of the Visitation two days later. He died 2 July 1905 aged 49 years. He was buried in Rockwell. RBR; *BG X (XXIII)* 275.

#### **QUINN, Fr John 1848-1895**



Born 11 Aug. 1848 in Dalkey, Co. Dublin, John was a primary teacher before entering the Juniorate at Blackrock, 1868-70, having responded to an advertisement announcing an entrance examination for free places in the college. He profected at Blackrock, 1870-72, and in Rockwell, 1872-74, while pursuing his philosophy course in company with the last group of Scottish students to study in Rockwell. In 1874 he went to Langonnet, Brittany, where the senior scholasticate was located since the upheaval caused by the 1870 war and the siege of Paris. Ordained in 1877 Fr John did his novitiate at Chevilly, having had the gifted Père Jean-Marie Grizard as his master of novices. Frs John Quinn and Michael Dunne were appointed to Pittsburgh to help in launching the long-awaited high school there - Pittsburgh Catholic High School (later to become Duquesne University) which opened a few days after their arrival. Fr Quinn's main work for the next eight years was teaching Greek and Latin while helping in parish ministry. In 1886 he was appointed pastor at St Anne's, Millvale. Ill-health forced him to return to Pittsburgh in 1892. After two years, on medical advice, Fr John Quinn went to live in a drier climate at Chippawa Falls but he died within a short period of his arrival there on 7 Feb. 1895 aged 47 years. He was buried in the USA. *BG XVII* 892f; *Holy Ghost Bulletin* 1895 No. 2,22ff; *SpWW*, 116; *BCA* 1962 178

#### **QUINN, Fr John Thomas 1913-1972**



Born 19 August 1913 in Henry St, Limerick, Jack did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1927-32. Professed at Kimmage in 1933 he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and profected at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1935/6. The following year he served on the Promotions team - 'The Burse', while residing at the Castle. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was to serve in the Owerri and the Onitsha regions both as pastor and school manager. He was always noted both for his ability and his perseverance. For a period he also filled the post of procurator for Owerri. We find him as director of the station of Amaigbo-Okigwi, then (1949) as director of Umuahia mission in co-operation with his fellow townsman Bishop Joseph Whelan. In 1952 he is listed as director of the mission at Port Harcourt, and in 1961 as director of St Martin's, Ahiala. Forced to quit Nigeria because of the Biafra war he was appointed to Woodstock, Ontario, in Canada 1969. The following year he suffered a heart attack from which he never recovered. He died in hospital 5 July 1972 aged 59 years. *BCArch*; *BCA* 1972 212; *SpWW* 919.

#### **QUINN, Fr William 1858-1890**



Born 21 January 1858 in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, William was a student at Rockwell, 1871-76, and profected there, 1876-79. He then went to Chevilly to do his senior studies, but his delicate health caused him to be sent back to Ireland after a year. Ordained priest at Enniscorthy in 1883, Fr William was professed in France a year later. He was sent to teach in the Holy Spirit College, Braga, Portugal, in the

hopes that the milder climate might help him, but he returned ill to Ireland and was appointed to the Blackrock community. He was sent to Trinidad in 1888 at his own request. As his tuberculosis had by then gone beyond cure, he returned to Europe and died at Chevilly 2 Feb. 1890, aged 33 years. Fr William Quinn was a typical case of the loss of young lives through TB which in those days was practically incurable. A fine photograph of him taken after his ordination emphasises the loss. He was buried in France. *BG XV 525f; SpWW 96*

**RABILLIER, Br Auguste (Toussaint) 1829-1867**

Born ca 1829, August Toussaint came to Ireland in 1862, having worked previously for six years at Cellule. Because of his experience in the running of the orphanage at Cellule he was sent to Ireland to help in the conducting of St Vincent's Orphanage at Glasnevin which had been entrusted to the Congregation by the St Vincent de Paul Conference. Because of his lack of English, his contribution to the work was limited. After the orphanage had been handed over to the Christian Brothers, Auguste (Toussaint) remained on at Blackrock for two years. He was sent to Senegambia in 1865 where he was stationed at St Joseph's mission. His duties were varied: he looked after the youngest students at the mission school and he set up the kiln where the bricks for their buildings were produced. He played an important role in constructing the mission church and helped with the construction of a new compound for a recently established community of missionary Sisters. He took suddenly ill and in his last days he was assisted by Bishop Aloïs Kobès who had only words of praise for his contribution to the mission during the short years he spent among them. He was described as " a model of piety, and of good relations with the superior, his confreres and the students". Br Auguste Rabillier died 26 November 1867 aged 38 years. He was buried in Senegambia. *GenArch; BG V1, 203, 206ff*

**RAUSCH, Mr Frederick 1872-1897**

Born 5 March 1872 in Reupeldorf, in the diocese of Wurtenburg, Germany. Having emigrated with his family to the USA, Frederick entered the juniorate at Pittsburgh in 1886. He was a good musician but weak in health. He came to Rockwell as a prefect ca 1894 where he taught Latin, Greek, English and French. Frederick died 24 April 1897 aged 25 years and was buried in Rockwell. *Gen Arch; État 1895; BG XVIII 584.*

**REA, Fr Patrick J. 1902-1977**

Born 17 March 1901 in Portglenone, Co. Antrim, Pat was ordained priest for the Derry diocese in 1925. He won a scholarship for the Irish College at Salamanca and while studying there Bishop John T Murphy visited the college in search of vocations for Mauritius. Pat was influenced to offer his services and was directed to the Colonial Seminary being conducted by the Congregation in Paris so as to be better prepared for pastoral work in a French speaking diocese. Fr Pat went to Mauritius where he served for some years as a secular priest. As he did not feel happy working under Bishop Murphy's successor, Dr James Leen, he transferred to Canada where he served under Cardinal McGuigan, a native of the North of Ireland. In 1936 he entered the Holy Ghost Congregation and was appointed to the District of Kilimanjaro where he served at Moshi until 1947. Fr Pat seems to have had problems with bishops in general and with some in particular. He used jokingly announce that he planned to

write a book with the pointed title: 'Some bishops may be saved'. The nature of his disagreements with Bishop Joseph Byrne may be divined from his reference to him as "Shillings Joe." In 1947 he moved to the diocese of Nairobi where he served till 1956, being attached for a period to St Mary's College. Accepted by all as a 'character' he was universally loved for his geniality and sense of humour. As he had joined the Congregation in the French province he reverted to a French mission, Martinique, in 1956. Having served in Martinique until 1977 he retired to Langonnet where he died 20 June 1977 aged 75 years. *IPNI* No 28, August 1977.

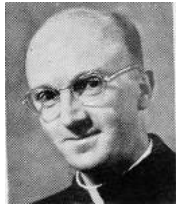
### **REARDON, Br Dominic (Paul) 1909-1996**



Born 27 June 1909 in Mount Pleasant, Ranelagh, Dublin, Paul entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kimmage manor and was professed in 1928 taking the name Dominic in religion. Br Dominic's first appointment was to Blackrock where he served for three years. In 1931 he was called on to take charge of the Book shop in Rockwell. Among his other activities he taught class, supervised the production of the students' magazine 'The Rock' and helped in the production of plays. He was remembered by the students of those years for his pleasant demeanour and his welcoming attitude. In 1940 as a result of a request from the American Provincial, Fr Collins, Br Dominic was seconded to St Joseph's house for Boys in Philadelphia. He served as Counsellor, English Teacher and Fund raiser for the Institution while also editing the monthly magazine, *The Patron*. In 1953 he was appointed to Duquesne University where he served as assistant editor of *The Paraclete* magazine. Later he became Assistant Registrar of the University and edited the College Bulletins and served as Advisor to the Student Veterans on the Campus. During this period he founded the Gaelic Arts Society of Pittsburgh. In 1960 he was assigned to St Emma Military Academy, Powhata, Virginia, as English Teacher and coach in drama. In 1965 he joined the Preparatory School in Cornwells (Bensalem) where he served as Librarian for ten years. He also spent a period as Vocations director for the Philadelphia area and as the national secretary of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Spirit. A student and promoter of Irish literature, Br Dominic's contribution to Irish cultural interests in the USA was recognised by various groups; He was named 'Man of the Year' in 1948 by the Dublin Society of New York; in 1976 the Irish American Cultural Society of Bucks County gave him their first 'Man of the Year' award and in 1989 he was elected Grand Marshal of the first St Patrick's Day Parade of Bucks County. As well as his love for Ireland, Dominic was always keenly interested in the story of his own society, its work, its personnel and its Founders. . Shortly before his death he said to a confrere that if he was preaching the homily at his funeral he should make it short. "Tell them I'm sorry for my sins and I love them all. I thank God for the gift of a vocation as a Religious Brother in the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, and especially to the American Province for their hospitality, kindness and trust. I want to thank all those who helped me in my old age and illness. To all my friends I'll not forget you as I've only changed residence." On 16 December 1996 he asked to be driven to the cemetery where his sister was buried to place a bouquet of flowers on her grave. Very happy he sat into the car and instantly handed his own soul to the Lord. Br Dominic Reardon was 87 years of age. He was buried in the USA. *IPArch*; Br Dominic's Golden Jubilee brochure; *IPr Obituaries* January 1997; *BCA* 1997 279.



### **REDMOND, Fr Hugh 1921-1963**



Born 8 May 1921 in Inchicore, Dublin, Hugh received his secondary education in the local CBS. He worked for a period in the Inchicore railway workshops and on deciding to enter the Congregation he was advised to spend a year in Rockwell to catch up on his secondary studies. Professed in 1945 he went on to do Philosophy and Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1950. Appointed to Kenya the following year he ministered in several mission centres in Kenya, including Nairobi and Mombasa, but he will be best remembered for his work on the Island of Zanzibar. There he became a familiar and beloved figure in the Leper Hospital. Another work to which he gave much of his time was the teaching of Catechism in the Zanzibar Goan Secondary School. His last appointment was to Mariakani, a predominantly Mohammedan area, with very few Catholics. He was the only priest attached to the mission and, before setting out for Ireland, he had completed the building of several schools and established adult catechumenates. Fr Hugh was in good health when he went aboard ship at Mombasa on March 2nd. Some days later he developed malaria fever which, despite medical attention, brought about his death 9 March 1963 aged 41 years. Fr Hugh Redmond was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Suez. IPArch

### **REFFÉ, Fr Edward 1841-1894**



Born 13 December 1841 in Kientzheim, (Haut-Rhin), Alsace, Edward received his secondary education in the diocesan seminary in Strasbourg before entering the Congregation in 1862. Ordained priest at the age of 23 Fr Edward was appointed to the French College, Blackrock. He was called on to take on the function of Dean of studies in place of Fr Peter Huvéty's who had been groomed for this job, 1863/4, but had been posted to Rockwell as its first Superior. The system of studies Fr Reffé was to inherit, had been devised by Père Leman with some help from German-born, Fr Joseph Hofbauer. From 1865 till his departure in 1888 for Ballarat, Australia, Fr Reffé was to be the mainspring of the college at various levels. Apart from teaching a full day's class, he took on the direction of the secondary school, preparing the students with remarkable success for the examinations conducted by the Catholic University. In 1872 it was decided to provide special training for those who aimed at entry to the top posts in the Civil Service at home and overseas. Fr Reffé took on the direction of this new department, soon to be located in a separate area, which was to be known as 'The Castle.' The great success of this Civil Service College was one of his finest achievements. From 1881 the Castle became what Père Leman had always wanted, namely, a real university college preparing students in a Catholic milieu as they sought to qualify for degrees under the Royal University system. Fr Reffé organised this third level college as well as the secondary school. The results achieved by the students at both levels was a real success story. But it had a special significance for Fr Reffé. In a Leader devoted to him in the *Freeman's Journal* after his early death we find these words: 'From the very first he was possessed by a great idea, which in season and out of season he never failed to put forward, and to press on the attention of the educational public. It was, that Irish Catholics, if only a fair opportunity were afforded, could prove themselves intellectually the equals of any, no matter what their country or creed. In those times it was argued, or more generally assumed, that Catholics as such were intellectually inferior to members of other creeds, and the Celtic mind could not successfully compete with the more massive faculties of the

Saxon...' The writer goes on to stress that if the results achieved in the public competitive examinations have changed all that, much of the credit for giving new heart to Irish Catholics goes to the Frenchman, Fr Reffé. This thesis was later to be given support by Dr William Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, who had worked in close co-operation with Reffé. It was in part because of the part played by Reffé and Père Leman in bringing about this revolution, that Reffé's candidature for a Fellowship in the Royal University was supported by Cardinal Edward McCabe and others. The Fellowship in question was given to Fr Gerald Manly Hopkins and Fr Reffé was to leave Ireland for good in 1888 to head a team whose brief was to open a new school and a new mission in Australia. By then Reffé was a spent force. High blood pressure had sapped his energy. Came August 1888, he slipped quietly out of Ireland to join up with his team for Australia. To say that matters did not go as hoped in Ballarat would be an understatement. That was not Fr Reffé's fault, but within two years he was back in France a broken man. He tried to recuperate at various communities, preaching the occasional retreat - one of them at Cellule where Joseph Shanahan, future bishop, was a student. He was appointed Director of the Archconfraternity of St Joseph at Beauvais, but before he could make his contribution there he suffered a stroke from which he died 23 September 1894 aged 53 years. Generous tributes were paid to Fr Reffé in the national newspapers in Ireland and at the month's mind attended by many from the educational world and presided over by the Archbishop Walsh, a close friend of Fr Reffé. Two years later the Archbishop was back again at the college to unveil a memorial to Reffé and to put his contribution to Irish education in perspective. We quote here from a tribute one of his students, Fr Larry Healy, as he tries to recapture something of the great teacher's charism: "...For the great orators and poets of Greece, and, indeed of every land, he had almost a sacred reverence. He taught Greek in Blackrock. When the text was a speech of Demosthenes or one of the great tragedies, the reading of it aroused in him the passion that fired the orator, or the imagery that inspired the poet. His mere reading of the passage was often an elucidation of it, and kindled in the pupils a love for Greek. He paid frequent visits to the Classes. His entrance may be best described by saying that he literally burst into the room. Before the pupils or professors were well aware of his presence he had judged the class. He looked over the register, and dealt out praise or blame according to the marks. Praise from him was highly prized, his censure was dreaded. If the teacher was young, or had not yet proved his efficiency, Fr Reffé examined the class, or rather taught it. In a very short time his handling of the class, and his masterly way of explaining the subject was for the teacher a lesson in pedagogy more practical and impressive than could be learned from lectures or books. Whatever subject Fr Reffé taught, his manner of treating it invested it with an importance and beauty that made you think in one of the most desirable things in life to master that subject. He had, in a large measure, the natural gifts of the orator. His convictions were strong, his feelings intense, and on occasion, impassioned. Poetic imagery seemed a quality of his mind. His voice was singularly musical and powerful. His conferences, sermons and debates were convincing, rousing and pleasing. His harangues to the students at the approach of examinations were like Napoleon's harangues to his soldiers on the eve of battle. Once during the students' retreat, the preacher fell ill, and Father Reffé took his place. Having no time for preparation, he gave free rein to his thoughts and feelings. In sermons of rugged and indeed, terrible eloquence, he unfolded the great truths of religion in a manner that not only convinced but frightened. That retreat was long remembered. He had a high opinion of the natural talents of Irish boys, and of their innate aptitude to be moulded to goodness and greatness. He gave weekly conferences

to the students on studies and character. From his conferences on studies you went away convinced that the highest worldly attainment was scholarship, that the scholar was above the king. Other conferences convinced you that higher attainments still were truthfulness, manliness, and honour. Ambition in a boy, if accompanied and guarded by these qualities, was desirable. Idleness and insubordination were capital offences, but not such deadly sins as lying and meanness. Many a young truant or rebel who was sent up to the dreaded Dean for punishment, disarmed justice by a frank and manly avowal of guilt; but neither talents nor industry, nor other merit shielded an untruthful or dishonourable delinquent from his indignation and contempt. To the prefects, young teachers, he gave frequent lectures on education, and on the art of teaching. In the first years of his deanship, he had provided himself with the best standard books - French, German and English - that treated of education. With these he had made himself familiar. They doubtless helped to make him the great educator he became, and they supplied him with matter for his lectures. But, with time, his own experience, intuition and genius for organisation, made him for his College at least, a higher and more trusted authority than the books. In his talks with the prefects he laid great stress on winning the confidence and respect of the pupils, on being their guide and friend, not their master of driver. He was not without ambition. He aimed at making his school the foremost of its kind in the land. He aimed at raising his students to the highest positions in the State to which their talents and education entitled them to aspire. He had little respect for economy, and could not easily be brought to see that his freedom in providing for the College the best books, the best furniture and equipment, and the best teachers, should be hampered at all by overdrafts at the Bank. He was always a vehement worker. After the acquisition of Williamstown Castle, and the opening there of Civil Service and University Classes, his labours were multiplied. He rose punctually at five, and midnight found him often at his desk. Apart from his work as Dean of practically three Colleges, his priestly duties to which he was scrupulously faithful, occupied more than three hours every day. No constitution, however robust, could last under such a strain. Nature was denied her reasonable claims, and avenged herself by inflicting illness and brain-fag. After twenty-four years of strenuous work, at the early age of 47 he had to retire, exhausted and broken, from the field in which he had won so much success and fame. He was buried in France. GenArch; BG XVII 602; *Freeman's Journal* 19 and 25 October 1894; *Reffé Memorial* 1897; BCA 1960 45ff; *Leman* 193ff; L. Healy 21ff, 135.

### **REFFÉ, Fr John-Baptist                      1855-1881**

Born 14 September 1855 in Kientzheim, Alsace, John-Baptist was a younger brother of Fr Edward, Dean of studies at Blackrock, 1864-88. John-B. studied at Blackrock, 1871-76. He then went to the senior scholasticate at Langonnet where he was described as "a model of piety and regularity." Shortly before he was due for ordination in 1881 he took seriously ill. He and his confrères prayed that he might be well enough to be ordained. He was recalled as being so happy to be ordained 28 October 1881. But he never had the happiness, however, of being able to offer mass. His fever increased and he was anointed 14 November. He pronounced his perpetual vows in the presence of the Superior General, Fr Emonet, and sang the *Magnificat* in a broken voice to express his thanksgiving to God and the Congregation. Fr John-Baptist Reffé died 4 December 1881 with his fellow novices at his bedside, all edified by his saintly death. He was 26 years of age. He was buried in France. BJR No. 205; BG 13 37Of.

### **REGAN, Fr Peter P. 1896-1974**



Peadar was born 4 March 1896 at Gaddy's Street, Belfast. It would appear that he was a regular member of an orchestra before he applied at the age of thirty to join the Congregation. To catch up on his studies he spent one year in Rockwell, 1927/8, before going on to the novitiate. Professed in 1929 he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, and profected for one year, 1931/2, at Rockwell. Ordained in 1935 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He taught for a period at CKC, was a parish priest at Dunukofia, taught in All Hallows Seminary, Onitsha, at St John's Seminary, Nsukka, and at the Teacher Training College, Iwollo. He was rector of All Hallows seminary. Archbishop Arinze, preaching at the special requiem mass concelebrated in Nigeria on hearing the news of his death in Ireland, said of him: 'He was a dedicated and humble priest, a priest who loved the Holy Eucharist and Our Blessed Mother, a priest with a delicate conscience, a famous teacher, especially of Holy Scripture, a singer and a violinist and a referee whose services were in demand on big occasions.' Fr Peter Reagan retired from Nigeria in 1967 and spent the last years of his life at Kimmage where he died quietly in his sleep 16 July 1974 aged 78 years. He is buried in Kimmage. IPArch R 28.

### **Regan, Father David 1926-2004**

Dave was born in Arraghslea, Kilshane, Co. Tipperary on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1926. His family later took up residence in Dublin. After his secondary school studies at Blackrock College as a dayboy he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1946. He studied in Philosophy at U.C.D. and graduated with a B.A. in 1949. He profected in Blackrock College from 1949 to 1951. Dave went to Rome for Theology taking a B.D. in 1953 and S.T.L. in 1955. He was ordained to the Priesthood on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1954 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1955. In 1955 Father Dave's first appointment was to **Ireland**. He was a staff member in the Kimmage Scholasticate lecturing both in philosophy and theology. In 1960 after a short sabbatical at Louvain he was appointed to the Novitiate at Kilshane as Assistant Novice Master. In 1963 he was appointed to **Brazil** where he worked at parish pastoral work in *Pacaembu*. In 1968 he resumed studies in theology at the Institute Catholique in Paris. Responding to the emergency in Biafra he volunteered and spent January to May of 1969 on the island of **São Tomé** as the representative of "Africa Concern". He returned to Brazil and was Pastoral Co-ordinator of the *Diocese of Marilia* from 1970 until 1975. From 1977 until 1983 Dave worked in Brasilia as *Advisor to the National Conference of Bishops*. In 1983 he took a study sabbatical at Ardraccan and in 1985 was appointed as lecturer at the theologate in Kimmage Manor. In 1988 he transferred to the *Generalate in Rome* where he initiated the desk of "*Mission Today*" – this was concerned with mission research and Spiritan animation.. During this time he completed his Doctorate in Missiology at the Gregoriana, with "summa cum Laude". Dave was a prolific writer and since 1962 was a regular contributor to Irish Ecclesiastical Record, Doctrine and Life, The Furrow, Theology Digest, The Tablet. Among his books are: "Church for Liberation: a Pastoral Portrait of the Church in Brazil", "Experience the Mystery", "Why are they poor ? Helder Camara in Pastoral Perspective". Dave worked both at the local and international levels. While in Ireland he conducted workshops on Basic Christian Communities in Darndale and Ballymun in Dublin. His work with SECAM, MISEREOR and MISSIO took him to Nigeria, Kenya, the Congo, South Africa,

Ethiopia and Ghana. Due to illness Fr. Dave returned from Brazil to Mission House, Kimmage in mid 2003. He died 28<sup>th</sup> February 2004. He is buried in the community plot in Dardistown.

### **REIDY, Fr John J. 1899-1970**



Born 24 June 1899 in Newgrove, Tulla, Co. Clare, John entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1916 where he had as directors successively, Dr Jim Murphy, Fr Jos. Butler and Fr Bartholomew Wilson, later Bishop. John profected at Blackrock for one year before going to the novitiate in 1921. After his profession he was sent to St Mary's, Port of Spain, where he did an extra four years as prefect. In the meantime the senior seminary had been transferred to the Castle, Blackrock. Ordained in 1931 Fr John was appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar the following year where his brother, Fr Martin CSSp, had preceded him. Assigned to the island of Zanzibar, he served the 2,000 Catholics of African, Indian and European descent. Later he ministered at Kyambu, Limuru and Mombasa. He also worked for awhile in the island of Pemba. In the 1950s he served as Catholic Educational Secretary in Nairobi, and in the 1960s when he was in charge of the cathedral parish he supervised the erection of the new cathedral. It was mainly due to his energetic and courageous organisation that the work was completed within three years and the debt wiped out. Fr John was incisive in manner, in word as well as deed. His energetic administration in the various posts he held won him wide admiration throughout the district of Kenya and his advice was widely sought on all kinds of pastoral and education problems. The establishment of the Legion of Mary in Kenya also owed much to his interest and support. It was no surprise that his muscular system showed signs of burn-out towards the end, but after a brief sojourn in Switzerland he returned to his mission where he continued his work in spite of impaired energy. He died suddenly in Nairobi 23 May 1970 aged 70. He was buried in Kenya. *BCA* 1970, 232f; *SpWW* 866; *MA*. September 1970; *Forristal, Edel Quinn*, 114f.

### **REIDY, Fr Martin 1902-1984**



Born 9 January 1902 in Newgrove, Tulla, Co. Clare, Martin followed his brother John to Blackrock where he studied from 1917 to 1921. Professed in Kimmage in 1922 he spent the next three years as prefect in Rockwell. He completed his senior studies for the priesthood at the Castle, Blackrock, being ordained in 1930. In 1931 he was sent to Kenya where he was to serve for the next fifty years. His memory will ever be associated with Limuru mission which he built up as a pastor, a farmer and a chaplain to the Loreto Convent school there. In his latter years he retired to St Mary's School, Nairobi, where he still remained pastorally active in whatever way he could. Though small in stature he was big in character. Courageous and astute, loving and hospitable, he was revered by the people and loved by his confreres to whom he was always a rock of support. He outlived his brother, Fr John, CSSp, who also worked in Kenya, by fourteen years, dying 29 July 1984 aged 82 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *BCArch*; *IPNI* No 58 1984

### **REYNOLDS, Fr Robert Finbarr 1922-1996**



Born 25 September 1922 in Glasheen Road, Cork, Finbarr did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1937-41. Professed in 1942 he qualified for the BA at UCD and profected at Blackrock, 1945-47. Ordained in 1950 Fr Finbarr was appointed to Sierra Leone where he served in Freetown and Bo from 1951 to 1953. He came home in poor health and when he had sufficiently recovered he was transferred to Kenya in 1953. He taught at Kiteta Teachers Training College and Kilima Mbogo, 1953-56, and did ministry at Kilungu, Kaumoni and Makindu for fifteen years. In 1970 he returned to Ireland and the following year he was appointed to the USA where did hospital chaplaincy work in California till 1991. It was in this ministry for some twenty years that his star shone brightest as he loved people and identified readily with their problems and cheered people with that laugh which was his signature tune during his years in the seminary in Kimmage. Even when he had retired to Ireland his those whom he had befriended in hospital kept in contact with him by letter and phone. former He then returned to Ireland and was appointed to the Templeogue community. Suffering from serious ill health he was transferred to Marian House in January 1995. Fr Finbarr Reynolds died 1 February 1996 aged 73 years. IPArch; *IPNI* No.2, 1996

### **REYNOLDS, Fr Thomas F. 1915-1970**



Born 7 August 1915 in Kilcummen, Cloonacool, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, Thomas spent some years in his uncle's business in Dublin before he entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1942. He was professed in 1945, did Philosophy and Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1950. In 1951 Fr Thomas was appointed to the missions in Owerri, Nigeria. For three years he was Master of Novices for the Brothers of St Peter Claver at Uturu - an order of Nigerian Brothers which was in 1957 joined with Marist Brothers. In 1955 he was in parish work in Obaku, and in 1956 was transferred to the Junior Seminary in Okpala. When the new Minor Seminary set up in Obowo, 1957, he was appointed Director. In subsequent years he was engaged in parish work in Amaigbo and Uzoagba, and built a mission house and church in Atta. During the war in Biafra he was occupied with pastoral and relief work until 1969 when he returned to Ireland for medical treatment. After the surrender in January, 1970, while waiting for a permit to return to Nigeria, he took on temporary parish work in U.S.A, and while there had to re-enter hospital for surgery. Fr Thomas Reynolds died in a New Jersey hospital on 22 March 1970 aged 54 years. He was buried in the USA. His cousin, Fr Tom Reynolds, also served in Nigeria where he met with a tragic death in 1948 as a result of road accident.(qv.) BCArch; *BCA*, 1970, 228

### **REYNOLDS, Fr Thomas J. 1917-1948**



Born 9 October 1917 in Ballsallagh, Co. Kilkenny, Tom later moved to Dublin where the family owned a licensed premises in Eden Quay. He attended St. Mary's, Rathmines, where he had as teacher Fr Joe Whelan, future bishop in Nigeria. He went to work in the family business in Eden Quay and was highly popular with the clientele. At the age of 19, however, he felt the Lord was calling him to be a

missionary. Having contacted the Congregation, he was advised to do an extra year at Rockwell to catch up on his studies. One recalls him as more mature than the rest of the students in the Juniorate, very athletic, cheerful, open, impetuous and always ready for a practical joke. His resonant voice could never be forgotten, and his remarkable portrayal of 'Cattermole' in *The Private Secretary* was a tour de force. Studies presented a problem at that stage, but for him a problem was just a challenge and he had adopted as his motto 'No Surrender'. During his novitiate he was an obvious choice for Master of Manual Labour and his well remembered advice to many a fellow-novice was, 'Do the best you can with what you have.' He did one year as prefect, with Fr Joe Whelan as his Dean, in St Mary's, 1941-2; and then began Theology being ordained in 1946. Appointed the following year to Nigeria, his former clients at the Butt Bar made him a present of a high-powered motor cycle. He was posted to Onitsha where he rejoined Fr Whelan and was to assist at his episcopal ordination as first ever Vicar-Apostolic of Owerri. Returning some months later from another ceremony where he had assisted Bishop Whelan, he left for home on his motor cycle as evening fell. In the dark he collided with a lorry. Among the first to arrive on the scene was Bishop Whelan on his way home. We let him say the last word about his close friend: "Full of energy, he was an indefatigable worker; faithful, even in the details of his religious obligations, he was a fervent priest; cheerful and gay, he was an excellent companion. Little wonder then that he should be loved and admired by all, particularly by those of us who knew him intimately... I found him lying on the roadside. I raised him with my left hand and absolved him. And as I held him in my arms he died. The funeral Mass was on Pentecost Sunday - 16th May - a day on which the liturgy forbids all requiems. The red vestments of the celebrant represented for us the red blood of the first victim of Owerri. In Father Tom I have lost an excellent missionary, a fervent priest, and a dear friend." Fr Thomas Reynolds died 15th May 1948 aged 30 years. IPArch

**RICHERT, Fr Jacques 1843-1918**

Born 24 February 1843 in Boersch, Alsace, Jacques did his studies at St Hypolyte's junior seminary and at Langonnet. He did Philosophy and Theology at rue Lhomond, Paris, and Chevilly where he was ordained 1866. Appointed to Rockwell in 1867 Fr Jacques taught there for five years. When transferred to Sierra Leone in 1872, it was expected that his fluency in English would be a distinct asset in the mission, but within a few months he had to return to Europe as he was unable to cope with the climate. He was then posted to the USA where he served as a founder member with Fr Strub. His command of English was vital to the success of the foundation. From 1882 to 1897 he worked at Beauvais Apostolic college and no doubt his presence there was appreciated by Joseph Shanahan, 1886-89, as he tried to cope with life in a French milieu without any knowledge of French. When Mgr Le Roy set about organising a senior scholasticate in the USA in 1897, he called on Fr Richert to accompany Fr (later Bishop) O'Gorman on that mission. Fr Jacques Richert was to serve in the USA for the rest of his life and when he died 11 October 1918 aged 75 years, Fr Eugene Phelan, the Provincial, referred to him in the funeral homily as "the saint of the Province." He was buried in the USA. *BG XXIX 289f; SpWW 257.*

### **RING, Fr Christopher 1910-1985**



Born 19 January 1910 in Sackville Gardens, Dublin, Christy qualified as carpenter and joiner, and was skilled in bricklaying and iron work. He was studying architecture when he felt called to join the Congregation. On consulting Dr J.C.McQuaid as to whether he should continue his professional course or enter the Congregation immediately, it was decided that he should go to Rockwell for one year to study mainly Latin. This he did in 1935 and the following year he made his novitiate. Ordained in 1942 Fr Christy was appointed the next year to Nigeria where he served as curate in Port Harcourt. He made a heroic effort in administering the last rites to workers who were badly injured in a catastrophe at a power station. In 1948 Owerri became a separate diocese and Bishop Whelan called on Christy to follow in the Lord's footsteps as tradesman, thus putting to good use the skills he had acquired earlier in life. His principal monument was to be the church of the Assumption in Owerri where, acting on the plans supplied by an architect in Dublin, he lovingly and meticulously supervised every detail of the construction from 1954 to 1968. He suffered a heart attack in 1963 and had to return to Ireland, but when he felt sufficiently recovered against all odds, he returned to carry on with his work in Owerri. When he had to leave Nigeria for good after the Biafra war he served as a curate in Southwark till 1971 and from then on in Donore Ave., Dublin. Suffering from angina he came to reside at St Michael's, Ailesbury Rd, while acting as chaplain to the Poor Clares at Ballsbridge. Though in precarious health he managed to keep going for another five years by "chewing a few tablets." He finally collapsed on the way to saying the early mass and died sometime later in hospital. Fr Christopher Ring answered the Lord's call 5th October 1985 aged 75 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* 61 1985

### **ROCHE, Fr John F. 1909-1979**



Born 23 August 1909 in Clonown, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, John did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1924-28. Professed in Kimmage in 1929, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and prefectured at the college there, 1931-33. During this time he played for the Blackrock Club together with Michael Moloney, later bishop, international Phil Crowe etc. They won the Leinster (*Evening Herald*) Cup for the 1933 Seven-a-side competition, that being the first trophy won by the Blackrock 1sts. One event he recalled with pride from those days was that he recognised G.K. Chesterton when he was lost among the crowd at the Eucharistic Congress Garden Party at Blackrock and brought him along to where the VIPs were being catered for. His fellow prefect, John Jordan, recalled him as 'a tremendous joyful person, a real tonic to companions and an inspiration to boys. his courage, determination and good humour were infectious.' His years in the senior scholasticate always came to life in the hilarious anecdotes told by himself and others, e.g., when he and Jack Jordan set the neighbours' dogs crazy by skilfully imitating their barking at night! Ordained in 1936 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He was appointed to CKC, Onitsha Town, served as pastor and was asked by the bishop to initiate a secondary school at Enugu. He loved the Igbo people and later (1951) published a book *First Friday at Amzu* - narratives based on daily life among the Igbos. Being an excellent singer, raconteur and community builder, he was highly valued, but ill-health forced him to return home for treatment. After prolonged visits to hospital he was appointed



in 1947 to Blackrock where he settled into school and community life as best he could in spite of recurring health problems. His contribution to life at Blackrock was quite substantial: apart from his painstaking hours of teaching, he took charge of the senior sodality, acted as Scout chaplain, and trained the JCT with remarkable success. In his spare time he used his pen in contributing breezy articles to the *Missionary Annals* and was often seen with the spade as he did a spot of gardening. Above all he was appreciated by the students for the solid advice given in his rather colourful language and personal theology. When a student said he did not see much point in confessing the same sins with no visible improvement, John said, 'The parlour table at home needs to be continually dusted.' He was affectionately known to the students as 'Da' Roche. For one who related to young people so well all his life it was sad to see how depressed he was in later years by all the changes he saw taking place in religious practice and which he blamed on the Vatican Council. In July 1980 he made an unaccustomed visit to his home place, and met all the friends. He then went to Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, where his brother Fr Hugh, CSSp was chaplain. They had said mass together on Friday, 27 July, and as Fr John knelt to make his thanksgiving he suffered a sudden heart attack from which he died almost immediately. Fr John Roche was 69 years of age. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BCA* 1979 200ff; *IPNI* No 39 1979.

### **ROCHE, Fr Hubert Joseph                    1919-2001**

Born on 31 May 1919 in Togher, Clonown, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Hugh, following in the footsteps of his brother Fr John, entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1933. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1938 and did his studies at Kimmage Manor and UCD. Having qualified for the BA in Philosophy in 1942 he prefected in Rockwell for two years before returning to Kimmage to do Theology. Ordained in 1947 he was appointed the following year to Onitsha, Nigeria. He served first at Enugu as an assistant, and later at Onitsha-



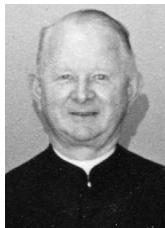
Waterside. From 1961 he was in charge of Abytete. Obligated to quit Nigeria after the Biafra war he felt broken hearted because he had to leave the people he had loved so much and for whom he had laboured tirelessly. Returned to Ireland he worked for a year in catechetics in Meath Diocese. In 1971 Hugh was appointed to Canada where he worked in parishes at Woodstock and in Alberta. In 1980 he returned to Ireland and took up an appointment as chaplain at Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo. His brother, Fr John, came to visit him there in July 1979. After they had concelebrated Mass together Fr John knelt down to say his thanksgiving and having suffered a heart attack he died immediately. Fr Hugh was appointed to the Diocese of Meath in 1984 and worked in Rochfordbridge. In all these areas Hugh was loved and respected for his dedication to his ministry, especially to the sick. It was said of him at the funeral mass: "Hugh had a wonderful sense of humour, a love of music, would always be at the heart of a party, and to crown it all he was a great story teller, and had a *céad míle fáilte* for visitors. He loved tradition, including the Latin tradition of the Church, but also embraced the best of the new changes. He had a great devotion to Our Lady and to Père Brottier whose cause he quietly promoted. He lived a simple life and enjoyed life. In his last years he had a big share in the cross of suffering...". After retiring from there he continued to do part-time ministry in the Diocese. In failing health Fr Hugh retired to Marian House early in 2000 where he died on 7 March 2001 aged 81 years. *IPArch*; *IPrNI*. No 2, 2001; *KNSM* No. 231

**ROCHE, Fr Thomas 1913-2001**



Born on 22 July 1913 in Kilmanihan, Co. Limerick, Thomas was baptised and grew up at Brosna, Co. Kerry. He did his secondary studies at St Michael's, Listowel, and at Blackrock College, 1932-35. Professed in Kilshane 1936 he did Philosophy and Theology in Kimmage. Ordained priest in 1941 he was appointed in 1942 to Kenya and worked in what was then known as the Vicariate of Zanzibar. His first appointment was to parish work in Bura. Then from 1945 to 1947 he held teaching posts at Waa, Kabaa and Kilimambogo Seminary. In 1948 he returned to parish work, first at Ngambinyi and then at Giriama. In 1963 he took over the management of the farm at Kinangop. In 1969 he returned to parish work at Chonyi. In 1985 he moved to St Brendan's in the Diocese of Mombasa and continued parish work there. After 49 years of missionary work in Kenya Tom came back to Ireland in 1992, but returned once more to Kenya for some time before finally retiring. He spent some time at Rockwell College and then moved to Mission House, Kimmage Manor. In February 2001 due to failing health he transferred to Marian House where he died on 1 September 2001. Fr Thomas was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin.

**ROCHE, Fr William P. 1911-2000**



Bill was born on 15 March 1911 in Gould, Coolkeena, Co. Wicklow. After his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1925-31, he entered the novitiate at Kimmage and was professed in 1932. Bill professed at Blackrock, 1934-35, and was ordained priest in 1938. Appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar he was stationed at Riruta and Giriama in the late 1940s, and at Limuru in 1952. In the early 1960s he was pastor of the outstation at Ngarariga where he had one assistant. There were over 5,000 Catholics there and an even greater number of catechumens. The last station where he served was at Gatitu in 1968. Returned to Ireland he was stationed at Bethany House, Carlow, 1989-98. He was transferred then to Marian House where he died on 3 January 2000. He was aged 88 years. Bill was remembered especially for his humour. It was said that he told more jokes than any of the great comedians. In almost every Mass he told a joke to put people at ease and in good form. His jokes were harmless and were his ingenious way of bringing people nearer to God and to each other. He never tired of bringing joy into peoples' lives and it was his way of spreading the Good News. And he reached out to everyone without exceptions. It was Bill's humanity more than his theology that made him a successful missionary in Africa and won him so many friends everywhere he went. He was seen to be transparently most human and at ease with the Lord whom he saw as eminently human and open to all. Fr Bill was buried in the local cemetery at Myshall, Co. Carlow. *IPN* No. 1 2000; *KEASM* No. 458

**RONAYNE, Fr Thomas 1887-1965**



Born 21 June 1887 in Dunmore, Co. Galway, Tommy entered the boarding school in Rockwell in 1899. He qualified for a scholarship in Preparatory Grade in 1901, doing very well in Irish - a subject he was to excel at in examinations at university level. The Dean of the boarding school in these years was Fr Joseph Shanahan. Fears about Tommy's health and his declared intentions to join the Congregation led his parents

to transfer him to the boarding school at Blackrock, 1903-05. He entered Clonliffe College, Dublin, where he did three years in preparation for a degree under the RUI. Sent to Maynooth in 1908, he studied Irish under the controversial Fr Hickey and took his BA in Philosophy in 1910. Ordained in Maynooth in 1913, Fr Tommy served for a few years in the diocese of Sioux City. Recalled to Dublin by Archbishop William Walsh in 1918 he was appointed curate at Monkstown. There he was in close contact with the founding of the Maynooth Mission to China but was prevented by Dr Walsh from joining the society in order to set out for China. When Bishop Shanahan made his appeal in 1920 for secular priests to enlist for a period for service in Nigeria, Fr Tommy offered his services and was given permission by Archbishop Walsh to go. He worked at a number of different stations, Calabar, Ihiala, Aguleri, and in the Seminary at Enugu. He also served at the Teachers' Training College in Enugu. He was closely involved in the foundation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and the St Patrick' Missionary Society - not always as an angel of peace. In fact, he was rather contentious in manner and very forthright in expressing himself. One example: When giving a retreat to a community of Sisters where the Superioress came daily to tell him what to stress he gave a very undiplomatic reply when asked: "I hope you don't object to my telling you these things?". "Not all, Mother. The Lord used Balaam's ass in the Bible." Eventually in 1938, Fr Tommy applied for admission in the Holy Ghost Congregation. He made his novitiate in Ahiala under the guidance of Fr Alphonse Bindel and was professed in 1939. His last years were spent in teaching at the Major Seminary, Enugu, and he was much admired by his students for his learning and priestly zeal. His favourite subject was Sacred Scripture, which he studied continually and, though he was happy to be a member of the Congregation, he was always quick to admit his indebtedness to the training he had received in Maynooth. In spite of the doctor's fears in Rockwell in 1903 Fr Tommy stood up well to life in Nigeria where he died on Christmas Day 1965 aged 78 years. He was buried in Nigeria. Ps. Fr Thomas Ronayne at times got a bad press in written accounts of the early years in Nigeria, but those who knew him personally were able to appreciate his sterling contribution in spite of certain temperamental shortcomings. *BCA*, 1966, 30f

### **ROONEY, Fr Christopher                      1847-1919**



Born in Rathmines, Dublin, 3 June 1847, Christopher came to the French College, Blackrock, in 1864 where he had Fr Jerome Schwindenhammer as director in the juniorate. It would appear from the observations made by his directors during his years of formation that Christopher's talents were not discerned nor his temperament appreciated. With the benefit of hindsight others were later to describe his personality with words such as "generous, rich, refined, sensitive, enthusiastic, artistic etc. ..." After he had completed his liberal education in the French tradition as maintained by Pères Leman and Reffé, he did two years as prefect at Blackrock, 1868-70, followed by one year at Rockwell during which he studied philosophy in the company of the Scottish students and those who had returned from France because of the Franco-Prussian war. He was then called on to go as teacher of English in St Bernard's College, Gibraltar, where the Portuguese province set up for a period, 1870-72, on having to abandon the juniorate at Santarem due to the government's anticlericalism. After six months Christopher was allowed to go to France to continue his studies for the priesthood at Langonnet and later at Chevilly. Ordained in 1875 he was appointed the following year to Braga, Portugal, where the Congregation was by then in the process of building up a highly successful college. Fr

Rooney taught mainly English and art but he also took an active part in the construction of the new extensions to the college and in the administration. In 1887 he was appointed superior and master of novices at the new foundation at Cintra on a property donated by the Countess of Camerido. He also served as professor of Dogmatic Theology for a period. He so impressed the Countess that she turned to him for advice in all matters temporal and spiritual. Five years later he was transferred to Lisbon as superior and Mission procurator for Angola and the Congo. When serious disagreements arose between these two major missions he was sent as official visitator and he worked out an agreement acceptable to all. During these years he had many dealings with the government in which he displayed his talents for diplomacy. He also fostered good relations with people in high places in his efforts to further the cause of the missions and promoted the publication of a periodical *Boletim Portugal em Africa*. His success, however, was the cause of his downfall. The Countess of Camerido was so influenced by his enthusiasm for the development of the missions that she decided to devote her vast wealth to that project. The news of that decision caused a furious campaign against Fr Rooney in certain Portuguese papers. The affair eventually reached Rome and the Nuncio demanded his resignation and exile from Portugal. The Congregation agreed to give up the property handed over by the Countess but made a successful stand against having Fr Rooney exiled or removed from being confessor to the Countess. On her death in 1905 he left the Portugal he had learned to love and joined with the group who were trying to launch the Congregation in England at Prior Park, Bath, and later at Castlehead, Lancs. During the 1910 Revolution in Portugal the house in Lisbon made over to Fr Rooney by the Countess Camerido escaped confiscation. Because of the link with Fr Rooney, it was protected by the British flag hoisted by the community. In 1908 he preached a sermon on St Patrick, outlining the saint's life in France etc. up till the age of 60 when he was called on to undertake the very challenging mission in Ireland. Next day Fr Rooney, then 60 himself, received a letter from the Superior General, Mgr. Le Roy, asking him to go to USA to open a new mission in Rhode Island for the neglected immigrant population of Portuguese and Irish origins! Within two years he established St Anthony's, Portsmouth, St. Christopher's, Tiverton, and St Catherine's, Little Compton. Always an enthusiastic and generous worker, he stuck to his post until deafness and a heart attack forced him to resign in 1919. He returned to Ireland for a rest. The Blackrock journal takes up the story: 17 May 1919: "Fr Rooney, who returned lately from America in ill-health, was brought here from his brother's home (Col. Rooney) in an ambulance in a delirious state. Having suffered a stroke he passed away 28 May aged 72. Bishop John O'Gorman, who arrived home from Sierra Leone, celebrated the Pontifical High Mass and Fr Rooney was laid to rest in Dean's Grange." *BG* 29, 470ff; *BCA* 1962, 169; *SpWW* 262; *S&D*, Koren 221f, 295ff.

### **RUSSELL, Fr Brendan 1918-1978**



Born 16 September 1918 in Anglesea Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Brendan came to Blackrock College as a day student in 1928 and in September 1934 entered the Juniorate. He was a scholarship holder throughout his years at Blackrock. He took an active part in school activities, academic and athletic, winning his place on the SCT. Professed in 1938 he took an Honours M.Sc at UCD followed by the H.Dip.Ed. while prefecting at Blackrock, 1942-44. While doing Philosophy at Kimmage he was among those chosen to go to Rome to do their theological studies, they being the first group to do so after the war. Brendan took the STL at the Gregorian University and

having completed his course he was appointed to Nigeria, being among the first group to set off by plane for Africa. He taught at Ihiala and at Christ the King College, Onitsha, from 1949 to 1960. Appointed lecturer in Mathematics at the newly founded University of Nigeria at Nsukka, he also acted as chaplain to the university students with his friend and colleague, Monsignor Stephen Ezeanya: together they built up a flourishing parish on the university campus and provided a fine chapel. In 1965 Brendan was appointed Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in the northern region of Nigeria. Again he acted as chaplain to the Catholic students. From 1968 to 1970 he taught Mathematics at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA, at the request of the Superior General. He returned to Africa in 1970 - this time as lecturer in Mathematics at the University College, Nairobi. In 1974 he responded to an appeal from the University of Asmara in Ethiopia for a mathematics teacher. The civil war, however, forced the closure of the University and Fr Brendan then joined the staff at St Mary's College, Nairobi. Finally, in 1976, he returned to his alma mater, Blackrock, and entered fully into all aspects of the life of the school and local ministry. He was appointed Vice-president and Dean of the 6th year day school and took charge of a school team. He was undergoing treatment for phlebitis but his sudden death 12 of March 1978 was shatteringly unexpected. Brendan had just completed a full day's work, having taken his team out for an inter-schools friendly match and then went to a neighbouring parish to assist at the weekend confessions. Returning later he regaled some confreres with anecdotes of his school days, especially how he had surprised Dr J.C. McQuaid into a display of unaccustomed enthusiasm when he announced to him his intention to join the Congregation. The Lord called Fr Brendan in his sleep that night. Brilliant, ebullient, sometimes abrasive, but always eminently lovable, Fr Brendan Russell had lived a full life in the service of the Lord. He was aged 59 years. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1978, 201; *Forum* 32, 1978.

### **RYAN, Br Aidan (Patrick) 1845-1908**

Born in December 1845 in Killenaule, Co. Tipperary, Patrick entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1869 and was professed in 1871. Appointed to Rockwell Br Aidan was to spend all his life in the service of the community and college as infirmarian, receptionist etc. In these functions he built up a remarkable rapport with people inside and outside the community. His advice was sought by many, especially with regard to deciding their vocation, and he was in correspondence with many religious communities in pursuance of this ministry. He influenced many to approach the sacraments, to take the pledge against drink etc. He took very much to heart the decline in the fortunes of Rockwell during the eighties, partially due to the disturbed era of the land war, and he led a crusade of prayer to avert the threatened closure of the college. The tide turned in favour of Rockwell in the nineties, due especially to the drive of Dr Edward Crehan as Dean. The building of a new chapel was looked on as an act of faith in the future, and Br Aidan volunteered to go on a questing tour in America to help raise the necessary funds. He spent two years on a tiring but very fruitful quest, contacting friends, relatives, past students etc., returning at the close of 1897 to witness the completing and the consecration of the chapel. He resumed his modest duties in the community once again until troubled by a heart ailment in 1906. Being unable to work he redoubled his crusade of prayer for all the intentions of Mother Church. Br Aidan Ryan died peacefully 10 Feb. 1908 aged 64 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *NB*, series 3, 251-5

### **RYAN, Mr James 1884-1917**

Born 24 September 1884 in Fornane, Cappamore, Co. Limerick, James did his final year of secondary studies at Rockwell, 1902/3, and prefectured there the following year. He then did four years as prefect at Blackrock while studying also at the University College at the Castle. He did his novitiate in France being professed in 1909 but, because of signs of tuberculosis, he was sent to Trinidad as prefect once again. He was recognised as a great worker and a good athlete but he failed to shake off his illness. James Ryan died 20 March 1917 aged 33 years and was buried in Trinidad. *BG XXVIII 545; CIC 1917, 77; SpWW, 239*

### **RYAN, Fr Edmond 1906-1999**



Born on 7 March 1906 in Knockdonee, Upperchurch, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ned did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1921-26. In 1922 he assisted at the burial of Br Silas Laffan, and retained two vivid memories of that occasion: surprise to see an old man shedding tears at the graveside, and disappointment that the bell rang for resumption of class instead of the expected "half day."

When Bishop Shanahan turned up later that year on leave from Nigeria he was surprised when young Ned walked up to him and said: "I am your cousin", and then proceeded to give the precise relationship as he had heard it many times from his grandmother! Having opted to join the Congregation in 1926 he was professed the following year in Kimmage Manor. After one year Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he was called on to set out for Trinidad as Prefect where he was to serve for four years. Returning to Ireland he finished his Philosophy in the Castle and then moved with the Theologians to Kimmage when it was vacated by the novices. Ordained priest in 1936 he was appointed the following year to the promotional team. This brought him in close contact with Bishop Shanahan serving as his driver to mission aid events. When Fr Michael Kennedy was unexpectedly appointed President of Blackrock College in January 1942 in succession to Fr John English, Fr Ned was called on to succeed him as bursar in Kimmage. It was a trying time as rations were short and many mouths had to be fed. Through an oversight rations were not claimed while supplies stored in by Fr Kennedy lasted. As Bursar Fr Ned had to incur some of the opprobrium for the inconvenience suffered. No doubt he was delighted when at last he received his obedience for the mission in East Africa in 1944. He sailed there in a convoy of warships. He was to work mainly on the Kenyan coast. He taught in Lioka, 1945-6, and then moved to Makupa, Mombasa, where in his parish ministry he had an outreach to African migratory workers in sugar and sisal estates. He spent a period as Editor of *The Catholic Times* of East Africa where his fine literary sense and style was appreciated. In 1953-54 he was in Giriama working as Education Secretary combined with parish work. The following year he did parish work in Mlindi, Tina River, Changamwe and Malindi. The next ten years were demanding among the Wapokomo - friendly to all and all were dear to him, but few results for his labours. And life was dangerous with cattle-raiders calling frequently. He finally returned to Mombasa -Changamwe. He was actively retired in Chami and Shanzu parishes before returning to Ireland in 1991. He had a great pastoral feel for people; he was never harsh with them - always gentle and always understood their ways - especially those for whom their day in coming to the faith demanded much patience. People appreciated his gentle happy disposition, his gentle joke and smile; his hospitality and welcome for one and all even when, because of his poverty, he had little to offer.

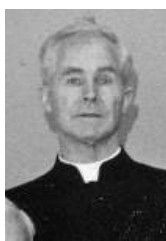
Availability was his hallmark right up to the end. He retired to Kimmage Manor where he continued to live every day to the full and enjoyed excellent health till his death 10 April 1999 at the advanced age of 93 years. Fr Ned is buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery. *IPN* No.3 1999; *KEASM* No. 488; Cf. A biographical Video.

### **RYAN, Fr James Hayes 1914-1973**



Born 20 February 1914 in Terenure, Dublin, he did his secondary studies at CBS Synge St, and, following his brother John's example, he joined the Congregation in 1937. Professed in Kilshane, 1938, he did his senior studies at Kimmage and was ordained in 1943. Assigned to Trinidad he taught at CIC from 1944 to 1948, and then was transferred to Fatima College where he remained for the rest of his life, being principal from 1955 till 1973. It was said of him that his example lit up the way for many a groping student and his sense of fair play endeared him to everyone. He returned to Ireland in ill-health, checked into Blanchardstown Hospital where his disease proved irreversible. Fr James Ryan died 13 August 1973 aged 59 years and was buried in Kimmage. Fr James was a brother of Fr John (CSSp). *IPNI* 9 1973; *SpWW* 947

### **RYAN, Fr John 1912-1997**



Born 8 March 1912 in Terenure, Dublin, John (Jack to his family and close friends) was a student at Synge St with his brother Jim (later CSSp), but having decided to enter the Congregation he came to Blackrock in 1928. His father John and uncle Hugh, later professor at UCD, had attended Blackrock. John took a leading role in the annual school play and won the High Jump in 1929. Among his classmates were Brian O'Nuallain (alias Myles na Gopaleen) and Vivion de Valera. He entered the novitiate in Kimmage in 1931 and after profession moved to the Castle, Blackrock. Having attended UCD he qualified for the BA, H.Dip.Fd. and MA and served as Prefect or junior master at Blackrock, 1934-36. Ordained priest in 1939 he acted as editor of the *Missionary Annals* during his final year in Theology. Appointed to Blackrock in 1940 he served as Director of the Juniorate, 1940-42, and as Principal, 1955-56. He was stage manager and co-producer of the College operas with Fr Joseph Corless for many years. While a student he had sustained a serious injury to his ankle when climbing the Dublin mountains and this injury was aggravated when he fell from a ladder while arranging the sets on the college stage. This injury curtailed his movements causing him considerable inconvenience, and the only physical exercise he could really enjoy was swimming at the Forty Foot. To equip himself for teaching senior English he attended a summer course at Oxford, that being one of the two occasions he travelled outside Ireland. In fact much of the summer months each year from 1964 was devoted to editing the *College Annual*. To assist himself in that work as a photographer he joined the Photographic Society of Ireland, learned to do his own developing and printing, having manufactured the required chemical solutions from substances available in the school laboratory. In this he was following in the footsteps of former college science teachers and photographers Fr Hugh O'Toole and Fr Jim Burke. Taking charge of the college records Fr John compiled an alphabetical list of some 18,000 past students and produced an index card for all those for whom there was a record. He wrote 'The



Final Year' series, the 'News of the Past' and the Obituaries for over thirty years in the College Annual. While engaged in this work he undertook intense research in university records, directories etc. and engaged in extensive correspondence. A recent researcher who had never met Fr Ryan remarked on reading through these letters that he must have been a perfect gentleman and in this she echoed what all had remarked about him over the years in and out of class. He loved meeting past Blackrock men at the college reunions and continually amazed them with his retentive memory and his keen interest in their subsequent careers. Over the years he had scanned the newspapers daily recording the deaths of Rock related people, with a view to sending a note of sympathy to the relatives and to solicit the prayers of the community. He proved a key man in the preparations for the college Centenary as he shouldered much of the research and writing involved, but most especially in preparing at short notice the pictorial history of the college mounted in Our Lady 5 hall and in editing the special extended centennial issues of the College Annuals. After the death of Mr Hugh Holohan he was called on to teach senior Mathematics and to update himself in this discipline he availed of the presence in the college of the noted mathematician Dr Alfred O'Rahilly. Being asked to index the community library he did a special study of what was needed for such an amenity. He served as Vice-president of the College, 1970-78. In failing health he retired to Kimmage Manor nursing home in 1993 where he died 22 May 1997 85 years. Fr John left his alma mater deeply in his debt. He was buried in Shanganagh cemetery. BCArch; *BCA* 1997 p.5

#### **RYAN, Fr John (Seán) Joseph 1937- 1998**



Born in Dundrum, Co. Tipperary, on 11 December 1937, Seán did his secondary studies in C.B.S. Thurles where he won three Munster Cup Medals - the Harty Cup, the Dean Ryan Cup and the Croke Cup. Having opted to join the Congregation he was professed in 1958 and professed for two years, 1961-63, at St Michael's. Sean had a keen interest in and love of music, song and poetry. During his student days he experimented with various instruments - accordion, guitar and mandolin. He settled for the guitar and it became his life's companion both on social occasions and on pastoral ministry. Ordained priest in 1965 he was appointed to Brazil in 1966 where he worked there in parish ministry at Mirandópolis, SP, followed by São Sebastião in the same town. In 1989 he went to the USA studying for a diploma called Focus on Leadership in Denver CO and MA in Creation-Centred Spirituality in Chicago. After his return to Brazil he served in Ceilândia, one of the eight satellite towns to which people from Brasilia's slums had been deported. He engaged in parish work there and the formation of Brazilian candidates for the Congregation. Seán learned the art of making musical instruments. He made a Paraguayan harp and while working with the novices in Brasilia he had them making their own musical instruments - flutes of various types made from native material and sometimes with a mixture of Irish and local material. Everywhere he worked he passed on his gift of music to others, always leaving behind him a little band of budding singers and musicians. After a sabbatical year in 1990 he was appointed to Ardraccon, Co. Meath, where he worked until 1996. He was then appointed to Mexico where he worked until forced by ill health to return to Ireland in 1996. He died 15 November 1998. Fr Seán is buried in the community cemetery at Rockwell. *IPNI* No.5 1998; *KSBM* No. 275



**RYAN, Fr John Cathal 1911-1994**



Born 24 June 1911 in Tipperary town J.C. did his secondary studies at Blackrock College, 1926-32. He was not an intellectual but he was a little man with an indomitable spirit. As a scrum half he made a dash through the pack for the line but hit the goal post first. When he came round he asked: "Did I score?" This was to be typical of him in life, which he lived to the full. Among the last group to be professed in Kimmage, he did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1933-35, and profected in Rockwell, 1935-36. He was remembered for his special party piece celebrating the feats of "Treacy and Dan Breen" during the war of Independence. Ordained in 1939 Fr J.C. was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He worked in the missions of Amigbo and Emekuku and then founded the mission of Ogbaku where he worked till 1967. It is claimed that he built the first permanent church in Owerri and got a marble altar from Italy paid for by the business people of his native Tipperary. He was never shy about asking, but people liked to help him. And despite keeping no accounts he proved an excellent school manager. Though he had to quit Nigeria after the Biafra war he carried it with him in his heart for life as he did his native county. One of the many anecdotes told of him in Nigeria was that his interpreter on St Patrick's day rendered his oft repeated expression "St Patrick of the Gael as St Patrick of the big wind". During a visit to Rome, Fr Dan Murphy, then Procurator, showed him the hand of St Francis Xavier, remarking that it had baptised 13,000. Holding up his right hand J.C. replied: "There's the hand that baptised 20,000 and has 20,000 more to come." That was not to be, but he continued his pastoral work first in San Jose Church, in Jacksonville, Florida, and later in Bluebell parish, Dublin. Then he was appointed to Rockwell. At first he was depressed by the confines imposed by school life, but then as telephone receptionist, golf coach and dean/chaplain to the catering school, he got a new lease of life. And that in spite of suffering from diabetes which eventually caused his death. Despite many set backs he always retained his smile and his cockiness - an antidote, it was said, for the "sad saint". When Fr J.C. was called home by the Lord 3 January 1994 it was felt by all that a very loveable "character" has passed on but that he would feature for years to come in humorous anecdotes. He was buried in Rockwell. *IPNI* No. 1 February 1994

**RYAN, Fr John Joseph 1922-1986**



Born 28 March 1922 in Kilmurry, Feenagh, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, John did his secondary studies at CBS, Charleville, Co. Cork. He worked in the Department of Agriculture from 1940 to 1949 when he opted to join the Congregation. Professed in 1950, he did Philosophy and Theology at Kimmage and was ordained in 1955. Appointed to Nigeria, Fr John served in the Junior Seminary in Owerri at Okpala, 1956-59, and in the Junior Seminary at Obowo, 1959-61. From 1961 to 1969 he served in Umuahia as Secretary to the Bishop. Then, because of the Biafra war, he was obliged to leave Nigeria. 1970 found Fr John at work again in Africa but this time in the diocese of Mombasa in Kenya. There he was to minister to the people at Mgange Nyika in Taita and Mgange Dawida. Quoting the homily given by Bishop Kirima of Mombasa at Fr John's funeral: "He will always be known as a man who revealed the God of compassion, particularly to the sick and the poor. People called at his house at all hours of the night and day. He was always prepared to bring their sick to Wesu Hospital in Taita. He would never hesitate or turn down anyone. He walked

long distances to minister to his flock when his old car broke down innumerable times. He would never complain even though he chronically suffered from a painful cough and a bad chest. His transparency revealed the God of compassion who constantly strengthened John in a disciplined religious celibacy for the kingdom." The Lord accepted the final holocaust when with three other priests he met with a violent death in a road accident as they travelled to Nairobi for their annual retreat on December 8th 1986. Fr John Ryan was aged 64 years. He was buried in Nairobi. He was a first cousin of Dr Newman, Bishop of Limerick. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 64, March 87

#### **RYAN, Fr William 1844-1874**



Born 7 May 1844 in Killaloe, Co. Clare, William was one of several students directed to the French College by Br Jerome Ryan OSF, some of whom had started with the Franciscan Brothers in Mountbellew, Co. Galway. Entered on the roll for February 1862 William was one of the ablest students of his time in the college, and had a distinguished record in the Catholic University examinations - winning several Exhibitions or scholarships, including Mathematics.

He was prefect, 1867-1868, and studied in France, 1868-70. Returning ill he occupied himself during convalescence by coaching backward students, and proved himself a capable teacher. After a second period in France, 1871-73, he was ordained and professed. His health, however, took a turn for the worse and he was not expected to live due to a leg infection which had become tubercular. Père Leman asked that he be sent back to Blackrock now that there were rooms available in the new big wing erected in 1873. Fr Ryan did manage to make the journey back to Ireland and survived for a few months. He died 4 April 1874 aged 30 years and was the first to be buried in the vaults under the college chapel. BJR No.55; *BG*. X 70; *BCA* 1962 163; *Gen.Arch*

#### **RYAN, Br Virgilius (Cornelius) 1867-1920**

Born 10 September 1867 in Annacarty, Co. Tipperary, Cornelius entered Rockwell as a postulant for the brotherhood in August 1894. He was already 27 years old at the time and had served as a teacher. He spent four years helping in the school and community before it was decided to send him to the central novitiate at Chevilly where he was professed 20 March 1899. He was appointed to Trinidad where he spent three years. It was decided that he might be of better service in Rockwell. His problem was put as follows by Fr Pembroke in his report when it was proposed not to renew his temporary vows on their expiration: "He is so slow and so tall that he seems to have been born tired." Though his slowness annoyed some people, he was allowed to persevere, having promised to speed matters up. He was still sincerely trying to do well slowly as school librarian etc. when the Lord called him 17 August 1920 aged 52 years. Br Virgilius' death came suddenly while on a holiday at Blackrock College. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG* 29, 794; *SpWW*, 273.

**SCHEER, Fr Aloysius 1876-1955**



Born 25 April 1876 in Minkersheim, Alsace, Aloysius studied at the Apostolic school conducted by the Congregation at Seysinnet, 1890-92, and at Cellule, 1892-96, where he was a younger contemporary of Joseph Shanahan. Professed in Chevilly in 1897, he was one of the four non-Irish students sent to the new senior scholasticate opened in 1898 in Rockwell. This was an experiment in setting up the beginnings of a separate provincial structure for the Irish province. It would appear that Scheer was called on to help as prefect at the college just like Joseph Shanahan, Phil O'Shea, Johnny Byrne etc. It was then that Scheer learned to love and sing the Irish songs and ballads which were in vogue during the centenary of '98. These songs were often heard at re-unions as he worked all his long life in Sierra Leone. When the Senior scholasticate at St Joseph's, was terminated in 1900, Aloysius was appointed to Blackrock to serve for a year as prefect. Returning to France, he completed his studies and in 1903 he was appointed to Sierra Leone. After two years service at Bonthe Fr Aloysius was appointed to Freetown. In 1906 he was stationed at Blama and later served at Gerihun among the Mende tribe with whom the rest of his life in Sierra Leone was to be bound up. He rarely availed of a trip home to Europe, sometimes going up to eighteen years without such a break. He started schools - primary and industrial, which he maintained with little financial support from the people or the Government at Blama, Bo, and Moyamba. In spite of apparent lack of progress with individuals or communities, he never gave up in despair. Under a gruff but genial exterior he maintained a deep trust in God's providence. It was written of him: "He had no home on earth, no country as men judge these things, and no interest in life outside his work and his love for God. ..No one who knew him will ever remember Fr Scheer with anything but respect, veneration and affection." When all others were preparing for the imminent death of a young confrère, Fr Scheer besought the Lord to take his own life and spare the young priest so badly needed by the mission. The confrère made a miraculous recovery and when the coffin already delivered was about to be returned, Fr Scheer, ready to fulfil his own side of the bargain, asked that the coffin be kept in readiness for himself. When no one was about he actually tried see that the coffin would fit. But as coffins are not designed to help the occupant to get out, poor Fr Scheer had to call for help to rescue him! Death did not keep its appointment for many years. Towards the end, Fr Scheer was almost bereft of sight and hearing; his tongue alone retained its remarkable vitality. The rosary was then his only prayer. Fr Aloysius Scheer died 25 Feb. 1955 aged 78 years. He was buried in Sierra Leone. *IPNI*, 1955, 32, p.9f

**SCHLEWECK, Fr Dominic 1850-1919**



Dominic was born 26 July 1850 in Emmenback, Würtemberg, Germany. He did his studies at Langonnet and was ordained priest in 1873. He ministered for eight years in Haiti. Ill-health, which was to trouble him for the rest of his life, necessitated his transfer to St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, USA. Later he had to return to Europe and we find him spending brief periods in several communities, Cellule, Rockwell (1883-85), Douvaine etc. before being appointed Director of an orphanage in Switzerland. He spent some years at Knechtsteden, and then in 1905 he was appointed Superior of the new juniorate

opened at Broich near Aachen. He greatly extended the plant which is still in operation as a school (1997). In 1911 ill-health forced Fr Dominic Schleweck to retire to Knechtsteden where he died 22 August 1919 aged 69 years. He was buried in Knechtsteden. *BG* 29, 524ff; *Rath* 74f; *SpWW*, 266.

### **SCHMIDT, Fr Christian 1863-1938**



Born 13 October 1863 in Niederelbert-Westerwald, Germany, Christian for a brief period attended the juniorate conducted by the Congregation at Marienstatt. He was then sent to Rockwell with several other young aspirants because of the suppression of the Spiritans as part of Bismarck's Kulturkampf. He made his first acquaintance with Rockwell in September 1874 when as yet he was not eleven years. Suffering from homesickness he was sent home 1 March the following year, but it was felt that he would return. Unlike the other German youngsters brought over, no doubt by Fr Bernard Graff, who had taught in Marienstatt, Christian did return at the end of May 1879 and was to remain attached to Rockwell for almost the rest of his life. On completing his studies he prefected for a year at Rockwell before going to France to do his senior studies. Ordained in 1888 he was called on the following year to set off for Ballarat, Australia, to assist Fr Edward Reffé's team in conducting a school. When the school was abandoned in 1892, Fr Schmidt was appointed to Rockwell to join Dr Edward Crehan's team as he endeavoured to restore the fortunes of the school. Fr Christian was welcomed as he taught German, French and Latin. He also took a keen interest in sport, especially handball and cricket. His exploits as he played on the College Out XV may have been exaggerated as the years passed by and he became a well known character. The only way to dislodge him was to claim LBW and that claim he usually disputed with much support from the gallery. He was such a deadly batsman that at the tea break in a match against the Military at Thurles someone plied him with whiskey only to find that he then "hit sixes all over Tipperary." He was a keen supporter of all things Rockwellian, in particular its Rugby Club XV. It is reported that when he noticed a Garryowen player treat a Rockwell player with a lack of respect which was not duly punished by the referee, Fr Christian waited for the scrum to be sufficiently near the touch-line for him to bring his pointed umbrella to bear on that offender's rear end! There were calls to have 'that bl... parson removed from the pitch'. But again his fans rallied to his support. Fr Christian was always at his best at the college *soirées*. He regaled generations of students with his stirring rendering in his magnificent voice of such songs as O'Donnell Abú-, The Donovans, Paddy Flynn and the university song Crambambouli. When they had forgotten most of what they learned in class, Rockwellians could still recall Schmidt's singing voice. He was also the darling of the local clergy who loved to meet him at funerals etc. They knew that he spurned all drinks in favour of a pint of Irish porter. And to hear a bearded German speak his mind in the broadest Tipperary brogue was in itself a treat. He loved all things Irish. He looked on the positive side of life. When he heard Fr Denis Fahey remark that not all our great past students were not what they were cracked up to be and that the objective truth would come out on the Last Day, Fr Schmidt just said: 'And won't that be time enough.' Though he never held any post of authority, nor was he rated a good teacher, his very presence was for many an integral part of Rockwell. He had been so much in love with life that people were afraid to tell him when the medical prognosis was that the final whistle was not far off. One recalls him making his last feeble efforts to walk assisted down the back avenue to have his last view of

the lake and the Galtees that he had first seen away back in 1874. Realising that it was drawing towards the close of play, he asked for the 'last sacraments'. Fr Conny Daly took the assembled students for a singing practice in the large study to prepare the Requiem Mass. Fr Schmidt, lying on his bed overhead, tuned in and remarked: 'They are already preparing for my funeral; but they might have a wait.' He waited in fact till the examinations were over and the students had departed. He died 2 July 1938 aged 74 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *RJR*; *BG XXXVIII* 722ff; *RCA* 1939; *Rath* 342.

### **SCHMIDT, Fr Peter      1871-1914**

Born 7 February 1871 in Niederahr, Nassau, Peter studied at Blackrock, 1884-89. After three years in the senior scholasticate in France he was sent to Braga, Portugal, as prefect where he served for two years. Ordained in 1894 he was appointed the following year to St Joseph's Mission, Zanzibar. In 1897 he was transferred to St Anthony's, Tang, to take charge of the school there. Two years later he was appointed director of the new mission station, St Patrick's, in the island of Pemba. The medical officer and British Consul at Pemba, Dr Dan O'Sullivan, was also a past student of Blackrock. He and Fr Schmidt organised a triumphal reception there for the arrival of another past Blackrock man, Bishop Emile Allgeyer, as he made his first visit to Pemba. In 1901 Fr Schmidt was transferred to Mombasa as superior and Mission Procurator, a post he held till he was forced by tuberculosis to return to Europe in 1906. The remaining years were spent mostly in a sanatorium where he still contrived to help his mission by composing and editing a book of Swahili hymns. He also tried to assist as teacher in the Juniorate at Broich for a period, 1912. Fr Peter Schmidt died 4 January 1914 aged 43 years. He was buried in Germany. *État*; *BJR*; *BCCJ*, etc.; *Rath*, no. 134

### **SCHMITZ, Fr Edward      1853-1901**



Born 5 January 1853 in Aachen, Germany, Edward learned the carpenter's trade in his father's workshop before deciding to enter the Juniorate of the Congregation at Marienstadt at the age of 16. When the German houses of the Congregation were suppressed during the Kulturkampf, the students were transferred to Ireland. Edward came to Blackrock in 1872, but came November he was transferred to Rockwell to be with the other German students there. He prefected at Rockwell for three years and then went to Langonnet, 1877, where he was ordained, 1880. After his novitiate and pastoral course Fr Edward was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he taught with success for seven years. His health required that he return to Europe. The local press regretted his departure as he had been seen "to have combined firmness of discipline with a rare gentleness in his dealing with youth". His skill as a carpenter made him a very useful member of the staff wherever he worked. He returned to Trinidad but in 1890 he was obliged to leave again, this time for Pittsburgh, USA, where he taught for a period in the college before being appointed to parish work. In 1891 he was sent to Chippewa-Falls as assistant to Fr Eugene Phelan whom he had known in the Juniorate at Rockwell. Two years later he was transferred to Sharpsburg as assistant to Fr Willms. Finally he was appointed pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, Tarentum. Fr Edward Schmitz died 16 December 1901 aged 49 years. He was buried in the USA. *BG XXI*, 432; *BCA*, 1962, 195; *SpWW*, 146

### **SCHMITZ, Br Sturmius (Hubert) 1897-1952**



Born 17 February 1897 in Mettman, Dusseldorf, Germany, Hubert trained as an electrician. Came the Great War he was enrolled in the German infantry and was to win the Iron Cross for bravery. After the war he took up a position in the telephone department of the Post Office and soon was at the head of his section. In 1924, when he was already twenty-seven, he opted to join the Congregation as a Brother. He entered nearby Knechtsteden and was professed in 1926. In response to a request from the Irish province, Br Sturmius, as he was now known, and Br Hartmut were seconded there on loan. For Br Sturmius there was no going back once he got to know Ireland. Until his death twenty-six years later he was to give invaluable service at Blackrock as he took charge of general maintenance and control of the boiler-house. In the early 1940s he wired the whole school and community buildings for the change over from gas to electricity. Br Sturmius was a man of many gifts. Apart from his technical skill, he possessed a high-grade, active intelligence which he loved to exercise. He had a delicate feeling for the artistic and was appreciative of good music. One gathered as he sang at work and in church that he was no stranger to opera. He readily grasped and responded to the light and lively Irish wit. He was held in cordial esteem by those who had to work under him. Life in the trenches had taught him to understand men. His friendships were few but deep and loyal. He and Br Bernard McGrath had come from entirely different backgrounds, yet they could tease one another about these differences. Bernard, who had taken part in the War of Independence, was overheard saying to Sturmius: 'The Brits beat ye and we beat the Brits!' One young lad who was fascinated by Sturmius' personality and skills was Brian de Valera who found his workshop a wonderland. After Brian's tragic death, Sinéad, Bean de Valera wrote several notes to Br Sturmius recalling his kindness to him. Sturmius was aware for some time that his own death could come at anytime and suddenly because of his heart condition. He kept on quietly working. One of his last acts was to set up an alarm bell for Fr Phil O'Shea, who also feared he might suffer a heart attack. The final seizure for Br Sturmius overtook him at his bench in the boiler-house, and as befitted a stout-hearted member of the German infantry, he died in action 25 September 1952. He was 55 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1953 72f; *Rath* No. 526.

### **SCHWINDENHAMMER, Fr Jerome 1822-1899**



Born 25 November 1822 in Ingersheim, Alsace, Jerome was a brother of Fr Ignatius, who had succeeded Fr Libermann as Superior General, 1852-81, and M. Eugène, who remained an *agrégé* in the Congregation. When the parents died, Ignatius, being the eldest, sold the property, bought a coach and drove all the family to Paris where all 4 boys and 2 girls joined religious orders. Jerome did Philosophy at Issy where he is reported as having refuted the arguments of the future Cardinal Lavigerie in a *disputatio*. He later joined Fr Libermann's society of The Holy Heart of Mary at Amiens where he was ordained and professed in 1847. He was posted to Reunion where he has as superiors during the eight years spent there - Fr Frederick Le Vasseur, Marcellin Collin and Charles Blanpin. Fr Jerome suffered much then and in later life, from scruples and a severe nervous state which inspired Fr Libermann to compose some of his finest letters in an effort to put him at his ease. In 1854 it was found necessary, but rather difficult, to have him return to France. He spent the next few years in semi-retirement at Langonnet and made an unsuccessful

bid to join the Carthusians. In 1859, when Père Leman, who was stationed at Langonnet, received his obedience for Ireland, he was asked to take Fr Jerome with him. Jerome consented as he had got on better with Père Leman than with most. He had by then taken an interest in the Irish lads sent over to Langonnet by Fr Bennet OCarm. Jerome was to spend 10 years in Ireland, first at Blanchardstown and from 1860 at Blackrock. He was an expert in the ancient classics, which was an asset as Leman tried to build up a reputation for studies at the French College. After Fr Le Vasseur's visitation in 1862, Fr Jerome was appointed Director of the juniorate. Due to his infirmity he became more and more unsuitable for such a post and was a constant worry to Leman as he tried to humour him and avoid a showdown that would worsen relations with the Paris authorities, especially the Superior General, Fr Ignatius Schwindenhammer. Many humorous anecdotes about the 'Jeromian' days were to be related at various reunions in later years, but it would be an understatement to say that there was nothing funny about Jerome's eccentric behaviour at the time as experienced by those under his charge. Fr Jerome naturally features in the Père Leman story, and there is much more in the general archives about that saga. Eventually the showdown had to come, precipitated by Jerome's attempts to segregate the scholastics from all contact with the boarders. Fr Jerome was summarily dispatched back to Paris in 1969. The college heaved a sigh of relief and Fr Jerome started a new career far more in keeping with his eccentric temperament. For the next thirty years he was to live in almost total seclusion in Chevilly where he undertook the task of sifting the records of the Congregation and its missions prior to the advent of Fr Libermann. A courier brought him regularly a packet of papers from the archives at rue Lhomond which he deciphered and summarised over the years while living the life of a recluse. After his death they found in his room 20 large journal-type copybooks plus 76 note books on the history of the Congregation together with some three hundred copybooks dealing with theology, scripture, philosophy, history, etc. As his handwriting was greatly affected by his illness, it is no easy task to assess the value of his work but a portion of it was used in the compilation of the series of *Biographies* which were printed after his death. He was in fact the first to open up the story of the Congregation prior to 1848. But it was not as a historian that Fr Jerome's name came up most often in conversation. It was rather as '*un original*' or a 'character' that, all his life and for long after the Lord called him home, Fr Jerome inadvertently contributed to the continuity of the Spiritan family traditions. Fr Jerome Schwindenhammer, the last survivor of the founding fathers of the Irish province, died 31 August 1899 aged 76. He was buried in France. GenArch; BG XX, 220; L. Healy Ms, 10f; *Père Leman*, 92, *et passim*.

### **SCOTT, Fr Edward                      1935-1995**



Born 12 March 1935 in Cloonfaughna, Glinsk, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, Ned studied at Rockwell College, 1949-1954. Professed in 1955. Having done Philosophy in Kimmage he perfected in Rockwell, 1957-59. Ordained in 1962 Fr Ned's first appointment was to Nigeria where he worked till 1967. From 1967 till 1971 he worked in Ireland, the USA and England in fund-raising, parish work and teaching. In 1971 he was appointed to Ghana where he was to work until his tragic death as a result of a road accident March 6th 1995. At his funeral, Bishop Peter Sorpong paid a warm tribute to Ned's contribution to the diocese over the twenty-four years, mentioning in particular his ability to discern the needs of the local community and to respond to them, his affection for the Ashanti people and their culture, and his desire to live in

solidarity with his community in opting to stay in poor rural parishes where many basic amenities were lacking. Local chiefs in the towns where Ned had worked also paid their tributes to his contributions to the development of both communities in the provision of clinics, bore holes and other amenities. Ned had, in fact, already been made an honorary chief of Mampongeng for his work Fr Edward Scott died 6<sup>th</sup> March 1995 aged 59 years. IPArch; *IPNI* No. 2 1995.

### **SENGER, Fr J. Ferdinand 1871-1930**



Born 25 September 1871 in Heilingstadt-Eichsfeld, Westphalia, Germany, Ferdinand later moved with his family to Eitorf. He was brought to Blackrock in 1885 by Fr John Bourauel, then a member of the Congregation and later a professor in a secondary school in Neuss. Ferdinand was advised to take Celtic (Gaelic) instead of mathematics for the public examinations and he did very well in that subject then and in later life. In 1889 he went to Langonnet where did his Philosophy and part of Theology. Being too young to advance to the priesthood he was sent back to Blackrock as prefect, teaching mainly German and Italian. He did so well that he was kept on for four years. In 1895 he resumed Theology in Chevilly. The following year all who were free to do so were called on to interrupt their normal course and report to one of the three novitiate centres set up to comply with the directive from Rome that all religious do their novitiate before being ordained priests. Ferdinand did his novitiate in Grignon and was professed in 1897. On completing his studies in 1898 he was appointed to Blackrock where he gave excellent service as teacher of foreign languages at second and third levels. He even taught Irish for a period. He liked to recall that one of his students was Eamon de Valera. His expertise as a linguist was recognised when he was asked to give an address in UCD in this discipline, and he was conferred with an honorary Doctorate by Duquesne University. A contributor to the *Irish Times* (1 Jan. 1930) wrote about him: " He was a man of immense humanity, whose genial personality bestrode Irish dissensions like a Colossus. He numbered among his acquaintances men like Mahaffy and Tyrrell, and he would keep a company amused for hours with anecdotes of these and other great figures in the educational life of our country." In spite of his gifts he always remained a very humble and modest confrere. He made Ireland his second home, delighting in its language and culture, but he was known to have tried all in his power to befriend his own fellow countrymen who suffered because of the war or the economic depression that followed, and he was on very friendly relations with the German ambassador. He gave great service to the college and the community as Librarian over the years. When his health gave cause for concern, especially because of asthma and a heart condition, he returned to his native Germany for a rest and treatment at therapeutic springs in his native area. He had planned to return to Blackrock in autumn 1930 but he took seriously ill at home. Fr Ferdinand Senger asked to be taken to Knechtsteden where he died 22 December 1930 aged 59 years. He was buried in Knechtsteden. *BG* XXXV 35 989; *Rath* 292.



### **SEXTON, Fr Michael 1885-1948**



Born 10 October 1885 in Finbramore, Miltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, Mick came to the Juniorate in Rockwell in 1898 with his brother Harry and a number of other students, including Padraic O Conaire and his brother Michael. These had all been directed to Rockwell by the parish priest of Miltown-Malbay, Fr Kingston, uncle of, John Kingston, a prefect at Rockwell then. Even though the Juniorate was to close from 1898 to 1900, and most of the scholastics were sent to Blackrock, the Sextons and others of academic promise were absorbed into the boarding school at Rockwell by Dr Edward Crehan. Michael prefectured at Rockwell, 1905-08, and did another year as prefect the following year at Blackrock. In 1909 he went to France to do his novitiate and senior studies. Ordained in 1914 he was assigned the following year to Sierra Leone. In 1920 we catch a glimpse of him at Ascensiontown showing his mission to his former classmate at Rockwell, Fr Ned Leen, who had come ashore with the others in Bishop Shanahan's party en route to Nigeria. Fr Sexton had just acquired some extra land and had plans for future development. But the cruel climate of Sierra Leone stepped in, as it had done so often before, and forced Fr Sexton to return to Ireland for good in 1923. This had happened also to Frs Michael Meagher and James Dowling. These men returned from Sierra Leone formed the basis of the Promotions team while trying to integrate into school work. From 1923 to 1926 Fr Sexton was attached to Blackrock where he assisted the ageing Fr Larry Healy as Dean of the day school. Among the pupils he had to deal with were Edel Quinn's brother, Ralph, and Bob Geldof's father and uncle. Fr Sexton had some problems in reconciling his own fiery temper with the wayward behaviour of some of his charges and he gladly availed of the invitation to join the new team being assembled to relaunch St Mary's College at Rathmines in 1926. When the start was threatening to prove a damp squib, Fr Sexton got the bright idea of kicking a football down the front field. All came to life in an instant. Things were going quite comfortable till 1934 when he was called on to act as bursar at his alma mater, Rockwell. He seemingly was overawed by the post and finding it a nightmare to have to sign so many cheques, he handed in his seal of office after one year and asked to be allowed to retire once again to the relative peace of Rathmines. It was at St Mary's that Fr Michael Sexton answered the last call 20 July 1948 aged 62 years. He was buried in Kimmage. RJR; *État*; etc.

### **SHANAHAN, Bishop Joseph 1871-1943**



Born 6 June 1871 in Glankeen, Co. Tipperary, Joseph went in 1886 to the Apostolic School in Beauvais, France, where his uncle, Br Adelm Walsh, was a member of the Spiritan community conducting that school. In 1889, when the school had to close and his uncle was by then in Ballarat, Australia, Joseph was transferred to the French juniorate in Cellule, where he completed his secondary studies and did part of the university course. He would have liked to be sent to Blackrock where his uncle and his two brothers had spent some time in the Juniorate, but he was told by his French directors that because of his age and his studies he would not be able to fit in there. In 1894 he went to the senior scholasticate in Langonnet to do Philosophy. It was there he made his first contact with Irish members of the Congregation, among them Fr John O'Gorman, future bishop in Sierra Leone, who at that time was professor. The following year all the senior students transferred to

Chevilly, and Joseph started Theology. Came Christmas 1895 he was called on to go as prefect and teacher of English to the college being conducted by the Congregation at Merville in the north of France. He also studied his theology course with other prefects in order not to miss out on that year. Returning to Chevilly in autumn he found that all available students were being called on to do their novitiate in one of the three separate centres set up to comply with the order from Rome that candidates for the priesthood in religious orders were to make their vows before ordination and not after ordination as had hitherto been the custom. Joseph was among the group who had the good fortune to have Fr Jean-Marie Grizard as master of novices, and his understudy was Fr O'Gorman. The notes taken by Joseph during that critical year were to mean much to him throughout his life. Through an oversight, the strict canonical requirements for the novitiates at Chevilly were not fully implemented in time, so the professions had to be postponed till the following Christmas. By then Joseph was in Rockwell to where he was unexpectedly appointed as prefect late August 1897. After 11 years away from Ireland, Joseph found some difficulty at first in reverting to English. Because of his splendid physique he was soon initiated into the fundamentals of rugby and was drafted on to the Club team. He made his profession Easter Sunday 1898, the first such ceremony to be held in the new college chapel. When a senior scholasticate was launched in the Lake House, Rockwell, 1898, Joseph was among the eleven students selected to do Theology there. Some of them were also drafted in by Dean of studies, Dr Edward Crehan, as part-time prefects at the college, among them Joseph Shanahan. The following year he was allowed to concentrate on his studies and when the time came for his ordination the place chosen was Blackrock College chapel, where he was ordained 22 April 1900 by Bishop Emile Allgeyer CSSp. This was the first ordination ever performed in the college chapel, and the bishop was a past student. Fr Shanahan said his first mass at the altar where he was ordained, and the following year he was to pronounce his perpetual vows at that same altar. In the mean time he had been appointed to Rockwell as Dean of discipline and with a full day's class and other duties to perform. It was during these years that many of his future co-workers got to know and admire him: Edward Leen, Thady O'Connor, Tommy Ronayne etc. In 1902 he was appointed to Nigeria. His first assignment was to help Fr Léon Lejeune making bricks to build the first mission house in Onitsha. He soon learned that the future of the mission depended mainly on the use of schools as part of the new strategy of educating the adults though the children. On September 26th 1905 he was nominated in Rome as Prefect-Apostolic in succession to Fr Lejeune, and in that capacity he attended the General Chapter of the Congregation in 1906. In 1908 he opened the first permanent Mission in the interior of the country at Ozubulu and in 1913 he launched the first Teachers' Training Centre at Igbariam. In 1918, at the request of Rome, he undertook a thousand-mile trek from Onitsha to Cameroon to minister to the Catholic communities left without pastors during the 1914-18 war. The Southern Nigeria mission was given the status of a Vicariate in 1920 and Fr Shanahan was ordained bishop at Maynooth College 6 June 1920. In 1924 he founded the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. Eight years later, because of his failing eyesight he resigned as head of the mission and took up residence in Clareville, Blackrock, the house from which he had set out for Africa thirty years earlier. He made a remarkable contribution to promotion activities and was remembered for his splendid addresses to the senior scholastics and to the mission helpers. During these years he also wrote very many inspiring letters to members of the Holy Rosary Sisters where we get a wonderful insight into his missiology and his apostolic soul. He suffered greatly from

his confinement to Clareville as he longed for apostolic work on the missions. He was very happy to be invited back to Nigeria in December 1935 to perform the official blessing of the new cathedral at Onitsha and would have loved to be able to continue active ministry in some remote area of the mission. That was not to be. He gladly availed of Bishop Heffernan's invitation in 1938 to come out to live in his Vicariate in East Africa. He served mainly as chaplain to the Carmelite Sisters near Nairobi. He spent a few months in South Africa at the invitation of the Holy Rosary Sisters. Having suffered much from ill health Bishop Joseph Shanahan died at Nairobi on Christmas Day 1943 aged 72 years, and was buried in the community cemetery in St Mary's. In 1956 Fr Tom Fox supervised the transfer of his remains to Nigeria for his "Second Burial" in Onitsha Cathedral. Always revered as a saint by those in close contact with him his cause for Beatification was introduced officially 15 November 1997 in Onitsha cathedral. Jordan, *Bishop Shanahan of Nigeria*, 1948; Forristal, *The Second Burial of Bishop Shanahan*, 1990; *Bishop Shanahan and his Missionary Family*, Vols 1 & 2 by Sister Mary Brigid

### **SHANAHAN, Fr Philip 1925-1993**



Born 5 August 1925 in Shanballyduff, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Phil did his secondary studies in Rockwell, 1944-47. Professed in Kilshane in 1948 he went on to study at Kimmage and UCD, securing the BA in 1951. After two years as a prefect in Rockwell he did Theology in Kimmage and was ordained priest in 1955. The following year Fr Phil was appointed to Kenya where he worked for the next three years. In 1959 he returned ill to Kimmage suffering from multiple sclerosis, a disease which confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. It was said of him at his funeral: "Phil was a man of deep faith. He accepted his long illness with patience and resignation. He realised that in accepting his sufferings, and uniting them to Christ each day, he was making his contribution to the church." Fr Philip Shanahan died in Meath Hospital 17<sup>th</sup> February 1993 aged 67 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No.2 1993

### **SHANLEY, Fr Michael 1922-1994**



Born 22 February 1922 in Farnaught, Dromod, Co. Leitrim, Mick studied at Blackrock College, 1935-1941. Professed in 1942 he professed in Trinidad, 1944-47. Ordained in 1950 Fr Mick was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to Owerri diocese, he worked in different stations - Mhieri, Obowo, Mbutu and Okohia. Transferred in 1964 to Kenya he served in Mgange Mission in the Taiti Hills. Later he was appointed to Mombasa where he was to remain for almost twenty years. It was written of him: "At Shelley Beach he was a great host. For the unexpected guest he had a welcome and shared whatever he had. He was approachable, kind and generous, and possessed a good sense of humour. The artificial and superficial he did not like, for Mick was a simple and sincere man, who admired the same qualities in others. He was a pastoral priest but one who kept a low profile. He became involved in the setting up of a Rehabilitation Centre for the physically handicapped at nearby Likoni and played an active part in the development of the centre over the years." Returning to Europe in 1983, he spent a short while as chaplain to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Sussex and in 1984 he took up duty as chaplain in Cappagh Hospital, Dublin. Once again his very approachable and kind

disposition was much appreciated by both patients and staff. In 1990 ill-health forced Fr Mick to retire to Kimmage . Fr Michael Shanley died 8 November 1994 aged 72 years and was buried in Kimmage. He was a brother of Fr James CSSp. *IPNI* No.5 1994

### **SHANNON, Fr Thomas 1913-1984**



Born 31 May 1913 in the Falls Rd., Belfast, Tommy studied at Blackrock, 1928-34, and was professed at Kilshane in 1935. He did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and profected with the Burse, 1937-8. Ordained in 1941 Fr Tommy went to East Africa in 1943. While working on the island of Zanzibar he took a special interest in the Goan people and, because of his work among them, he could be termed their apostle. He was transferred in 1946 to St Peter Claver's Mission, Nairobi, and with Goan help he built a fine large church and two fine schools in the then outstation of Eastleigh. Having developed Eastleigh as a parish he was called on later to replace Bishop Butler as pastor of Parklands parish. Then, after a successful fund-raising tour of the USA on behalf of Archbishop J.J.McCarthy, he was appointed to the Cathedral parish in Nairobi. He returned to Ireland in 1968 as his health gave cause for concern. He worked for some time as chaplain to St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, as curate in Clogher Rd., Dublin, and later in a Belfast parish. He was appointed chaplain to Cappagh Hospital in 1972 where for 12 years he rendered faithful and cheerful service in spite of failing health. Fr Tommy was seen to be a man of prayer and was remarkably even tempered. Prudent and wise he planned with foresight. He was an understanding and helpful confrere, and his leadership was manifest in his capacity to rally and encourage people. Fr Thomas Shannon died 11 October 1984 aged 71 years and was buried in Kimmage. *IPNI* No. 59 1984; *BCA* 1985 182.

### **SHEEHAN, Fr Patrick 1918-1998**



Born Born 18 February 1918 in Lissamana, Cape Clear (Oileán Cléire) Island, Baltimore, Co. Cork, Paddy Sheehan was a native Irish speaker. Having completed his secondary studies at St Coleman's, Fermoy, Co. Cork, he entered the Congregation in Kilshane and made his profession in 1939. After Philosophy he profected for one year at Rockwell, 1941-42. Ordained in 1945 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. Assigned to the Onitsha district he worked at Akpu. Obligated to leave Nigeria because of the Biafra war he transferred to the USA where he joined the Spiritan community at Long Island, NY. He engaged for a year in promotion work, 1966-67, and thereafter in parish work in the New York area until 1991 when he retired to Kimmage Manor. Fr Pat died on 23 October 1998 aged 80 years. He was buried at his own request in the family grave in Oileán Cléire. *KNSM* No. 214; *IPNI* No.5 1998

### **SHEEHY, Br Columba Patrick (Stanislaus) 1912-1968**



other Columba Sheehy  
in (May) in Zanzibar

Born 13 January 1912 in Bellmullet, Co. Mayo, Stanislaus came to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1927. After one year he decided to enter the Brothers' novitiate in Kimmage, where he was professed in 1930 taking the name Columba. In 1934 he went with Br Patrick Hewitt to Chevilly for further training and returned to Kimmage in 1936. Two years later he was appointed to the missions in East Africa, and worked there until 1962 except for a short time, 1945-747, spent in Rockwell. He was stationed at various times in Zanzibar Island, Bura Mission, Kenya, and principally in Nairobi. His work included supervision of building projects and of the coffee plantation at Nairobi. He was also very much involved with running the Catholic Book shop in Nairobi. He returned to Ireland in 1962 and was stationed at Rockwell for two years, then in Kimmage, and for a short while in Blackrock. His last two years were spent in Kimmage. Serious illness, which proved incurable, afflicted him in these last years - a cross which he endured with great courage and religious faith. Br Columba Sheehy died peacefully 19 December 1968, admired and deeply regretted by his confrères. He was 56 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. *BCA*, 1969, 174.

### **Sheehy, Fr. John 1917 – 2004**

The TransCanada Province remembers one of its beloved confreres, Fr. John Sheehy. A native of Skibbereen, Co. Cork, John made his first vows with the Spiritans on October 2, 1938. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 15, 1945 and appointed to Nigeria where he served for over twenty years in Udi, Nsukka, Ihiala, Iwollo, Amichi, Nnewi. In 1969 John was appointed to St. Thomas Parish in Old Bridge, New Jersey. For the rest of his life he maintained close friendships there and with the parishioners in St. Jude's Parish, Blairstown, New Jersey. In 1971 the TransCanada Province invited John to minister in Ontario. He served at St. Joseph's Parish in Port Elgin twice - 1971-1974 as Associate Pastor and 1977-1978 as Pastor. It was to this Parish too that Fr. John chose to retire in 1994 until ill health forced him to move to Laval House, Toronto, and then to the House of Providence, in 2001. Father John is also fondly remembered by the people of St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario, where he served as Chaplain from 1978-1994. John's last few years were marked by declining health and near total loss of eyesight. Through it all, however, he maintained a gentle spirit, a kindness and a warm welcome for all visitors. On Friday, March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of Canada and patron of a happy death, John slipped quietly from this life.

### **SHEPPARD, Fr John Francis 1914-1987**



Born 13 April 1914 in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, Jack was a student at Blackrock, 1927-32, where he excelled at both rugby and hurling. When he returned to the college after his profession in 1933 and his Philosophy, 1933-35, he played with distinction on the Club 1st XV as a wing, outside international centre Larry McMahon. Ordained in 1939 he was appointed to Nigeria the following year. He was director of the large mission at Mbutu Okohia in Owerri diocese for many years. A confrère described him as follows: "A great missionary and a gentleman. Jack's company was a tonic. His people loved him". He

was a good singer and an excellent golfer and was always ready to give tuition to others. Failing health forced him to retire from his mission in 1957. He was then attached for some time to the Holy Ghost High School at Ontario, Canada. When no longer capable of serving usefully there, he transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, where he still was to be seen serving his people generously. His final years were not easy. His great singing voice was stilled as he found difficulty in speaking. He died 22 January 1987 aged 72 at Jacksonville and was buried according to his own wishes in his native Cloughjordan beside his parents. *IPNI* No 64 1987; *BCA* 1987 184f

### **SHERIDAN, Fr Aloysius Patrick 1920-2000**



Born on 11 December 1920 in Carrickmaguirk, Moyne, Co. Longford, Paddy, following in the footsteps of his brother Farrell, did his secondary studies at Rockwell College, 1936-40. Having joined the Congregation at Kilshane he took his religious vows in 1941. He studied for the BA at UCD and having gained his degree he was called on to prefect at Rockwell for two years, 1944-46. Ordained in 1949 he was appointed the following year to East Africa where he spent the first two years at Kanzalo near Thika. While serving as parish priest at Riara he unexpectedly found that he had also to act as manager of the mission coffee farm which had been started because of the poverty of the people. The people had to work very hard, especially the women who carried huge loads of firewood on their heads or slung low on their backs. In 1957 he was appointed to teach at Kilimangbogo Teachers Training College, Kenya. Assigned to Limuru he served there for two years before being appointed in 1967 as headmaster of the secondary schools in St Theresa parish, Nairobi. Transferred to Karinga he was to work there for ten years. During Paddy's time in Kikuyu country the fight for independence was going on. The influence of the Mau Mau was very strong and the government was oppressive. It was a dangerous time for Africans and Europeans, but the Holy Ghost Fathers remained with their mission stations and stood by their people, who truly appreciated their support. In May 1973 Fr Paddy was made an elder of the Kikuyu tribe. While serving as pastor at Karinga he suffered from a heart complaint and he underwent heart surgery in February 1981. As there was no question of his continuing in his mission he was appointed chaplain to the Bon Secours Hospital, Dublin. His gentleness and sense of humour were appreciated. He was not a person to raise his voice but he could be interminable in conversation. Forced to retire from his post as chaplain due to ill health he retired to Kimmage in 1986 and from then on took on an occasional ministry here and there. Fr Paddy's heart problems persisted and he died on 23 July 2000. He was 79 years of age. Fr Paddy was buried in the Spiritan plot in Dardistown Cemetery, Dublin *IPNI* No. 2 2000; *KEASM* No. 604

### **SHERIDAN, Fr Andrew J 1882-1948**



Born 21 November 1882 in Woodtown, Co. Meath, Andrew did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1896-1903, and prefected there, 1903-08. He made his mark as a footballer and athlete and was a member of the Club XV. He went to France and was professed at Chevilly in 1909. Having done Philosophy and Theology at Chevilly, he was ordained priest in 1913. The following year Fr Andrew was appointed to the Irish Mission Band serving in the USA in order to provide the necessary funds for the upkeep of the Senior Scholasticate just begun in Kimmage.

During these years he was stationed in Philadelphia. In 1917 he became assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament parish in the same city. Four years later he was given permission to transfer to the American province. He was then appointed pastor of St Joachim's, Detroit, where he served for 15 years. His knowledge of French stood him in good stead as the congregation there were still predominantly French-speaking. Crippled with arthritis, he had to resign in 1936 and went to Holy Spirit, North Tiverton, R.I. By 1937 he had sufficiently recovered to become active again at Holy Spirit, Opelousas, La., and then at St Gabriel's, Hot Springs, Ark. He later worked at St John the Baptist, Fort Smith, Ark., and in 1945 at Assumption parish in Carencro, La. Early in November 1948 Fr Andrew Sheridan became seriously ill and died 23rd December 1948, aged 66 years. It is said about him that he loved to teach catechism to children, he delighted in the company of his confreres, and despite his great sufferings over many years "few complaints came from his lips." He was buried in the USA. *BCA* 1949 26; *SpWW* 574

### **SHERIDAN, Fr Farrell 1917-1984**



Born 1 September 1917 in Carrickmaguirk, Moyne, Co. Cavan, Farrell did his secondary studies at Rockwell College and made his profession in 1938 in Kilshane. After Philosophy in Kimmage and prefecting in Blackrock College, 1940-42, he completed Theology in Kimmage and was ordained in 1945. Appointed to Nigeria in 1946 he worked in Urualla and Amaigho missions. Illness forced him to return to Ireland in 1948. The following year he was appointed editor of the *Missionary Annals*. He was Vocations Director from 1954 to 1966, and then began a further 8 year period as *Annals* editor. In 1973 he was appointed superior of the Kimmage Manor community, and during his tenure of office the oratory was beautifully reconstructed and the refectory extended. In 1979 he went to California where, after a renewal course at Menlo Park, he engaged in pastoral work in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. After an operation in October 1983 when cancer was diagnosed, he returned to Kimmage, which he had loved and loyally served and where he chose to die. Fr Farrell was a man of great charm, of healing sympathy and of kind generosity, who made very many friends. This was borne out by the huge attendance at his funeral in Kimmage (where he is buried) when he died on 24 July 1984 after a lengthy illness borne with great courage and patience. He was aged 66 years. He was a brother of Fr Patrick CSSp and of Monsig. John of Los Angeles author of several books on Apologetics. *IPNI* No.58, September 1984.

### **SHIEL, Fr Joseph P. 1924-1997**



Born 14 May 1924 in Kilkelly, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Joe did his secondary studies in St Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Having entered the Congregation he was professed in 1944. After his philosophy course in Kimmage he prefecting in St Mary's, Rathmines, 1946-47. Ordained in 1950 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he ministered in the Owerri diocese until 1963 serving at Uli's Holy Cross parish. On returning to Ireland Fr Joe spent three years in Kimmage Manor before taking up parish ministry in Cardiff (1966-67), London (1968-71) and Brooklyn Diocese, USA, (1971-74). He was then appointed to promotions work in Ireland for a period. He subsequently returned to the USA being based in the Long Island Community. He was seen to take to his pastoral duties with rare devotion. He

was provided with a car for his pastoral visits but he purchased a bicycle as being more helpful for meeting the people. At a personal level. Being of a very friendly disposition himself - a 'láchaí man' as he would be termed in his native Mayo - his parishioners appreciated his caring interest in them. Even when he retired through illness in 1991 they kept in constant contact with him. He lived with his family then in Kilkenny until in failing health he was transferred to Marian House in 1996. His health continued to deteriorate and he died peacefully 8 November 1997 aged 72 years. *IPNI* December 1997; *SpNM* 282

### **SHIELDS, Fr Laurence 1865-1914**



Born 13 April 1865 in Killallon, Clonmellan, Co. Westmeath, Laurence studied at Blackrock, 1879-83, and 1884-85. He went directly to his senior studies in France without having done prefecting. Ordained in 1890 Fr Laurence was appointed the following year to Sierra Leone. His first assignments were as chaplain to the military barracks, Freetown, Bursar of the community at Freetown and pastor of the Murraytown district. In 1897 he returned to Ireland on holiday and Br Mel Mulhearn at Blackrock was persuaded to travel back with him to help in the missions schools. Fr Laurence was transferred to Bonthe in charge of the religious education of the children of the mission. He was appointed Director of a new mission at Mobe in 1902, and at that time he published the Mende Manual, which comprised a Prayer book, Catechism and Hymnal, improving on the original manual produced by Fr Jeremy Tuohy, who died unexpectedly in 1899. Fr Laurence Shields served at Mobe till his death on Christmas Eve 1914. He was fifty years of age at the time. He was buried in Sierra Leone. *BCA*, 1962, 221; *Hamelberg*, 68.

### **SHIELS, Mr Daniel 1900-1929**

Born 4 March 1900 in Gilroy St, Belfast, Daniel was a student at Blackrock, 1919-23, and was professed in Kimmage in 1924. While pursuing his senior studies he contracted tuberculosis from which he eventually died after a prolonged illness. His attitude to life is perhaps encapsulated in his reply to the remark: 'A bad day, Dan'. 'There is no such thing as a bad day'. He died 14 April 1929 aged 29 years and was buried in Deans Grange. *BCArch*; *BG XXXIV* 165

### **SHORTIS, Br Peter (Joseph) 1866-1930**

Born 29 June 1869 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Joseph was educated by the Franciscans there. He worked as a shop assistant and had planned to join the Franciscans as a Brother, but on visiting Rockwell he was so impressed by what he saw that he asked to be admitted to the Congregation. His people objected to his going to France for his novitiate because of his weak health, so he accompanied Fr David Fitzgibbon CSSp to USA, and did his novitiate at St Joseph's orphanage in Philadelphia. After his profession in 1893, he prefectured in the college at Pittsburgh and taught music there till 1899. From 1899 to 1912 he worked at St Peter Claver's parish for blacks where he served as sacristan, organist and catechist, and was general assistant to Br Celsus McCabe, who conducted the school. For three years he performed the same services at the newly established mission at Harlem, N.Y. This was the time when Mother Katharine Drexel was negotiating a deal with Fr John T. Murphy for further reinforcements from the Irish province to work among the blacks



in the special parishes for that purpose. Br Peter served for five years at the senior scholasticate in Ferndale where the newly arrived Irish senior scholastics were completing their studies. For the final ten years of his life Br Peter worked in Cornwells Heights (Bensalem). He was seen all his life to be 'the perfect gentleman, always calm, anxious to help and responding with a smile even when addressed rudely by the people he was trying to help.' His spare time he gave to attending to the care of the church, to prayer and pious reading. He summed up his own life in his frequently repeated remark: 'What else matters in life except to do your little job as best you can and with a smile?' Br Peter Shortis died after a brief illness 17 February 1930 aged 63 years and was buried at Cornwells Heights. *BG XXXIV* 734ff; SpWW, 362

### **SLATTERY, Mr. Malachy 1867-1890**

Born 18 June 1867 in Hospital, Co. Limerick, he did his secondary studies at Rockwell. The brief obituary notice published in the *Bulletin Général* says that 'his gentle disposition made him popular among his fellow students' During the two years he spent at Chevilly doing his higher studies for the priesthood the reports show that once again he was regarded as a candidate with promise for the future. However, he developed severe pulmonary trouble after a bout of the flu. It was decided that he could best recuperate in Ireland in his native Hospital to where he returned in July 1889. Malachy Slattery died at his home 21 September 1890 having been 'a source of edification to all who came in contact with him.' He was 23 years of age. *BG III (XVI)* 13; RCCJ, September 1890.

### **SMITHWICK, Fr Michael Stephen 1924-1997**



Born in Monkstown, Co. Dublin 19 October 1924 Milo attended Blackrock as a day student, 1935-39, and as a boarder, 1939-44. He was a "Founder member" of Willow Park Preparatory School, 1935-36, and was the first Willow Park day boy to join the Congregation. He was remembered as being popular, outgoing and witty. Then and later Milo felt the need to employ his considerable gifts of wit and humour to deflate pretension and to combat absurdities. Having attended UCD for a year he entered Kilshane being professed in 1946. He resumed his university course qualifying for the BA in 1948 and then prefectured for two years in Rockwell where his father Michael had been a student in the late 1890s. The Smithwicks from nearby Carron were cousins of Fr John Hogan CSSp who served in Angola. He was remembered as being a breath of fresh air as he responded to the demands of Rockwell life in the 50s not only with his noted good humour but also with many skilful manoeuvres calculated to assuage some of the more restricting rules and regulations of the time. Ordained in 1953, Fr Milo was appointed to Nigeria, serving in the Owerri district. He spent fifteen years there in parish ministry and in education. Forced to quit Nigeria in 1970 in the aftermath of the Biafra war he served as bursar for one year in Kimmage. In 1971 he volunteered for service in Ghana where he was to minister in the Kumasi diocese until 1989 acting as religious superior for his confreres. He insisted on the development of Ghanaian vocations to the Congregation thus preparing the ground for a flourishing West African Foundation. Returning to Ireland he was appointed chaplain to Cherry Orchard Hospital where he served for two years. He then retired in ill health to Ardbraccan. Appointed to St Mary's, Rathmines, he served there as bursar there till forced by ill health in 1993 to transfer

to Kimmage. In spite of increasing illness he never was seen to lose his sense of humour. Fr Milo died 27 April 1997 aged 73 years. BCArch; IP Obituaries 1997

#### **SMYTH, Fr Patrick F. 1907-1981**



Born 29 December 1907 in Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan, Paddy entered the Juniorate at Blackrock, 1920-5. He played on the JCT and SCT, winning a medal with the latter, being one of several from the juniorate on the 1925 Silver Jubilee winning side. Professed in Kimmage, 1926, he prefectured at Blackrock, 1928-30, during which time he coached the JCT and won his place on the Blackrock Club 1st XV. Ordained in 1934 Fr Paddy was appointed to Nigeria where he was to serve at various missions over the years: at Adazi, 1935-42, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Onitsha, 1944-48, CC., Enugu, 1948-49, Cathedral Ed House, 1950-52, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1952-66, Borromeo Hospital, 1966-67. During this time he served as Supervisor of Schools, Acting Adviser in Education and Administrator of Holy Trinity Cathedral. On leaving Nigeria he worked as a curate in Islington, London, 1968-71. Then he was appointed first parish priest of the Holy Spirit Parish, Greenhills, Dublin, a post he held till his retirement through ill-health. On hearing of his death, Bishop Moynagh of Nigeria wrote: "Fr Paddy was someone very special - an outstanding priestly man; and to all Kiltegan men who ever called in Onitsha, he was a brother." Fr Patrick Smyth died 10 August 1981 aged 73 years and was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *IPNL* 48, (Oct. 1981); *BCA* 1982, 152.

#### **SMYTH, Fr Patrick Joseph 1920-1986**



Born 21 November 1920 in Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim, Pat was sent to Blackrock as a boarder where his father also had been a boarder. During his three years at the college, 1935-38, he was seen as being gifted intellectually, a great student, widely read at the top of his class and ambitious. By no means a book worm or a prig, he was known to be a great practical joker and a popular companion. He had a big, handsome face, and a deceptively childlike and innocent look which led to his companions nicknaming him 'the Child'. Then and later during his years in the Senior Scholasticate he proved a marvellous actor, a notorious impersonator and mimic. Before the arrival of the TV screen, Churchill and Hitler were vividly portrayed by Pat, and Fr Charlie Meyer never really died while Pat was around to impersonate him. He went to the novitiate in Kilshane in 1938 and after his profession he studied at Kimmage and UCD. After securing the BA he prefectured in Rockwell, 1942-44, and did his Theology at Kimmage. Ordained in 1947 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he was to be involved in Teacher Training, Secondary Education, lecturing in the University of Ibadan, Chaplain in Government College, and Prison chaplain in Umahia. He followed several courses in Oxford University in Education and African studies. There is a glowing tribute from his Oxford professor to his great ability and personality. On the debit side, his intimate friends felt he had lost much of the common touch by then, saying a final farewell, as it were, to the days of his 'Childhood'. In later years he worked in a High School in California, and for a while was a curate in the Bronx. His last years were spent in St Mary's High School in Kitchener, Ontario. Following on an accident he was discovered to have cancer. He came to London where his sister worked as a nurse. He died in hospital in London, 25 January 1986 aged 65 and was buried in Kimmage. Many who had known him in

Nigeria, USA and Canada expressed their gratitude and admiration for his generous giving of himself in all his work. *IPNI* 62, April 1986; *BCA* 1986 205f.

#### **Smythe (McGowan), Father Michael V. -2004**

After ordination in the Congregation in 1958 Fr. Michael worked in England and in Nigeria. In 1973 he was appointed to St. Agnes's Parish in Crumlin. In 1986 he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Dublin and worked in the parishes of North William Street and Harold's Cross. He retired in September 2003.

He died 10<sup>th</sup> January 2004 in Tallaght Hospital, Dublin

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

#### **Soffe Fr. Stanislaus Thomas 1928-2002.**

Stan, as he was known to his friends, was born at 33 Bengal Tce. Limerick on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1928. He made his first profession on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947. He graduated from U.C.D. with a BA in philosophy in 1950 and completed his Diploma in Higher Education in 1957. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 3/7/1955 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 3/8/1956. Fr. Stan was appointed to Nigeria and worked in education in the Diocese of Owerri from 1956 to 1967. He took up pastoral ministry in the Diocese of San Antonio in Texas in 1967. In 1969 he returned to Ireland and taught for one year in Templeogue College. He then returned to the Diocese of San Antonio for a further year. In 1971 he returned to Ireland and took up a teaching post in St. Michael's College. He retired from teaching in 1993. Fr. Stan had major heart surgery in February but seemed to be making a good recovery. He suffered a stroke and was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital where he died on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2002.

He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin

#### **SOUGHLEY, Fr Michael Frank 1918-1991**



Born 27 December 1917 in Inchicore, Dublin, Frank attended Blackrock College, 1932-1936, where he was seen to be highly proficient at English and Mathematics. He secured a Dublin Corporation Scholarship in the Leaving Certificate. Having entered the novitiate at Kilshane he was professed in 1937. His university studies were cut short by the onset of tuberculosis. He was sent to Montana, Switzerland for treatment and later returned to Kimmage to continue his senior studies. Ordained in 1944 he was appointed the following year to Kenya. The following forty five years of his life, apart from short spells at Lioki and Riara were spent tirelessly in the service of education. He spent five years at Mangu High School the last two as Headmaster. At that time Alliance and Mangu were the only African boys' schools in Kenya with Forms 3 and 4, with the result that Fr. Frank had among his pupils many young men who went on later to be the first Africans to fill high positions in Church, Government, Law, Medicine and many other professions. At this time he also served on the Board of Governors and Board of Moderators in the Ministry of Education, thus assisting in the beginnings of the Secondary School system in Kenya. His first contact with St. Mary's was in 1951 when he came as a teacher for one year, and then in 1955 he came to stay. With an unbroken run of thirty six years here, surely he can be called "The Mr. Chips of St. Mary's. If committed service is a sign of love, we can dare to say that he fell in love with the school and stayed that way in a sort of permanent

'honeymoon' until his death. Apart from teaching Maths, English, History, Religion and the General Paper, in his more energetic years he was a familiar and rather conspicuous figure on the games fields, coaching Hockey, Junior Rugby and Soccer. A weekly feature to which the boarders looked forward was the Sunday night "Film of the Week", each film having been carefully censored by the Fathers on the previous Friday 'Open Night'. In addition, he was Bursar for a while and School Registrar, a post he still held at his death. He was occasionally Acting Headmaster, in which role he referred to himself jokingly as "The B Team". He was so proud of St. Mary's and delighted in its successes in studies, in games, in music and in so many other activities which keep this school humming. He loved the students and kept in contact with them after they had left. He was the "Rafiki Mwema" (good friend) of all the workmen, many of whom were small children when he first came, and who regard him as their "Baba". In latter years Fr Frank was Guestmaster for the Community. In this role he gave inestimable service to many visitors who came to stay at St. Mary's. He was available morning, noon, and night, and always with a broad smile on his welcoming face. There was never a dull moment in the sitting room or at table as he regaled one and all with his limitless supply of stories and knowledge on every possible subject. The most frequently heard phrase from Holy Ghost Fathers over the last few days has been "Poor Old Frank"! It is an expression of love and gratitude for his "bigness" in body, soul, heart and mind which made him dear to us all. In spite of his long association with Kenya Frank was always seen to love and be very proud of "Dear Old Dirty Dublin" and, by virtue of his flat Inchicore accent and quick wit, he qualified as being "a real Dub". Fr Frank, who had been unwell for some time, died peacefully on Sunday 4 August in St Mary's. He was aged 73 years. He was buried at Nairobi. IPNI No.5 October 1991.

### **SPIELMANN, Fr Joseph 1844-1903**

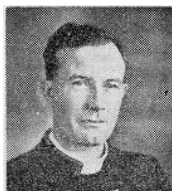


Born 13 February 1844 in Bergheim, Alsace, Joseph entered the Congregation 1860 at Cellule. He later studied at Langonnet till 1868 where part of the senior scholasticate was located for a period. Ordained in Paris, 1868, Fr Joseph was appointed to Blackrock in 1869 where he succeeded Fr Jerome Schwindenhammer as Director of the juniorate. He published anonymously a biographical study of a remarkable student, Richard Pennefather, who died in 1873, under the ambitious title - *A New Model for Youth*. He objected to the junior scholastics being forced into the regime required by competition for the public examinations ushered in by the Intermediate Education Act 1878. On leaving Blackrock in 1880, he was appointed to the college run by the Congregation in Port Louis, Mauritius, and when that college closed 1882 he was appointed to Trinidad as pastor of St. Jacques, Savanna. In 1886 he withdrew from the Congregation but asked to be admitted soon after. He was then posted to Epinal College in France. In 1890 he was appointed to Cellule as Superior. Among the students there, 1890-94, was Joseph Shanahan. It was Fr Spielmann, incidentally, who had recommended to Joseph's uncle, Patrick Walsh - a late vocation in the juniorate at Blackrock - to opt for the Brotherhood where he was to be given the name Adelm. 1897 Fr Joseph Spielmann was re-assigned to Trinidad as pastor of St. Joseph's. Illness forced his return to Europe in 1901 and he died of a stroke at Langonnet 11 August 1903 aged 59 years. He was buried in Langonnet. *BG* 22, 299f; *SpWW* 56f; Farragher, *Leman*, 260ff *et passim*.

### **SPIESS, Fr Anton 1879-1956**

Born 27 June 1879 in Annaberg-Allgau, in the diocese of Rottenbourg, Germany, Anton was contacted by Fr Müller in 1893, and as there was no juniorate in Germany at the time because of the Kulturkampf, he sent him to his own Alma Mater, Rockwell (qv). As Antoine had not a word of French or English he arrived in Rockwell with a wooden plaque around his neck bearing his name and the appropriate postal address! Having completed his secondary studies in 1897 he remained on to do the extra year then required for the Matriculation at RUI. Professed in France in 1899 he returned to Ireland where he professed for a year at Blackrock before resuming his senior studies in France. His first appointment after ordination was to Haiti where he taught at St Martial, Port au Prince, from 1905 till the outbreak of World War I when he was interned for four years as an enemy alien. By 1919 we find him at Knechtsteden as professor in the Juniorate where he was later director, 1922-25. He then was appointed to Broich and after four years he moved to Minden where he was spiritual counsellor to the juniorate. His final years were spent at Knechtsteden where he died 9 January 1956 aged 77. He was buried at Knechtsteden. *Rath* 551.

### **SPRIGGS, Fr John 1928-1995**



Born in Cobh, Co. Cork, 25 January 1928, John did his secondary studies at Presentation College, Cobh, and joined the Congregation in 1946. After Philosophy in Kimmage he served as prefect in Rockwell, 1949-51. Ordained in 1954 Fr John was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He served in the diocese of Owerri in a very populous part of the Diocese in the town of Urualla from where he broke off his own parish and worked there until 1968 when the civil war forced him to retire from Nigeria. Fr John was then appointed to Louisiana USA where he worked for the most part in the capital city of Baton Rouge. Soon his work took him to a large parish as Assistant to the Vicar General. The work was heavy and constant, and when the ageing Vicar General became ill, Fr John earned a great reputation for himself by attending to the ageing priest and running the parish at the same time. John himself took ill requiring cardiac surgery. He recovered and continued to work for another year but he was forced to retire to his native Cobh. While living with his family he worked in parish ministry up till his sudden death 28 December 1995 as he walked with his sister on the beach. *IPArch; IPNI* No. 2 1996

### **STAFFORD, Br Edgar 1864-1920**



Born 10 August 1864 in Ballymore, Co. Wexford, he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell in 1896. It is mentioned that he came with an excellent recommendation and that all subsequent reports on him followed a similar line. He went to Chevilly to the central novitiate where he was professed in 1899. Reappointed to Rockwell, his principal function was to serve as infirmarian to the college and community. He was transferred to the new community at Kimmage where he was to spend the last years of his life. He died there 3 July 1920 aged 56 years. He was buried in Deansgrange. *BG* XXIX 793.

### **STAFFORD, Fr John 1870-1937**



Born 6 December in Ballinaroone, Ballyduff, Co. Waterford, Jack came to the boarding school in Rockwell in 1883 and after three years decided to join the Juniorate. When the Juniorate closed at Rockwell he was transferred to Blackrock, 1888-9, where he began the Arts course for the RUI. In 1890 he was sent to Langonnet to start Philosophy under Fr (later Bishop) John O'Gorman. After two years he was called on to return to Rockwell as prefect. He excelled at games, winning his place on the three-quarter line for Munster with a chance of higher honours were it not that he was recalled to France to continue his studies in 1895. After one year in Theology he joined in the great novitiate year, 1896/7, when, because of a change called for by Rome, all had to do their novitiate before ordination and not in their final year as hitherto. Having completed his course in 1898, Fr Jack was appointed to Blackrock where he was called on to act as Dean of discipline. A new priest's first sermon, preached then outside the context of Mass, was a big occasion, normally honoured by a half day for the students. Fr Stafford's attempt was made memorable by his declaring after an embarrassingly long pause: "I have lost the thread of my discourse!". He succeeded with flying colours on the next occasion. He trained the senior rugby team with great success and in 1902 initiated the matches with Methodist College in Belfast. He ceased to be Dean in 1903, handing over to Fr Philip O'Shea, and from 1909 to 1911 he was Director of the Juniorate. He was then called on by the Provincial, Fr John T. Murphy, to help in the launching of the new community at Kimmage Manor. For the next six years he almost worked himself to death as superior and bursar, trying to keep the various communities going with a minimum of financial resources at his disposal. This undermined his health and for the rest of his years he had to struggle heroically in his work as Provincial bursar, 1916-37, while suffering from diabetes, increasing deafness etc. His deafness had one advantage: it protected him from the explosive noise of the motorcycle he used on all his errands. Fr John had also to struggle against his own very hot temper. He had a card displayed in his office with the words: "Keep your temper. No one wants it." He was totally committed to his function as provincial bursar, always straight, honest intrepid. He was also remembered for his gaiety, vivacity and a nobility of approach to life and people. One notices written after his name in the juniorate register at Rockwell, in the unmistakable script of Dr. Dan Murphy: "A great and a good man". Fr Stafford died in harness 6 March 1937 aged 66 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *BG*, 38, 407ff; *BCA* 1937, 97f; *MA* 1937 127.

### **STANLEY, Fr Robert 1913-1995**



Bob was born 5 November 1913 in Southhill, Cliften, Co. Galway Bob followed the example of his first cousins Frs Michael and Patrick Finnegan in opting to join the Congregation. Having received his secondary education at Blackrock College, 1926-1934, he entered the novitiate at Kilshane and was professed in 1935. He did Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, 1935-37, followed by Theology in Kimmage. Ordained in 1940 he was appointed to Blackrock the following year and it was there he was to spend the rest of his active and fruitful career. Seconded to Willow Park as assistant to Fr Tom Maguire he replaced him as Director there in 1944 - a post he was to fill with rare distinction till 1979. Willow Park

expanded rapidly under his benign but firm control, but more importantly he created a world where students felt utterly at home while being encouraged to develop their talents and personality in all the various activities encouraged by Fr Bob and his team. One well-known educationalist, who taught in Willow, said he knew of no one who had a clearer grasp of how a boy's mind works; and a Salesian priest, Fr Bill Drohan, who taught for a year at Willow, said he knew of no school that lived up better to the ideals formulated by St Don Bosco. 'Stanno', as he was known to the boys, seemed to defy the normal ageing process; his love of practical jokes and innocent mischief may have been an ingredient of his secret. And the fact that so many of his past students returned to him for counsel and support in times of trial shows how appreciated his caring approach was. But Stanno would be the last to claim that he was a saint, though the extraordinary rainbow that formed an arc over the hearse on the day of his funeral was taken by his many close admirers as a celestial portent - an '*Ave atque vale in aeternum*'!. Fr Bob Stanley was 81 years young when he answered the Lord's own roll call 27 January 1995. He was buried in Dean's Grange. *IPNI* No.1 1995;

### **STEPHENS, Fr John E 1839-1916**



Born 6 January 1839 in Gurtapuntane, Co. Mayo, John worked for a period in O'Connor's business house in Swinford before entering the Juniorate at Blackrock on the advice of Br Jerome Ryan OSF, who was in close contact with Père Leman. During his secondary studies he won prizes for 'Diligence, Greek and Hebrew.' In 1866-7 he was called on to act as prefect. He then went to France to study for the priesthood being ordained in 1871. Appointed to Blackrock in 1872 Fr John asked at the end of one year to be released to act as curate in his native diocese of Tuam, where his brother, James, was also a curate at the time. John served at Castlebar, Aughagower and Monivea, "and everywhere left the impress of his energy and zeal. With remarkable organisation he filled schools hitherto unfilled, established even in country districts flourishing sodalities, and the little church in Monivea, decorated and improved, was a lasting monument to his memory." So wrote Dean D'Alton in his *History of the Archdiocese of Tuam*. A more spectacular achievement was the construction in 1882 of the first oratory erected in modern times on the top of Croagh Patrick, and in this he was aided by another former member of the society, Fr Michael Clarke, later Parish Priest in Dublin. Fr Stephens was a close friend of Archbishop John McHale and a supporter of the Land League. Neither of these qualifications was calculated to endear him to McHale's successor, Archbishop McEvilly. Soon, Fr John found himself without a post. In 1886, his former fellow curate at Aughagower, Fr Thomas Carr, by then Bishop of Galway, asked him to come as his secretary in Melbourne where he had been transferred as Archbishop. Fr Stephens used his influence to introduce the Congregation into Ballarat, Australia, in 1888. When he requested permission to rejoin the Congregation, he was urged to make up his mind quickly and enter at Ballarat where matters were not going well with the community and school at the time. When the Congregation withdrew from Australia in 1892 John returned to Ireland and was appointed as bursar at St Mary's, Rathmines. The following year he was transferred to Rockwell where he acted as Director of the juniorate in the absence of Fr Louis Demaison, who had been seconded to other duties for the moment. In 1894, when Fr James Cotter had asked to be relieved of the presidency after but one year, Fr Stephens was called on to assume the post. He agreed, but on condition, it is said, that he serve but one year also. He was then called on to serve as bursar under Fr N.J. Brennan, supervising the building of the chapel

and other improvements in the college plant. Not surprisingly the chapel was dedicated to the National apostle, and the statue of St Patrick prominently displayed on the front gable of the chapel. When Fr John ceased to be bursar in 1898 he transferred to St Mary's, Rathmines, where he acted as assistant bursar till 1903. He then retired to his alma mater, Blackrock, where he died 5th October 1916 aged 77 years. He was buried in Deansgrange. *BCA* 1962, 166; *D'Alton's History of The Archdiocese of Tuam* vol. 11, 112f; *Croagh Patrick*, 92f. by Harry Hughes, Westport

#### **STOFFEL, Fr Barthélemy 1836-1901**

Born 2 March 1836 in Saint-Croix, Alsace, Bartholomew was educated at Colmar seminary where Abbé Simonis, a cousin of Fr Schwindenhammer, was professor and had influenced many students to join the Congregation. Barthélemy went to the Juniorate in Brittany together with future Frs Ebenrecht and Etienne (Edouard ) Bauer of East Africa fame. They were in the novitiate at Mons-Ivry near Paris at Easter 1861 when Fr Louis Holley, first Spiritan to have come to Ireland, was dying of tuberculosis. Fr Stoffel also suffered from TB causing him to cut short his stint at Rockwell, 1865-7, as professor. He managed to husband life's taper as he moved rather regularly from one station to another in France and overseas - eight postings in all. Finally, Fr Barthélemy Stoffel retired to Chevilly in 1898 where he died 1 August 1901 aged 65 years. He was buried in Chevilly. *BG*, XXI, 263ff.

#### **SULLIVAN, Br Finbar (John) 1885-1951**



Born 1 January 1885 in Inchigeela, Co. Cork, John was a native speaker, and all through life, though no Caruso, he liked to sing the songs of his childhood when out of range of critical ears. He entered the novitiate at Kimmage Manor in 1918 where he was professed in 1920. His first appointment was to Rockwell where his main work was in charge of the domestic staff. In 1931 he was transferred to Blackrock where he fulfilled the duties of gardener with special interest in the Clareville garden and orchard which then occupied the area taken up by the basket ball courts today. A natural reserve and a preference for silence kept him rather aloof from the community and hid the solid ways of piety and steady unhurried industry. He suffered from a cardiac ailment which he hoped Our Lady might miraculously cure during a pilgrimage to Lourdes. He was to die unexpectedly in the seclusion of his room in Clareville 20 April 1951 aged 66 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1951 17f.

#### **SULLIVAN, Mr John M. 1889 -1918**

Born 8 June 1889 in Bere Island, Co. Cork, John came to Rockwell as a boarder and entered the Juniorate there in 1908. He was a prefect in Rockwell, 1909-1913. When it was discovered that he was suffering from tuberculosis, he was sent to Switzerland for treatment and to continue his studies there. On arrival at Toulettes Sanatorium, Montana, he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis throughout his whole system. Confined to bed from then on he never complained, was always cheerful, and worried only about the trouble he was causing to others. He looked forward to the visits from his former Director in Kimmage, Fr Denis Fahey, who had to cross the glacier separating their different abodes. Fr Fahey was in Switzerland also because of



his health problems. Mr John Sullivan died 29 November 1918 aged 29 years. He was buried in Switzerland. RJR; *BG*, 29. 265.

**SULLIVAN, Br Mary Eugene (Eugene) 1848-1888**

Born 14 July 1848 in Owen Park, Glountaunfinan, Kingwilliamstown, Co. Cork, Eugene entered the Juniorate at Blackrock, autumn 1868, at the age of twenty but transferred the following year to the Brothers' novitiate which had been recently set up at Rockwell. A note about him at this period reads: "A becoming exterior, good health, very intelligent, and leaves nothing to be desired in the matter of discipline or behaviour." Professed in 1872, he was appointed to Freetown, Sierra Leone, where his presence was much appreciated for teaching English in the mission school. One notes that he returned to Chevilly in 1877 to make his final commitment and that he was not shy in writing to the Mother house to state his viewpoint even when it conflicted with official policy. In particular, he complained of the neglect by the mission authorities in providing some form of High School. He remarked that he was told that this was not a priority in their evangelisation scheme, but he wondered what could be of more importance than education, and warned that the Catholic people would be the losers for not having educated men in public life as a result of this inaction. Years later, Fr Joseph Shanahan would have to make similar statements in his official correspondence with the Mother House when his policy of evangelisation mainly through schools was opposed. Writing after Br Eugene's death, his confrere, Br Alexis, said that Br Eugene had been a model for him in all that he did: he was industrious and practical, had greatly embellished the work at Boffa with his plantations etc., and was always seen with his rosary as he returned from the fields; that even when ill he got up for prayers saying that, "Two pray better than one on his own." He had a great knack with the students and the students took to him; he gave a word of praise and if they did very well he sang a song for them. He built a house and church at Boffa even though he received no help from the natives at the time. Br Eugene was called on to transfer to Monrovia, Liberia, to help the little community there. When he took seriously ill he edified all with his patient acceptance of great pain and said he had no fear of death which he knew was very close. His Superior, Fr J.B.Raimbault, spoke of Br Mary Eugene Sullivan with the highest praise when he reported his death 20 October 1888 aged 40 years. He was buried in Liberia BJR No.151; RBR; *BG* 14,787; GenArch

**SULLIVAN, Mr William 185?-1874**

Born in Knocklofty, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, William entered the Juniorate at Rockwell. A note about him says: "One of best scholastics, suffering from tuberculosis went home December 1873 and died at home having made his final vows in the hands of Fr Huvéty's with the approval of the Superior General. This is the first death of a professed member from the Rockwell Juniorate." William Sullivan died 9 August 1874. *BG* X 360

### **SWORD, Br Berchmans (Thomas J.) 1850-1924**



Born 10 March 1850 in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Thomas he worked for some time as a shop assistant in Blackrock town before applying to enter the Brothers' novitiate at Blackrock in February 1873. He did his novitiate there and was professed in 1875. Appointed to Blackrock he was to spend the rest of his life in that community. Because of his training and his excellent penmanship he assisted the bursar in making out the accounts for the school while also working in the Linen room, helping also in the students' refectory and going on errands as postman, '*commissionaire*', etc. One notices from the 1892 photographs that he played the double base in the college orchestra. We are afforded glimpses into his spiritual life from the thoughts and resolutions found in his personal journal which was available to the writer of his brief death notice. One finds in these brief entries echoes of the spiritual teaching of Père Leman, Poullart des Places and Libermann. We quote three extracts: 'I must try to acquire by prayer and by persevering practice a share in the gentleness and meekness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in my relations with my neighbour'; 'I must try earnestly each day to live more perfectly the life of Jesus in Mary and the life of Mary in Jesus'; 'The practice of the presence of God and openness to the Holy Spirit must enter more deeply into my life each day.' As the annual retreat was in progress, July 1920, Br Berchmans, feeling very tired, went early to his bedroom carrying a glass of milk. He dropped dead on entering his room and was only discovered the next morning to the shock of all gathered for the retreat, but all felt that death did not find him unprepared. He died 3 July 1924 aged 70 years and was buried in Dean's Grange. BBR No.131; *BG XXXI* No. 411 1924 p838f.

### **THOMPSON, Fr John P 1905-1971**



Born 4 November 1905 in Divis Street, Belfast, Jack came to the Juniorate in Blackrock in 1923. It was a period of great expansion and all were encouraged to give of their best under their dynamic director, Fr Bertie Farrell. Jack was an earnest and dedicated student, a sturdy and courageous boxer, a good footballer, a strong swimmer and a fair gymnast. For good measure he won the Gold Medal for English Essay in 1927 when he qualified for the matriculation. His directness and common sense contributed to the moral milieu in the juniorate without any attempt at pose or cant. Professed in Kimmage in 1928 he did one year in the Castle and was then sent to Rockwell as prefect in 1929. He resumed his studies at the Castle and Kimmage being ordained in 1935. He was appointed to Nigeria the following year. His work was partly in the College of Christ the King, Onitsha, under Fr Michael Flanagan, but chiefly in parish stations in the provinces of Onitsha and Owerri. In 1938 he accompanied Fr Michael Foley as they opened the new station at Uruala. He spent himself without reserve in the hundred tasks his mission superiors directed him to. He was noted for the sustained study of the Igbo language all during his time in Nigeria. He was remembered as being always cheerful as he did his work. But after about eighteen years he was obliged by ill-health to return from the Tropics. He served at Blackrock (Willow Park), 1954-62, and then in the Brothers' Novitiate at Ardraccan, 1962-69. For a while he served as chaplain at Peamount Hospital, 1969-71. After repeated bouts of heart trouble, extending over ten

years, Fr Jack Thompson died peacefully 19 September 1971. He was 66 years of age. He was buried in Kimmage. BCArch; *BCA* 1972 207.

#### **Tiernan, Fr Edward William 1922-2004**

Ned was born in Ford-de-Fyne, Naul, Co. Dublin, on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1922. After his secondary school studies at St. Finian's, Mullingar he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942. Ned studied at U.C.D. and was awarded a B.A. Hons in Philosophy in 1945. He perfected in St. Mary's College, Rathmines for the year 1945-'46. He studied theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1949. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1950.

In 1950 Father Ned's first appointment was to **Kenya** where he worked in the *District of Zanzibar* which was later to become the *Diocese of Machakos*. He taught in *Kilungu's Secondary School* till 1954 and then became headmaster of the *Kiteta Teachers Training College*. From 1968 until 1974 he was the Parish Priest at Kiteta. In 1974 he moved to **Machakos** and became full-time *procurator of the diocese* and at the same time he also served as *Vicar General to the Bishop*. For the next twenty years he spent all his time and energy in building up the diocese as; fundraiser, builder, architect, pastoral planner and animator. Fr. Ned retired in Machakos from 1994 until 1998. In 1998 Fr. Ned returned to Ireland and retired to Kimmage Mission House. He celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination in May 1999. Due to illness he was transferred to Marian House in December 2003 and admitted to St. James's Hospital on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2004. He is buried in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

#### **TIMON, Fr Brendan 1907-2000**



Born in Synge St, Dublin, on 24 February 1907 Brendan (Bennie to his friends) came to Blackrock College in 1921. It was a troubled time throughout the country and Blackrock was going through a lean period. Rugby was in decline and even somewhat in disfavour. Gaelic games, hurling in particular, had claimed the attention of many for patriotic reasons. In an effort to revive matters academic and athletic new members were added to the staff. The versatile Fr Bertie Farrell was appointed Director of the Juniorate, Fr John Heelan took charge of the boarding school, and the following year the dynamic Fr Edward Leen returned from Nigeria was appointed Dean of the Day School. Sport took on a new lease of life. Rugby, under the guidance of Fr Heelan, who had studied the new trends in England, was set to revive. It was not till 1925, however, that the Senior Cup was regained after an absence of six years. Brendan, then in his final year, was among the several from the Juniorate who played on the winning Silver Jubilee team captained by Morgan Crowe. Brendan joined the Congregation, being professed in Kimmage in 1926. After his philosophy studies he was appointed to St Mary's College, Trinidad, as prefect or junior master. Having served two years he returned to Ireland and did a further year as prefect at Blackrock. Ordained priest in 1934 he was appointed the following year to Blackrock. 1935 saw the launch of the Preparatory School in Willow Park with Fr Brendan as its Director and Mr J J Beirne as assistant. When they approached the President Dr McQuaid for words of advice he is reported as saying: "Get moving, and in God's name get them moving!" Seemingly that laconic formula worked. The School moved to the old Willow Park mansion in Spring 1936,

and the foundations of what was to become a remarkable school were gradually laid. Fr Brendan's violin was in frequent use to enliven matters. In his spare time he was called on to take charge of the College choir and act as organist. He was musical director for the College opera produced by Fr Andy Egan. The stage décor that year was taken charge of by the up-and-coming artist Mícheál Mac Liammóir. After three years service as Director Fr Brendan was called on to sail for Nigeria just as Bishop Shanahan, with whom he was very close in the Blackrock community, was setting off once again for Africa, not this time to Nigeria but to Kenya. The Willow boys did not take kindly to Fr Brendan's removal from their midst. They actually staged a sit-down strike in protest and later presented him with a watch. It was written of Fr Brendan's tenure in Willow: "Affable, kind and efficient he laid the foundation of what is the peculiar cachet of the school - a happy atmosphere where under *sympathetique* guidance the young personality develops and flowers". Distinctive in appearance and setting the highest standards he was respected as a born leader. The younger members of the staff - the prefects - had happy memories of his democratic approach to attaining his ends. The Catholic mission in Southern Nigeria was by then on the crest of the wave originated by Bishop Shanahan, and during the next thirty years Fr Brendan was to play his part in that great missionary expansion at Owerri and later in Umuahia where he was appointed Vicar General of the new diocese. During the War Years, however, 1941-46, he was called on to serve as Army Chaplain. On returning to pastoral work he found the need of extra teachers so he sedulously fostered the recently founded order, the Brothers of St Peter Claver, whom he directed for twenty years. In their interest he launched an arts and crafts school, which proved a noted success. While pastor in Utura he was a generous host to fellow missionaries, but was seen by some to be over fastidious in his demands in matters of etiquette and hygiene as if he were still Army chaplain rather than a simple missionary. He received generous material support from the McGrath family of Waterford Glass connection who had been among the first students at Willow Park. Forced to leave his beloved Nigeria in 1968 due to the outbreak of the Biafra war, he was appointed to the USA where for another thirty years he was to engage in pastoral work in several parishes in Florida. Brendan was noted for this generosity, his courteousness, his common sense, his organising skills, and his humour. Advanced in years and failing in health he retired to Marian House, Kimmage in 1998. Being out of Ireland for sixty years he felt somewhat an "*Oisín i ndiaidh na Féinne*". After a long life of unstinted service the Lord called Fr Brendan home on the first day of the new Millennium. He was aged 93 years. He was buried in Dardistown Cemetery. BCArch; IPN No. 2000; BCA 2000; KNSM No. 150

#### **TOBIN, Br Austin (John) 1880-1940**

Born 19 March 1880 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, John was a student at Rockwell and having opted for the brotherhood in the Congregation he entered the central novitiate at Chevilly where he was professed in 1900. He served at Rockwell and at St Mary's, Rathmines, until 1906 when he was appointed to St Alexander's College, Canada. Later he transferred to St Joseph's House for Homeless Boys, in Philadelphia. He spent some time at Cornwells Heights before returning to Ireland where he worked successively at Rockwell, Kimmage and St Mary's. From 1927 Br Austin Tobin lived at Rockwell where he died 28 October 1940 aged 60 years and where he was buried. RCA 1941, 21; SpWW 470.

**TOBIN, Fr Robert 1855-1900**



Born 1 September 1855 in Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary, Robert was aged 22 when he came to Rockwell in 1877. He did his final year at Blackrock and returned to Rockwell as prefect, 1880-2. Having done his senior studies in France he was ordained in 1886 and was appointed to Pittsburgh College in 1887. Fr Robert taught Latin and Science, and from 1889 he acted as assistant in Cathedral Parish. On showing signs of being affected by tuberculosis he was sent to Chippewa Falls but, as this change did not arrest the disease, he was allowed to go to a sanatorium in New Mexico where he also gave some service as chaplain. As his condition worsened seriously Fr Tobin was transferred to a sanatorium in Tucson, Arizona, where he died 28 March 1900 aged 44 years. He was buried in the USA. BCArch; *BG* XX 414; *BCA* 1962 221; *SpWW* 140

**TOBIN, Fr Joseph 1919-1998**



Born on 20 November 1919 in Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, he did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1935-37. Having entered the Congregation at Kilshane he was professed in 1938. He prefected at Rockwell, 1939-42, and secured the BA at UCD in 1944. Ordained in 1947 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He is listed as teaching in the junior seminary in the Onitsha vicariate in 1949, as an assistant at Obowo in the Diocese of Owerri in 1952, as Principal of the Madonna High School at Ihite in the Diocese of Umahia in 1961, and as principal of the Our Lady High School at Ihite in the Archdiocese of Onitsha in 1968. He spent nine months in Sierra Leone during the Biafra War. Transferred to the USA he worked with the American confreres in the Western Province. In 1973 he was appointed to Mexico where he worked mostly with the Indians in the San Antonio region of the San Luis Potosi State. Due to failing health Joe returned to Ireland in 1997 and joined the Kimmage community of retired confreres. Fr Joe answered the Lord's final call 27 November 1998. During his seminary days and after Joe was loved as a jovial confrere. He was described by 'The Bar' Fennelly as "the strong man from Cork who goes round oozing confusion." Joe loved a good horse laugh at many things in life. For that reason he liked when at home in Ireland to reread the Irish books he had enjoyed as a school boy, *Jimín* and *An Baile seo Againne* - laughing hilariously at the simple Irish country tall yarns. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam saonta scléipiúil*. Fr Joe is buried in Dardistown Cemetery. IPA; *IPN* No.5 1998; *KSNM* No. 239

**TONER, Fr Eugene C. 1920-1997**



Born 31 January 1920 in Belfast he entered Blackrock Juniorate in 1935 leaving at Christmas 1937. Years later he entered the Congregation in the USA and was professed in Ridgefield in 1950. Having done his studies for the priesthood in Ferndale he was ordained in 1955. Appointed the following year to Tanzania he served in the Kilimanjaro district at Arusha and Narumna. Returning to the USA in 1966 he ministered mostly in African-American parishes in Louisiana until 1983 when he was assigned to Helmet, CA. He retired to Morrilton, AR, and the following year he returned to Ireland serving in the diocese of Down and Conor. Confined to a nursing home in Belfast for some years he died 22 August 1997 aged 77 years. BCArch; *SpEAM* 660

### **TOWNSEND, Fr Patrick 1920-1971**



Born 27 February 1920 in Cuffesgrange, Kilkenny, Pat began his secondary studies at St Kierans' and came to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1936. Having entered the novitiate at Kilshane in 1938 he was professed in 1939. After Philosophy in Kimmage he went as prefect for two years to St Mary's, Rathmines. His experiences in the classroom and on the playing field are recounted in some detail in the biography published by his confrere Fr Michael Troy. Returning to Kimmage for Theology he was ordained in 1946. Pat was recalled as a most kindly man whose good spirits and readiness to laugh away problems helped brighten life for others. Appointed to Nigeria in 1947 he is listed as having served at Emekuku, Uzoagha, Oguta, Diobu and Port Harcourt. Once again he endeared himself to his fellow missionaries and to the Igbo people, pagan as well as Christian. Obligated to leave the country in 1968 because of the Biafra war he went to work in the USA. He served briefly at Sacred Heart in Turlock, Cal., and then joined his American confreres in their mission at Arequipa, Peru. When in 1970 this mission was replaced by one in Cualles and San Antonio, S.L.P., in Mexico, he went with them and laboured with zeal and delight among the Indians in 35 villages entrusted to his care. He travelled around on horseback or on foot striving to learn the various dialects. The Indians loved him for that and for much more. He is reported as often saying : '*Par la primera vez en mi vida, estoy en casa*', that is: 'For the first time in my life I am really at home.' Having enjoyed a brief holiday at home while celebrating the silver jubilee of his priesthood, he returned to his mission. The Lord called him without any warning to the eternal home he had prepared for him all along on October 30th 1971 at the age of 51 years. *IPNI* 1972, January; *BCA* 1972, 208; *SpWW* 898; *Padre Patricio of San Antonio, The Life and Times of a Spiritan Missionary*, Fr Pat Townsend, by Michael Troy CSSp, Toronto, 1996.

### **TUOHY, Fr Jeremy 1867-1899**



Born 25 March 1867 in Kenmare, Co. Kerry, Jeremy followed his brother John's example in coming to Rockwell in 1880. John, who had professed in Rockwell, 1884-6, parted from the Congregation while in the Senior Scholasticate in France. Jeremy, who had gone to France in 1885, was ordained in 1889. The following year Fr Jeremy was sent to Ballarat to help keep the college afloat in face of deaths among the staff and other mounting problems internal and external. When the Congregation withdrew from Ballarat two years later, Fr Jeremy asked to be assigned to Sierra Leone. He served at Freetown from May 1892 to January 1895, and was then transferred to Bonthe (Sherbro). He was just about to open a new station there when he was suddenly struck down by fever, and after a few days of intense suffering Fr Jeremy died 16th November 1899 aged 33 years. His death was felt as a very severe blow by the head of the mission, Fr James Browne, and indeed by all, as he had been a most dedicated and promising missionary and was expected to succeed Fr Browne as head of the Mission. One of his initiatives was to produce a manual of prayers in Mende for his flock. Another member of the family, Br Vincent, served at Blackrock, Trinidad and Paris, before leaving the Congregation. They were first cousins of Bishop John Tuohil or Tuohy Murphy. RJJ; *BG* XX 33f.

**ULMER, Br Mary Alphonsus (Gabriel) 1876-1963**



Born 8 June 1876 in Rosheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, Gabriel was professed in France in 1896 and served in Chevilly as janitor and tailor. Appointed in 1904 to Prior Park, Bath, to help in the new novitiate being opened there, he moved with the community in 1907 to Castlehead, Grange over Sands. Apart from his work in the linen room and dining room he helped in the general running of the Brothers' novitiate. When the novitiate was transferred to Kimmage in 1911, Alphonsus was appointed to Blackrock where he where he worked in the linen room and again helped in the dining rooms until 1921. He was posted once more to Castlehead where he performed the same duties in the Juniorate there. When he travelled with a group of pilgrims to Rome, Pope John XXIII gave most of his attention to him as he found out they were of the same age. In 1963 Br M. Alphonsus Ulmer went back to his native place for a holiday in perfect health but died there unexpectedly 4 August 1963 aged 87 years. GenArch; Fr Wilfrid Gandy, *The Holy Ghost Fathers in England, 1792-1945*, p. 81f.

**VALDEZ, Fr Pedro 1913-1989**



Born 23 February 1913 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Pedro did his secondary studies in St Mary's College. Sent to Ireland in 1932 he studied at UCD, 1932-36, qualifying for the BA and BSc. Having done theology in Fribourg, Switzerland, he was ordained priest in July 1939. Assigned to St Mary's College, Port of Spain in 1939 he was appointed Principal in 1957 being the first Trinidadian to fill that post. "Fr Pedro's assumption of his post, in a sense, marked St Mary's coming of age, with the past students thoroughly trained by their dedicated predecessors, taking control. This was fitting because in 1962 Trinidad had become an independent nation. Fr Pedro continued as Principal till 1971 when he was replaced by Fr Arthur Lai Fook who had also done his senior studies in Ireland." He continued to teach in St Mary's until 1984. He also served as Episcopal Vicar for Education from 1978 to May 1984 and as chaplain to Franciscan Tertiaries till 1988. Fr Pedro Valdez had remained on at St Mary's until his death 24 September 1989 aged 76 years. He was buried in Trinidad. IPArch; *CIC 1863-1988* p.22; Port of Spain diocesan archives

**VAUGHAN, Mr. Mortimer 1882-1911**



Born 7 June 1882 in Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, Murty came to Rockwell as a boarder in 1895. Later he joined the Juniorate. He did the Matriculation in 1900 under the RUI and perfected the following year at St Mary's. He was transferred to Blackrock in 1902 with a view to studying for the Arts course while perfecting. In 1905 he went to the novitiate at Prior Park, Bath. He was followed into the Congregation by his brother Vincent who perfected at Rockwell but left during his senior studies. Murty was sent to The Gambia again as prefect, most likely because he was seen to have contracted tuberculosis. He died there in Banjul (Bathurst) 23 July 1911 aged 29 years. Murty was long remembered with affection by his contemporaries. The only attempt at an obituary was this entry in the *Bulletin Général*: 'We recommend to the prayers of all our confreres our dear Mr Mortimer, professed scholastic of The Gambia mission who died from yellow fever at



Bathurst..." The writer then refers his readers to the article in the Constitutions which specify the suffrages to be offered for the aforementioned dear confrere.' RJR; BG XXVI 287.

### **WALKER, Br Kevin (Robert) 1896-1933**

Born 4 March 1896 in Kevin St Parish, Dublin, Robert entered the novitiate at Kimmage 11 November 1918. His report says: "Gave complete satisfaction in all that he was given to do." Professed on the Feast of St Joseph 1922, he was appointed to Rockwell. He took care of the Linen room and taught drawing. He is described as having a profound but simple piety, noted for his openness and amiability which made him liked by all - confreres and students alike. He was in indifferent health for sometime before going into hospital in Dublin. All were shocked, however, to learn of his unexpected death while undergoing an operation for the removal of his appendix. Br Kevin died 21 March 1933 aged 37 years and was buried in Deans Grange. BG XXXIV 442

### **WALKER, Fr Reginald F. 1885-1971**



Regi was born 1 August 1905 at Pathfield Rd, Streatham, London. The family moved later to Dublin where some of their relatives once owned the house which was to become St Mary's, at Rathmines. Regi attended Synge St CBS where he was influenced to enter the Congregation by a talk by Bishop Joseph Shanahan. In a tribute to Shanahan he later wrote: "I remember him at that time (1920) paying a visit to the Christian Brothers' school where I was in the throes of Preparatory Grade. He was introduced by the Brother Superior who told us of his work in Africa, and among other things, of "Shanahan's tackle," the most dreaded thing, it appeared, in the Munster Rugby of his time. We could well believe it. With his great broad shoulders, his long beard as yet unflecked by grey, his eyes burning with apostolic enthusiasm - above all that marvellous smile - he was truly a figure to capture the imagination of any boy. He captured ours. He captured us." Regi came to Rockwell in 1921 and obviously fell in love with the atmosphere and traditions of the place. Professed in Kimmage, 1924, he did Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, and attended UCD where, because of his deep interest in Irish, he took Celtic Studies for his degree, securing 1<sup>st</sup> Cl. Honours in the BA 1928. The following year he qualified for the H.Dip Ed. For his MA thesis he took the subject: 'Practice and Theory in the Teaching of History' - again securing 1<sup>st</sup> Cl. Honours. Already he was putting his literary talents to good use as he composed the first history in English of the work done by the Holy Ghost Fathers in Africa. He profected at Blackrock, 1930-31, and from a photograph in the college annual we see that already he was proficient at photography, one of the many arts which he was to practice with expertise over the years. Ordained in 1935 he was appointed the following year to Rockwell where he was to serve with total dedication and so fruitfully for the rest of his life. Apart from a full schedule of classes he took on the editing of the college Annual for the next 31 years, including the special Centenary issue 1964 where he managed to give a succinct but lively history of the school and community over the years. From his ready pen also came a number of other publications for use in schools: *A Companion to the Study of Shakespeare - Macbeth*; a two volume manual of Church History, which he undertook at the request of



Archbishop McQuaid, after he had published his *Primer of Church History*. He also wrote some pamphlets for students and one for priests. He went to Paris and Rome in 1948 to research the life of Fr Libermann with a view to writing a biography but this put too great a strain on his health which was already showing signs of deterioration. For a period he moved to Kimmage and occupied himself with editing the *Missionary Annals*, but he felt that it was only Rockwell that provided him with the milieu he needed to give of his best in spite of his cross of recurring blood pressure. He was a strict disciplinarian and a stickler for the rule; yet he was a great humorist, a marvellous mimic, abounded with personal anecdotes about people whose eccentric behaviour he had noted with affection. And it was obvious that he related well to ordinary folk in the environs of Rockwell and at Ring, Co. Waterford, where because of his great love for all things Irish, he used like to relax. Though a good teacher and a master of his subjects, especially English, he did not always succeed in inspiring the same enthusiasm in his students. It was written of him in an obituary: "We are justified in calling him a great schoolman, because his genius ranged over all the areas of a schoolboy's life - religion, character, literature, history, art, hobbies, leisure, music, photography and scholarship." Fr Reginald Walker died 27th October 1971 aged 66 years and fittingly for one who loved Rockwell and cherished what was best in its traditions, he rests in peace by the lake whose beauty he so often sought to capture with his camera. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis*. RCA 1972 78f.

#### **WALLACE, Fr Michael P. 1932-1980**



Born 18 August 1932 in Kilgeever, Gregganwoody, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, Mick did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1946-52. Having made his profession at Kilshane in 1953 he did Philosophy at Kimmage and prefected in Trinidad, 1955-7. Ordained at Kimmage in 1960 Fr Mick was appointed to Onitsha, Nigeria, the following year. He worked till 1969 at Sacred Heart Parish where Fr Stephen Cloonan was Director.

Apart from pastoral work there were five primary schools to be supervised with 4,695 pupils and 143 teachers. After the Civil war in Nigeria he worked in Holy Innocents' Parish, Neptune, New Jersey, until his appointment to Papua/New Guinea late in 1970. He took up his appointment in the parish of Nondulgi in the diocese of Mt. Hagen where he worked for the next ten years. He was about to leave Papua/New Guinea on a holiday when his car was struck by another vehicle and he was fatally injured. Fr Michael Wallace died 11 March 1980 aged 47 years. At his burial on St Patrick's Day there was a vast gathering of clergy and laity from all parts of Papua/New Guinea. BCArch; PNG NI, 1980; SpWW, 1083.

#### **WALLIS, Fr Patrick 1895-1997**



Born 19 August 1885 in Maryville, Charleville, Co. Cork, Pa and his two brothers came to the boarding school at Blackrock in 1907. Their uncle, Dr Daniel Mannix, then President of Maynooth College, visited the Blackrock on several occasions to check on the progress of his nephews. Pa entered the novitiate in Kimmage in 1913 being professed in 1914. He secured the BA at UCD and prefected at Rockwell for three years. From 1916 on he regularly sent copies of the Irish papers to Archbishop Mannix keeping him informed on the struggle for Independence, and it has been claimed that it was Pa who was mainly instrumental in converting his uncle from being the loyalist he was while in Maynooth to being an ardent nationalist. In

later years when Dr Mannix was 98, Pa, who was by then 67 years, sent a congratulatory telegram signed “From ‘67 (the Year of the Fenians) to ‘98 (The year of another famous Rebellion). He was ordained priest in 1923 in St Mary’s College, Rathmines, together with Miko Neenan, Ned Kinsella, Michael O’Connor and Joe Gilmore. His grandmother aged 91, mother of Dr Mannix, attended his first Mass in the Presentation Convent, Terenure. Appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Bagamoyo he served successively at Matombo, Llonga and Morogoro. In 1935 he was appointed head of the Morogoro Mission and was also director of the teachers’ training school, the secondary school and the vocational training school. In 1940 he was transferred to the Vicariate of Zanzibar to serve as its administrator a post he held till 1946 when he took charge of the Kiambu station. By 1952 there were 3,000 parishioners and some 1,200 children attending the schools. This was an indication of the rapid development of the church in Kenya which led to the Vicariate being upgraded to the status of an archdiocese with Archbishop J.J. McCarthy at its head. Fr Pa was transferred to Lioki where by 1968 there were some 6,000 Christians and catechumens, and where 65 teachers taught 1,450 children in its five schools. In 1979 after 55 years service in East Africa, Fr Pa retired to Kimmage Manor where he was to surpass his uncle’s record in living to be 102 years. Fr Patrick Wallis died 3 June 1997 in Marian House. .BCArch; *BCA* 1997 285

**WALSH, Br Adelm (Patrick) 1853-1920**



Born 8 February 1853 in Silvermines, Co. Tipperary, Patrick entered the Juniorate at Blackrock, 20 September 1875 at the age of 22. He was a farm-labourer at the time and residing with his sister, Mrs Shanahan, mother of future Bishop Joseph Shanahan. Patrick had probably learned about Père Leman's appeal for vocations from a junior scholastic, Joseph Gleeson, who was commissioned by Leman to enquire about possible vocations in his home area. Fr Joseph Spielmann was the director of the Juniorate at the time and come November 1875 he advised Patrick to join the Brothers' novitiate at Rockwell. He was professed at Rockwell in 1878 taking the name Adelm. In 1879 he was changed to Blackrock where he remained for two years. It was probably he who arranged that his nephew, Michael Shanahan, entered the Juniorate in Blackrock in 1879. Michael left the juniorate September 1881 when Adelm was posted to the Mother House in Paris. After one year at Paris, Adelm was transferred to the college being conducted by the Congregation at Mesnières in Normandy, and in 1886 he was again moved, this time to Beauvais where the Congregation had recently been given charge of an Apostolic School being conducted in connection with the Archconfraternity of St Joseph. The purpose of this school was to provide education free for junior candidates for the priesthood. At a later date the students would transfer to junior seminaries for the diocesan clergy or to juniorates for religious orders. Many of them in fact opted for the Holy Ghost Congregation. As the director, Père Amet Limbour, was keen on giving the school an international character, one can understand why Br Adelm invited his nephew, Joseph Shanahan, then aged 15, to come over to this school rather than have him apply to either Rockwell or Blackrock once he had expressed a desire to be a priest. Adelm and his nephew Joseph were not the only people of Irish connection at Beauvais: Fr Gerald Griffin had been posted there after he had quit the mission in Nimibia and Fr Jacques Richert had been in Rockwell, 1867-72. In 1888 Br Adelm was called on to join the team led by Fr Reffé heading for a new foundation at Ballarat, Australia. While in Ireland, awaiting departure, Br Adelm arranged for

another nephew, Patrick Shanahan, to be received in the juniorate at Blackrock, 1888-91. The project at Ballarat involved the running of a secondary school and a parish. When the school proved a failure the whole party withdrew in 1892. Br Adelm returned for some time to Beauvais where the Congregation was by then conducting a secondary school for the diocese. His nephew Joseph had been transferred in 1889 to the Juniorate at Cellule in the Auvergne. In a matter of months Adelm received his obedience for Sierra Leone where he was to spend the next three years, 1893-96, till forced by ill-health to return home. As he spent some time in Paris he most likely went to Chevilly to meet his nephew Joseph Shanahan whom he had not met for some years. Br Adelm was then appointed to Rockwell. As he was fluent in French he was co-opted on to the teaching staff by Dr Crehan and once again he was at hand to smooth Joseph's introduction to school life as a prefect when he returned early in September 1897 after his eleven years exile in France. Joseph's brother Dick was also taken on as a teacher at Rockwell at this time, no doubt due to Br Adelm who seems to have taken a special interest in promoting the welfare of his sister's children. Most likely it was due to his influence that some of them had made their way also to Australia. Adelm was being considered for an appointment to The Gambia, late 1897, but the local medical consultant at Rockwell warned that his health could not stand up to the tropics. So Adelm was to remain on at Rockwell until 1909 when Fr Shanahan by then Prefect Apostolic, asked that he be allowed to serve in Nigeria in the place of the ailing Br David Doran. He was stationed at Onitsha Ogboli where Fr Louis Ward was in charge of the mission and a large primary school. In 1917, when it was realised that his health was very precarious, he was being sent home, but even though his ticket had been already bought he begged Fr Shanahan to allow him stay on to give of his last efforts for Nigeria. He helped mostly as a gardener from then on. A few weeks after his nephew had been ordained bishop at Maynooth in 1920 Br Adelm Walsh took suddenly ill and died in hospital in Onitsha 21 July 1920, aged 67. BJR No.290; RBR; *BG XXIX 792f*; Gen.Arch.

### **WALSH, Fr Daniel 1883-1963**



Born 10 March 1883 in Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, Dan was a student at Blackrock, 1897-02, a contemporary of the O'Rahillys, Cardinal D'Alton, de Valera and Frank Duff. He was also a contemporary of Daniel Walsh from Skibbereen (1895-01) the future Master of novices and Director at Kimmage. As both were students and prefects together, there was the constant problem of distinguishing between them. The students, as is their wont, solved the problem simply if irreverently by dubbing one 'Cabbage' and the other 'Spuds'. Daniel Jr having prefected at Blackrock 1902-04 was called on to join the newly opened novitiate in Prior Park, Bath, where he had as Superior once again Fr John T Murphy who had ben in charge at Blackrock 1899-1904. After his profession in 1905 Dan returned to Blackrock to continue as prefect for a further year. In 1906 he left for the Senior Scholasticate in France together with his namesake Daniel Walsh Sr. Having done his senior studies in Chevilly he was ordained priest in 1910. The following year Fr Dan was appointed to Nigeria and by the time he retired to Ireland in 1945 to take up other duties, he was recognised as having been one of the great missionary priests of Nigeria. Fr Joseph Shanahan was so impressed by him immediately that he appointed him early on as Procurator to the surprise of some. Shanahan wrote to Fr John Neville, then Councillor at the Mother house: "Dan Walsh is the man Onitsha was waiting for. A few years of experience will make him the best business man in

the mission. He is as solid as the mountains of Kerry.” When he had appointed Dan as V.G., Shanahan wrote: ”He is to all appearances the soundest man in the Mission. I can rely on him to be a straightforward man. He is most regular as regards community life, neither drinks nor smokes, is serious and has a real love for missionary work..” Later, Shanahan was to remark that Dan was a little too uncompromising and lacked somewhat in social relations. Till Fr Dan’s arrival the mission of Lower Nigeria was concentrated mainly around Onitsha town. He persuaded Fr Shanahan to allow him to embark on work in the comparatively unknown area in Owerri. In 1912 he founded a mission station at Emekuku making it his headquarters - travelling rough and sleeping in the market places while opening up a net work of substations. This area was to become in time a flourishing mission. He was helped in this work by Br Kevin Healy, later Fr John Healy SMA, and Mr Joe Delaney, later Fr Delaney CSSp. Then in 1924 he began from the foundations again at Umuahia, repeating with heroic commitment his tireless and well-organised campaign based on a system of sound instruction in catechism classes and in schools. Writing in 1924 Bishop Shanahan had this to say about Fr Walsh’s work: “In the heart of the vicariate, there is a very important district where all the Protestant sects are congregating for a great attack on all our stations. We had no mission there. I had to detach one of our best and well-tried missionaries from Emekuku, and its three hundred catechist stations to send him on all alone, to open a new mission in the above district called Bende. Fr Dan Walsh from Kerry will give a good account of himself among the heretics. Neither microbe nor devil nor heretic will frighten Dan.” It is safe to say that much of the remarkable success of the Owerri mission was due to Fr Dan’s guidance and example. In 1945 he retired to Ireland and was stationed at Kilshane novitiate as spiritual father and later as superior. In 1948 he was appointed one of the assistants to the Provincial. Fr Daniel Walsh died at Kilshane 27 Feb.1963 aged 80 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCA* 1963 34f: GenArch

**WALSH, Fr Daniel D. 1880-1918**



Born 13 February 1880 in Skeagh, Aughadown, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Dan entered the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1895. When another boy of the same name arrived from Castleisland, Co. Kerry, there was to be a perennial problem in distinguishing between them in records. Official registers were to try the 'Jun'. and 'Sen'. tags, or 'Walsh' together with the mother's family name. Later generations were to distinguish them as 'Nigeria' Dan and 'Kimmage' Dan - the person we are dealing with here. He prefectured at Blackrock 1901-05 and is featured in the first photos taken in the new science rooms. He did his novitiate in 1905-6 in Prior Park, Bath. Both Dans went to France in 1905 to do their novitiate and were ordained in 1910. 1911 marked the beginning of the Irish senior scholasticate with the opening of the novitiate at Kimmage. Fr Dan from Skibbereen joined the formation team with Fr Michael Kelly, the first Novice master. The following year, when Fr Kelly was sent to the USA as director of the Mission Band in order to raise funds for the scholasticate, Fr Walsh was the obvious choice to replace him as Master of novices. In 1917, when it was decided to form a fully fledged senior scholasticate, Fr Walsh was appointed director and professor of moral theology. He proved the ideal man for this key post when the Irish province was setting out to create its own system of priestly formation. It was then a profound shock to all to be deprived of his wise leadership when he was struck down by the 1918 flu which hit Europe in the wake of the Great War. Fr Walsh had travelled to Blackrock to visit his uncle, Br Gall Walsh. The following day he had to

be rushed to St Vincent's Hospital suffering from an acute appendix. He was operated on successfully and was recuperating satisfactorily when he was suddenly affected by the symptoms of the dreaded flu. He was anointed and as Frs Edward Leen and Hugh Evans arrived on the scene they were shocked at the total change in his appearance. He had to be confined immediately and buried in haste as was the regulation. The memorial mass was offered at Blackrock to cater for the attendance. The Provincial, Fr Con O'Shea, reporting the death to Mgr Alexander Le Roy wrote: "There is a great void left in the province. Though so young he was a man of great promise: gentle, balanced in temperament, gifted with solid judgement, highly intelligent and eminently practical. He carried out the duties of his delicate charge with the touch of the master and with such moderation. He was one of those chosen souls whom God seems only to give on loan. And he seems to have had some such presentiment himself as he used remark in joke on occasions that he was to die young. "*Le ciel a gagné un novel élu; notre Province a bien perdu.*" When a memorial was erected to Fr Walsh in the grounds of Kimmage, the text chosen as that being the most appropriate was, *Nunquam sibi placuit.* Fr Daniel Walsh was called to the Lord 19 November 1918 at the age of 38 years. He was succeeded as director by Fr John Kearney who had been his director in the Juniorate at Blackrock. BJR No. 623; *État*; GenArch; BG 29, 261.

#### **WALSH, Br Gall (Jeremiah) 1850-1941**



Born 15 May 1850 in Aghadown, Co. Cork, Jeremiah entered at Blackrock in December 1869 as a postulant for the Brothers. He began his novitiate in 1871 but left for a period and then returned to live at the college as an *agrégé*. He did a second period as novice and was professed in April 1880. He remained on at Blackrock as assistant in the kitchen to the saintly Br Agathon Ohmann. In 1891 he was appointed as cook to the new community at St Mary's, Rathmines. On the death of Br Agathon he returned to Blackrock to take over charge of the kitchen. We find him back at St Mary's again in 1912, but he returned to Blackrock where he spent the rest of his life. 'He was zealous, simple and above all devoted to the Mass; he followed with prayerful interest every thing that affected "the little boys," as he called them. After the community night prayer he invariably went to kneel in front of Père Leman's portrait. The matron, Sister Scholastica, asked him why. "Because he was the only saint I knew," was his reply. He celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his profession a year before his death 1 Feb. 1941 aged 90 years. He was buried in Dean's Grange. Br Gall was an uncle of Fr Dan Walsh, Director of Theology in Kimmage Manor (+ 1918), and of Fr Stephen Bryan who served in the USA. *BCA* 1942 p.55

#### **Walsh, Father John Anselm 1923-2004**

John was born in Bridge Street, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1923. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Junior Scholasticate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1942. John studied philosophy at U.C.D. and graduated with a B.A. in 1945. He then perfected in Trinidad for one year before studying theology at Kimmage Manor (1946-'50). He was ordained to the Priesthood on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1949 and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1950. In 1950 Father John's first appointment was to a teaching post in *St. Mary's College, Rathmines*. During that year he completed the Higher Diploma in Education. During 1952-53 he studied at the Gregorian University

in Rome and was awarded the Licence in Canon Law. In 1953 Father John was appointed to **Nigeria** where he taught in *Stella Maris College, Port Harcourt* and did parish work at *Mbieri, Owerri*. In January 1955 Fr. John returned to Ireland and was appointed to the teaching staff in **Kimmage Manor**. For the next twenty-five years Fr. John taught Canon law, Moral Theology, Justice Studies and Philosophy at Kimmage Manor; was a part-time lecturer at Maynooth College and worked one day a week in the Dublin Marriage Tribunal. During these years Fr. John also continued his own studies at U.C.D. and was awarded the B.C.L. in 1960, the L.L.B. in 1961 and a Ph.D. in 1966. In 1971 he studied for the S.T.L in Moral at the Alfonsianum in Rome. Fr. John spent the last ten years of his teaching career (1980-'90) between the Mission Institute at Kimmage Manor and the Mission Institute at Millhill, London. In 1994 Fr. John retired to Kimmage Mission House. Due to deterioration in his health he was admitted to Marian House, where he died 29<sup>th</sup> August 2004. He is buried in the community plot in the cemetery at Dardistown, Co. Dublin.

### **WALSH, Fr John 1868-1897**

The first member of the American Province to go to Africa, John was born 8 July 1868 in Ballydonohoe, Co. Kerry. He emigrated with his family to America and at the age of 19 he entered the juniorate at Pittsburgh in 1887. Sent to France to do his higher studies, he was ordained 1895. At his own request he was appointed to Africa in spite of his family's attempts to have him retained in the USA. Appointed to Sierra Leone in 1896 he arrived at Bonthe in perfect health and full of enthusiasm. Half a year later, he was hit by blackwater fever and after but four days illness Fr Walsh died at Sherbo 9 May 1897 aged 33. His family, we are told, still reveres him as a saint. *BG* 18, 846f; *SpWW* 123.



### **WALSH, Fr Michael 1869-1930**

Born 9 July 1869 in Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny, Mick came to Blackrock in 1882. He proved brilliant at classics but was characterised as being rather immature in manner - too much so to be sent prefecting! So he was sent direct to the senior scholasticate in France in 1887. When the time came for him to be ordained deacon a dispensation had to be sought as he was under the required age. Having finished his course in 1892 Fr Mick was appointed to Blackrock; he taught mainly classics, a *métier* at which he was to excel. Though he was credited in reports for being a good teacher and a good religious, one finds the reputation for immaturity of behaviour following him because of his penchant for playing practical jokes etc. That may have changed when he had to dissuade others from behaving like that when he was appointed Dean of discipline - post he held for two years, 1896-8. We find him at St Mary's, Rathmines, 1898-1900, and then he moved to Rockwell. He was back again at Blackrock, 1909-15, this time as Dean of studies. He then spent a year at the Spiritan Apostolic School at Suze in north Italy. From 1916 to 1920 Fr Michael was stationed at Rockwell, and for the next four years he served at St Alexander College in Canada. That seems to have been an unhappy period due to the failure of the Irish and French to get on together. Fr Michael Walsh returned once more to Rockwell in 1924 and, though it was noticed that he was lacking in his wonted energy, no one expected his death when it came suddenly 23 March 1930. He was aged 60 years. He was buried in Rockwell. *BCArch*; *BG* 34 758f; *SpWW* 363



**WALSH, Fr Patrick 1875-1946**



Born 8 September 1875 in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, as an altar boy 'Pa' often served Mass for Archbishop Thomas Croke. 'Pa' entered Rockwell 1891 where he prefect, 1895-6. Professed in 1898, he did Theology at St. Joseph's, Rockwell, 1898-1900, and after the closure of the Senior Scholasticate there he was posted to Blackrock where he taught Latin, French and English for two years. Ordained in 1903 he was appointed to St. Mary's, Rathmines. From 1905 to 1907 he taught at Blackrock but then returned to St. Mary's - where he took on the duties of bursar for four years. During this period he had the traumatic experience of witnessing his confrere, Fr William English, being drowned at the Vico Point in spite of his valiant efforts to rescue him. A powerful swimmer himself he devoted much attention for the rest of his life to training students in swimming and life-saving. He took a keen interest in all branches of athletics from the viewpoint of physical culture. Appointed to Rockwell after St. Mary's school have been closed in 1916 he coached a long line of crews to victory in the Metropolitan, Dublin University and other regattas. A skilled teacher of French, a man of refined tastes and high ideals, above all a deeply religious priest, his influence on youth was inestimable. His sympathies lay with the Republican side in the War of Independence and after, and it was with the aid of his passport and alias that Dev travelled outside Ireland disguised as a priest during this time. He served as Director of the Juniorate, 1918-21. One student of that period recalled his director later on as follows: "Fr Paddy Walsh was a man of sparkling ideals, who scorned anything mean and untruthful and sordid, who put incredible emphasis on manliness, gentlemanliness and patriotism, who loved Caitlín Ní Houlihan almost as much as he loved nature. He would call us out to the edge of the lake of an evening, to see the golden sun dancing on the wavelets and burnishing the autumn woodland round about. Although only thirteen I loved it..." Due to ill health Fr Walsh took leave of absence for a period. He travelled more than the average for a religious during the nineteen twenties due to a serious breakdown in health. He returned once more to Rockwell where he taught French for another ten years, and in his quiet way had a refining influence on the students, who felt more at home with him than with most. Fr Patrick Walsh died 22 August 1946 aged 70 years and was buried in Kimmage. RCA 1946, 27

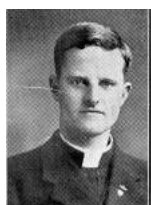
**WALSH, Fr Patrick F. 1910-1994**



Born 12 March 1910 in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Paddy attended the CBS Dungarvan and entered the novitiate at Kimmage in 1927. After Philosophy in the Castle, Blackrock, he was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, as prefect, 1930-34. Returning to Ireland he did one years Theology at Kimmage and in 1935 he was sent to Fribourg to continue his theological studies in the company of Bernard Kelly, Michael O'Carroll, Edward Holmes, Maurice Curtin, Conor Murphy etc. He was ordained priest in 1937 and gained his STL in 1939. Appointed to Nigeria, Fr Paddy was rector of St Paul's senior seminary where he taught theology. He was also active in pastoral ministry. In 1945 he returned to home in indifferent health and taught for a short period in St Mary's, Rathmines. In 1946 he was called on to teach moral theology in Kimmage. Two of his former students in Nigeria rejoined him there, the future bishops, Mark Enegbu and Anthony Nwedo CSSp. Fr Paddy's crystal clear exposition, his dry sense of humour, his balanced temperament and sound common sense were greatly appreciated by the students. In 1954 he took a year

off from the demanding duties in Kimmage and taught instead for a year in Canada. He served as superior of the Kimmage community and the scholasticate, 1956-62. In 1970 he returned to Africa, this time to the diocese of Nairobi in Kenya where he engaged in parish work, mainly in Holy Family Cathedral. He was also for a period Vicar General of the Cardinal Archbishop. He was rated a very successful confessor and his sermons always well prepared and appreciated by the people. Having endured the shock of being mugged as he neared the age of eighty, he suffered from depression in his last years in Nairobi. Fr Patrick Walsh retired to Kimmage Manor where he died 26 December 1994 aged 84 years. He was buried in Kimmage. IPArch; IPNI No. 1, 1995

### **WALSH, Fr Patrick Jos. 1922-1955**



Born 1st of May 1922 in Tourlestrane, Ballymoate, Co. Sligo, Patrick spent some time at three schools, Belmont, Stillorgan, St Kevin's, Inneskerry and St Mary's Apostolic School, Cavan. He entered the novitiate in Kilshane in 1943 and did his studies for the priesthood in Kimmage. Ordained in 1949 he was appointed to Onitsha-Owerri the following year. His first appointment was to the Junior Seminary in Okpuala where he worked for two years. He was then attached to the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, at Elele, a parish with more than 50 villages, each with its own church, usually built of mud. His work involved travelling from village to village, through jungle, over mud roads and along bush paths. It was on one such journey that he met his death as he went on his motor cycle. He had offered Mass and administered Baptism on the morning of 13 January 1955, and was en route to the next village when he was killed instantly in a collision with a lorry. He was 32 years of age. He was buried in Emekuku beside Fr Dan O'Callaghan and Fr Tom Reynolds, both of whom had lost their lives in similar circumstances. IPNI I No 30 23f; MA Mar. 1955; IPArch.

### **Walshe, Father Patrick Joseph 1919-2003**

Pat was born in Kilmurry House, Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1919. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. and then prefected in Rockwell College from 1943 to 1945. Pat studied Theology at Kimmage Manor and was ordained to the Priesthood on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1948. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1949. In 1949 Father Pat's first appointment was to **Nigeria** and he was assigned to the Vicariate of **Owerri**. He was a teacher in *Bishop Shanahan College in Orlu*. Later he was Principal the *Teacher Training School at Ogutu* and in 1969 he became Principal of *Trinity High School at Ogboli*. At the end of the Biafra war in 1970 he went to the **U.S.A.** for one year and then volunteered for work in **Sierra Leone**, where he spent thirty-one years. He was Principal at *St. Joseph's Secondary and Agricultural School at Blama* and at the *Holy Trinity Secondary School, Kenema*. In 1993 Father Pat moved into pastoral work at St. Paul's, the Diocesan Cathedral in Kenema. In 2001, after spending twenty-one years in Nigeria and thirty-one years in Sierra Leone, Father Pat returned to Ireland. In September 2002 he had his first heart attack and was transferred from Mission House to Marian House. He died 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003. He is buried in the community plot at Dardistown.



### **WALSH, Fr Peter 1885-1966**



Born 29 June 1885 in Ballynew, Hollymont, Co. Mayo, Pete was introduced to the Juniorate at Blackrock in 1905 by his fellow-countyman, Fr John Stephens. Being already twenty years he studied for the Matriculation under the RUI system (1907) followed by 1<sup>st</sup> Arts in 1908. NUI came into existence around this time but Pete was not to resume his university course till after he had prefectured at Blackrock, 1908-10, and did his novitiate in France, 1910-11. This last group of Irishmen to do their novitiate in France included his near neighbour in Mayo - James Mellett, Paddy Heerey and Con Mulcahy. Peter was among those recalled by Fr John T Murphy to continue their university course at UCD, their previous courses under the old Royal being recognised for degree purposes. Having secured Honours in his BA examination, he returned to France to continue his studies for the priesthood. Because of the war the senior scholasticate was transferred to Langonnet and Peter was ordained in Vannes in 1916. The following year he was appointed to St Mary's, Trinidad, where he was to remain till 1932, proving an excellent teacher. He was then appointed to Rockwell where his presence on the staff was much appreciated by the Dean of studies, Dr Dan Murphy. When Dr Dan was appointed Provincial in 1934, he opted to reside in Kimmage and appointed Fr Walsh as superior of St Mary's, Rathmines, where the Provincial had been the local superior previously. Fr Walsh was to remain on as superior till 1945 and as vice-superior till 1960. During his term of office he expanded the school at various fronts. His contribution to the college included the establishment of the Junior School, the re-establishment of the Past Students' Union, which had lapsed during the period when the secondary school had been closed, 1916-26. He established among the students and the past students Praesidia of the Legion of Mary, and inaugurated a Scout Troop. He began the major building scheme in 1941, in spite of the difficulties of the war years, and saw this expansion further developed in 1952 and 1965. St Mary's teams had his enthusiastic encouragement, and much of the keenness of the St Mary's teams at all levels can be traced to his unflinching support, even if at times the teams on the fields were somewhat embarrassed by the vehemence of his participation. Even during the illness which weighed heavily on his last years he was an inspiration to all around him. Fr Peter Walsh died 8 September 1966, aged 81 years and was buried in Kimmage. He was a relative of Cardinal John D'Alton. *StM.A* 1966; *BCA* 1967 28f; *SpWW* 772.

### **WALSH, Fr Redmond 1919-1997**



Born 3 February 1919 in Coom, Cordal, Co. Kerry, Redmond attended Rockwell, 1933-37, and was professed in Kilshane in 1938. Having qualified for the M.Sc. in 1941, he studied philosophy in Kimmage and prefectured at Rockwell, 1943-45, during which time he qualified for the H.Dip. He studied theology at Fribourg university, Switzerland, and was ordained in 1948. Appointed to Rockwell he served there from 1949 to 1958 where he taught his two favourite subjects, Irish and Mathematics. After two years as Professor of Philosophy in Kimmage he was appointed to Nigeria in 1960 where he entered immediately into the lifestyle of the confreres with enthusiasm and excitement. He taught at CKC, Onitsha, for one year and subsequently taught philosophy and theology in Awo-Omamma/Isienu Senior Seminary from 1961 to 1969. At the end of the Biafra war he was expelled from the country in 1970.

Following a year's studies in Rome and another year of teaching in the Missionary Institute in London, he was appointed to Sierra Leone in 1972 where he taught at Blama and Kenema. In Kenema he served at St Joseph's Secondary and Agricultural School for seven years. Both of those schools were fairly large, the former enrolling close to 400 boys and the second around 500. He helped with the Formation in Sacred Scripture in the transition year in the seminary of St Kizito at Kenema and he delighted in the pastoral ministry in the surrounding villages. In 1982 he left Sierra Leone for service in Brooklyn Diocese and was in Louisiana the following year. Having been appointed to Ardraccon he served there as Bursar in spite of continual ill health. As a spiritual hobby he was working on a translation of the Vulgate into Irish. When he could no longer be cared for adequately in Ardraccon he was transferred to Kimmage. Fr Redmond Walsh died in Marian House 1 September 1997 aged 78 years. He was buried in Dardistown, Dublin. IPArch; SWAM 395

**WALSH, Fr Thomas J. 1913-1973**



Born 10 June 1913 in Bridge St., Ballylongford, Co. Limerick, Tom was a student at Rockwell, 1930-32. Professed in 1933 with the last group to do their novitiate at Kimmage under Fr Evans, he did his Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, 1933-35. He prefectured at Rockwell for one year and then began Theology at Kimmage in 1936. Ordained in 1939 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He served in the Onitsha District. The *État* gives him as school inspector at Holy Spirit College, Owerri in the late 1940s. By 1952 he was in charge of Nsu parish where he and his team of five priests ministered to some 44,000 Catholics and catechumens. We find him stationed at Umahia in 1959 and later as pastor at Iysu. Obligated to quit Nigeria in the wake of the Biafra war Fr Tom was appointed in 1971 to California where he worked in the San Franciscan area with Fr Con. Woulfe. Two years later, 29 January 1973, he died in San Francisco as a result of a car accident. He was 60 years of age at the time. He was buried in Kimmage. He was a brother of Fr John Anselm, CSSp. *État*.

**WARD, Fr Louis J. 1872-1935**



Born 29 June 1872 in Knocknar, Donegal, Co. Donegal, Louis was a student at Blackrock, 1888-93, having continued on after Senior Grade to do Matriculation, - then a separate year - and First Arts under the RUI. He went to France in 1893 to pursue his senior studies. In 1896 he was sent as prefect to Portugal, and after two years there he did another three years at Blackrock. In view of the fact that he was to be close to Bishop Joseph Shanahan for many years in Nigeria it is of interest to record that he was among those present at Shanahan's ordination and first Mass at Blackrock in 1900. In 1901 he returned to France and was ordained in 1902. Appointed to Nigeria in 1903, Fr Louis served first in Calabar where his knowledge of Portuguese stood him in good stead in his ministry to the sailors arriving from South America. He worked at Ogboli from 1906, and in 1917 he returned to Calabar. His health gave reason for concern, so he spent some time in communities in France and was a year at Rockwell, 1921-2. He was then transferred to the United States, serving as assistant pastor in St Anthony's parish, Portsmouth, RI, and in 1908 he was appointed pastor there. When he died in 1935 it was said that 'his wholesome simplicity and fatherly kindness endeared him to all.' This echoed what Fr Shanahan,

as Prefect Apostolic in Nigeria, had written to Mgr Le Roy in 1910 when there were some complaints made about Fr Ward: 'Fr Louis is one of the best missionaries in Nigeria; nobody ever heard him offend against charity. That sums him up...' Fr Louis Ward died 7 Feb 1935 aged 62 years. *BG XXXVI* 716; *O.P.*, April 1935,46; *SpWW* 415; GenArch

#### **WARD, Fr James Patrick 1920-2000**



Born on 6 March 1920 in Bawn, Moydo Lower, Co. Longford, Jamesey completed his secondary studies at St Mel's, Longford, in 1939. Having entered the novitiate in Kilshane he was professed in 1940. Outgoing, he became involved in several projects in connection with the farm there. He was also the centre of much banter and teasing which helped enliven the routine of seminary life. He managed to enjoy the surreptitious cigarette, and he was to be known as constant pipe smoker throughout his life. On completing his Philosophy in Kimmage he was appointed in 1942 to Trinidad as prefect in St Mary's College. Returned to Ireland in 1945 he did his Theology in Kimmage being ordained in 1948. His first appointment the following year was to Sierra Leone. He served first in Gerihun where he had veteran Fr Aloys Scheer as companion. During his years there the number of Catholics grew to over 2000 and some 1000 pupils attended the thirteen primary schools of the mission in that area. In 1960 he became pastor of St Patrick's at Bonthe and Sherbo Island where the numbers were about the same as in Gerihun. Seven years later he took charge of St Anthony's at Brookfields, formerly called Ascentiontown, near Freetown. This parish at the time had some 5,000 members. There was a large secondary school for girls conducted by the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny, and over 1,300 pupils attended the parish's three primary schools. His life was a very busy one but Sierra Leone's climate took its toll on his health as it had done so often to others. Returned to Ireland in 1969 he was posted to Kimmage as Farm Bursar where he served until 1971. A serious car accident left him somewhat incapacitated. . Appointed to parish ministry in his native Diocese of Clonmacnoise he served in Clonmacnoise, Boher and Athlone. While serving in Clonmacnoise he had the privilege of welcoming Pope John Paul during his brief stopover there to pay a tribute to a missionary from the monastery who had evangelised the Pope's area in Poland. Failing health obliged Fr Jim to return to Kimmage for active retirement. He spent his last months in Marian house where he died on 17 December 2000 aged 80 years. *KSWAM* No. 273; *IPNI* No.1 2001

#### **WARD, Fr Michael 1865-1908**



Born 9 December 1865 in AGLISH, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Michael was directed to the Congregation as the result of a mission given in the area by a Holy Ghost Father, most likely Fr John Stephens, then serving in the Tuam diocese. It was remarked that Michael must have had a good teacher in the primary school as he completed his secondary course at Blackrock in three years. He was described then as mature and solid, and when asked if he would like to do a spell as prefect he answered with a categorical "No" as he wanted to be ordained as soon as possible. He was taken at his word and sent to France directly to pursue his senior studies. There his directors remarked on his calmness, passivity and lack of any signs of emotion. He wrote in his letter at the end of his course: "I have been so tranquil here that I fear I have not been

sufficiently tested." His first appointment was to Freetown, Sierra Leone, where he was recognised as a good worker. Very soon, however, it became clear that his health could not stand up to the tropics; after 17 months there he was advised to return to Europe. After a brief rest in Rockwell he was sent in 1895 to Pittsburgh where he taught for a period at the college and served at Millvale parish. Two years later he was attached to the special parish for blacks, St Benedict the Moor, where he worked till 1904 except for a brief period when he was replaced by Fr William Healy. In 1904 he was appointed pastor of St Anne's, Millvale, where it is recorded that his simplicity, affability, humility and devotion endeared him to his flock. He had just built a new school when he was struck with pneumonia which carried him away within a week to the shock and grief of his flock. The panegyric was preached by Fr John T. Murphy, then Provincial in America. Fr Michael Ward died 7 March 1908 aged 42 years. *B. III, 265; SpWW, 180.*

### **WASSER, Fr Michael P. 1927-1976**



Born 10 February 1927 in Petrie Rd, Dublin, Michael studied at Blackrock, 1945-48, and was professed at Kilshane, 1949. After completing Philosophy in Kimmage he professed for two years at St Mary's, Rathmines. Ordained in 1956 Fr Michael was appointed the following year to Nigeria where he worked for the next eleven years in the diocese of Umahia in pastoral and educational ministry. At the end of the Biafra war he had to leave Nigeria and came for about five years to minister in his home parish of Dolphin's barn. He was appointed to Canada in 1971 where he served in various parishes. In 1974 Fr Michael Wasser was appointed Pastor of St Rita's, Woodstock, Ontario, and it was there he died after a short illness 9 November 1976 aged 49 years. *BCA 1977, 90; IPNI Jan.1977; SpWW 1019.*

### **WAUBERT DE GENLIS, Fr Max de 1859-1935**



Born 24 September 1859 in Boves (Somme), France, Max did part of his studies at the Jesuit college, St Acheul, Amiens, which had associations with Fr Libermann and Fr Leman. He was introduced to the Congregation by Fr Amet Limbour, who was then Director of the Apostolic School at Beauvais. Max went on to Cellule to finish his secondary studies and was ordained at Chevilly in 1883. His first appointment was to Blackrock where he served till 1887. He then spent three years at Castelnaudary College in the south of France. In 1890 he was back in Ireland as one of the founding fathers of St Mary's, Rathmines, where he remained for three years before returning to Castelnaudary. He was back again in Ireland in 1896, this time at Blackrock. For one year only, as his next obedience was for Mauritius where he was to serve as pastor at Chapelle de St Michael and at St Jacques, a Souillac, where he was also schools manager till 1911 when he was forced by a serious eye ailment to return to France. He was sent to Monaco, where the Congregation had been asked to help out after this expulsion of the Jesuits. Fr de Waubert soon became very popular there as he organised various activities such as the St Vincent de Paul Conference, sodalities, and annual pilgrimage to Lourdes etc. He was chaplain to Prince Ranier and chancellor of the diocese. He was to act as host for prolonged periods to members of the Irish province who were in need of such a change, e.g., Fr John Kearney, Fr MI

Downey, Fr Johnny Byrne etc. Fr Max de Waubert died at Monaco 12 September 1935 aged 76 years. He was buried there. *BG* 1937 373; *État*.

#### **WHELAN, Fr Gerard M. 1904-1973**



Born 16 December 1904 in St Alphonsus Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin, Gerry did his secondary studies at North Richmond St CBS, 1917-1922. He entered the novitiate in Kimmage in 1924. Having done Philosophy at the Castle, Blackrock, he prefected at Rockwell for three years, 1927-30. Ordained in 1933, Fr Gerry was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Zanzibar. He served first at Kabaa Teachers' Training School, and after World War Two as director of the mission station at Kalimoi. Later he was pastor of St Teresa parish in Nairobi. He served as bursar at St Francis College at Pugu, 1962-66, in the diocese of Dar es Salam, and then was stationed at Thika. He was home in ill-health in 1971 but was able to return to his mission for a period. He was returning home on medical advice when he died suddenly in London 12th December 1973. Fr Gerard Whelan was aged 69 years. He is buried in Kimmage. *IPArch* W 3

#### **WHELAN, Fr John Joseph 1914-1985**



Born 30 Dec. 1914 in Courtown, Co. Wexford, Joe did his secondary studies at Rockwell and entered the novitiate in 1934. After his profession he did Philosophy the Castle, Blackrock. In 1937 he moved to Kimmage to do Theology and was ordained in 1940. Fr Joe's first appointment was to Nigeria where he worked at Emekuku and Enugu missions. In 1952 serious illness left him recuperating for two years in Montana, Switzerland. In 1955 he was posted to Kenya where he worked at St Teresa's, Nairobi and later at Holy Family Church where he spent 13 years. He is remembered especially for having received a leading member of the Mau-Mau into the Church. Forced by ill-health to leave Africa he took up work in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, still having to bear the cross of painful suffering. In January 1985 he returned to Ireland to spend his last days at Kimmage Manor. He died in a nursing home 16 April 1985 aged 70 years and was buried in Kimmage. Fr Joe was described as a kind and sympathetic man with an attractive personality. *IPNI* 60 May 1985

#### **WHELAN, Bishop Joseph 1909-1990**



Born 25 May 1909 in St Michael's Parish, Limerick City, Joe did his secondary studies at Blackrock, 1923-27. Professed in 1928 he attended UCD where he took first place and was a scholarship winner in his BA degree. Appointed prefect to St Mary's, Rathmines, he became a sort of idol for the boys while keeping his distinctive democratic manner. He took a very active part in the Rugby Club, then in 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. He was an automatic choice for captain. Joe was to have a singular rugby distinction later in that as Bishop in Nigeria he played against an Army XV and actually scored the winning try. In 1934 he was sent to Rome to study theology at the Gregorian University. He was ordained in 1937 and took the Honours Doctorate in Theology the following year. Fr Joe's first appointment in 1939 was again to St Mary's. He acted as Dean of studies, and found time to edit the Jubilee number of the

school Annual, and to initiate amongst the students a *praesidium* of the Legion of Mary. He became so immersed in countless other activities connected with the students, past and present, that some people wondered when did he get time to sleep. After three years service at St Mary's, he was appointed to Nigeria. His first post was on the teaching staff of the Senior Seminary for native priests. In addition he became a journalist. Every week for several years he wrote a theological column for the Southern Nigerian Catholic Herald. When the time came to divide up the historic diocese of Onitsha-Owerri, which had been developed by Bishops Joseph Shanahan and Charles Heerey, Joe Whelan was nominated as the new bishop. His episcopal ordination in the Cathedral of Onitsha, 25th April 1948, was the first such ceremony in what was then British West Africa. He immediately set about creating new parishes and building schools, primary and secondary. The Catechism was simplified and improved and for the first time translated into Igbo. The establishment of The Leader and Assumpta Press helped this new programme. Within a decade the diocese was sufficiently consolidated for a new diocese - Umuahia - to be carved out of it. And this process was to continue. Great foresight went into the siting and planning of the new cathedral at Owerri. Work was well advanced on this project when it was interrupted by the civil war. When it was eventually completed and dedicated in 1980, Bishop Whelan would be back for the occasion after a long and pained exile. As a bishop he gave his priests something like collegial status alongside himself. He gave them freedom and encouragement, working through them and with them. And though ecumenism in the missions had been rather slow for historical reasons, Bishop Whelan gave the example in maintaining very cordial relations with the Anglican Bishop Gockin. He was respected for his simple dignity, his humility, his organisational ability. Though deceptively frail in appearance he proved a strong leader and remained a true shepherd with his people to the very end during the civil war. His last ten days in Nigeria were spent, along with many of priests, crowded together in jail cells. Banished from Owerri, Bishop Joe spent a year on the staff of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He came back to Kimmage in 1971, not to retire but to start a new life, helping wherever he could as bishop. He gladly accepted invitations to confirm and ordain, gave retreats, preached whenever possible, and took a weekly religion class in a secondary school. He was always ready to address his listeners in Irish when he felt they could follow. In his spare time he was to be found tending his beloved roses in the garden beside the White House. He had a protracted illness, which he found difficult to accept at times as he wanted to be more active pastorally. He looked forward to dying in order to be with the Lord and his Blessed Mother. Bishop Joseph Whelan died on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 1990 aged 80 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA*, 1948, 4f; *IPNI*, No. 65, 1987, & No. 8 1990

### **WHELAN, Fr Kevin**

**1905-1964**



Born 21 July 1905 in Dublin Kevin was son of James Whelan, a student at Blackrock, 1892-97, and subsequently a senior scholastic in France till 1902. Kevin was educated by the Christian Brothers, first at North Strand, then at Synge St. He left school in 1920 and went to work with his father, who had a business in Ormond Quay known as 'The Old GAA Shop', selling sports wear and books.

Kevin had been a member of the Fianna and was one of the official 'runners' during the War of Independence. It was in the Whelan house that one of Dev's riflemen at Mount Street Bridge was successfully sheltered during the round-up

of prisoners after the surrender in 1916. Kevin was so successful in business that his father bought a premises in Parliament St to set him up on his own. Kevin, however, decided to continue on where his father had left off in the Holy Ghost Congregation. He entered the novitiate in 1925 and after his profession he was appointed prefect in Blackrock, 1928-30, where he was in charge of the senior students. Completing his studies in the Castle he was ordained in 1933 and appointed the following year to Nigeria. During a period of leave in Ireland, just after the outbreak of the war, he found it impossible to get a passage back to his mission. Knowing that chaplains were urgently needed for the Nigerian troops, he volunteered, thinking he might arrange to join an African regiment. However, his appointment was to a British unit, and early in February, 1942, he was posted to Singapore. A week after his arrival, Singapore fell to the Japanese, and he was interned, with the whole garrison of British and Australian troops. When questioned afterwards about his experiences, he had very little to say. Others reported that his conduct was an encouragement and inspiration to them, and of complaint on his part there was very little. He was once mentioned in despatches, as we learn from documents discovered after his death, but little else is known to us of this period, except that he never recovered fully. It is reported that Fr Kevin was rescued from the Japanese concentration camp on the direct intercession by Mountbatten, acting on a message from an amateur radio ham. He emerged after 1945 with health badly broken, but after a period of recruitment, he went once again to Nigeria, where he had amongst his duties the supervision of Catholic schools in the mission. Some years of work there made it evident that his health was permanently affected, and he was obliged to return to Ireland. He was appointed to Blackrock, where he assisted the Superior in secretarial work. An accidental fall resulted in a fracture of the spine, which took from him the use of his legs. He was treated in the rehabilitation centre, Rochestown Avenue, Dunlaoghaire, but did not recover. His helplessness and progressive deterioration and suffering were borne with an admirable fortitude and cheerfulness. Fr Kevin Whelan died 19 June 1964 aged 58 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1964 18f.

#### **WHELAN, Fr William A. 1917-1999**



Born 10 April 1917 in Limerick, Bill did his secondary studies at St Munchin's College, Limerick; he entered the Congregation in 1937. Professed in 1938 he prefected at Blackrock, 1940-42. Ordained priest in 1945 he was appointed the following year to Nigeria. He began work at Umahia and remained there except for a brief interruption till 1949. Thereafter he served in the newly formed Diocese of Owerri with Bishop Joe Whelan, his cousin, in charge. Bill served successively at Mbutu-Okalia and Nsu before being appointed pastor of Obowo in 1950 where he served for two years. Transferred in 1952 to the new parish of Osu he worked there until 1955. Returned to Ireland he took up duties in the *Missionary Annals* office where he worked till 1960. He then received an appointment to Ardbraccan where he worked for ten years with the printing press which was there at the time. He also spent one year in Mount Melleray. In December 1970 he received an appointment to the USA where he worked until November 1981 when he retired to live with his family in Limerick. It was there he died on 14 October 1999 aged 83 years. Liam was very attached to his family and to Limerick. He took a great interest in sport all his life, especially in Shannon Rugby Club. When he was in the USA he became deeply interested in the history of the church. Friendly and good-humoured, Liam's company was lively and playful. His humour was infectious and challenging. He had a deep devotion to the Mass and as chaplain to a convent in his

final years he was seen to arrive three-quarters of an hour before time in order to prepare himself. He was meticulous in his celebration. It was shortly after celebrating mass that the Lord called him quietly as he was reading the paper. Fr Bill is buried in St Lawrence's Cemetery, Limerick. *IPN* No.4 1999; *KNSM* No. 204.

**WHITE, Fr Edward C. 1893-1970**



Born 24 December 1893 in Kilmokler (Dranganmore), Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Ned did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1912-16. Professed at Kimmage 1917, he was sent to the USA to continue his senior studies for the priesthood in order to serve in the special parishes for the blacks being conducted by the Congregation as a result of the Mother Drexel agreement. Edward was ordained priest in 1921 and the following year he made his apprenticeship in the black missions at Holy Spirit, New Orleans. From there he went to St Benedict the Moor's in Pittsburgh in 1923 and became its pastor in 1928. He remained there till 1940, except for the years, 1934-36, which he spent at St John the Baptist, Dayton, O. In 1940 he returned for another year to Holy Spirit, New Orleans, before being assigned to St Monica in Tulsa, Okla. After serving successively two years each in St Mary's, Detroit, Sacred Heart, Emsworth, and Our Lady of the Valley, Hemet, CA, he became pastor again of a black parish, this time at Uganda Martyrs in Okmulgee, Okla. Having ministered for 34 of the 40 active years of his life as a priest to the blacks, whom he loved, Fr Edward became seriously ill in 1967 and retired to Kimmage where he died 16 July 1970 aged 76 years. He was buried in Kimmage. His two brothers, Paul and James, were ordained priests in the Congregation. A fourth brother, David, was professed in 1923 but left later. *RJR*; *SpWW* 871.

**WHITE, Fr Herbert 1887-1968**



Born 17 February 1887 in St Patrick's Parish, Manchester, Bertie studied at Blackrock, 1906-10, and spent a short period as prefect in St Mary's, Rathmines, before going to the novitiate at Grignon-Orly. He was ordained at Chevilly in 1916. Fr Bertie may well have been the last to go from Ireland to do his novitiate in France, and is probably the first English-born member of the Congregation who did his studies in Ireland. He was appointed to Nigeria in 1917 where he worked at Emekuku, Owerri Province, as well as in other mission stations. In 1924 he was appointed Chaplain to the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, Killeshandra, then recently founded by Bishop Joseph Shanahan. In 1927 Fr Bertie returned to Nigeria to the mission of Ogoja. During the remaining years in Nigeria he worked at Enugu, Ihiala and Umuaka, where he did very much for the extension of the school system of the mission. Because of his sense of humour and his capacity to keep abreast of the news local and world-wide, his company was very much appreciated by Bishop Shanahan. He returned to Kimmage about 1952 when his health made that necessary. Fr Bertie White died 19 February 1968 aged 81 years and was buried in Kimmage. *BCA* 1968 35





Born 10 December 1895 in at Kilmoyler, Cahir, Co. Tipperary, James was one of three brothers who were ordained priests in the Congregation, Edward (1893-1970) and Paul (1906-1988). A fourth brother, David, was professed but decided to return to the world. Jas, as he was best known, worked for some years on the family farm before entering the juniorate at Rockwell in 1914. He prefectured at Rockwell, 1917-20, and was professed in 1921. Ordained in 1927 he was appointed the following year to the Vicariate of Bagomoyo being stationed in Morogoro where there was a Teachers Training College. Ill-health forced him to return to Ireland in 1932. He was assigned to Rockwell where he filled the post of Dean of Discipline from 1933 to 1937. His tenure of office was long remembered by the students of that era, who regularly regaled one another with unending hilarious anecdotes based on his total dedication to the work of their formation along his unconventional lines, his very personal repertoire of expressions and his mode of speech. This was to be the beginning of an industry of collecting anecdotes about Fr James, among the novices at Kilshane, where he was superior from 1937 to 1940, and among the senior scholastics who slogged under his control in the farm which he ran at Kill, Co. Kildare from 1940 to 1947. That farm performed a vital function during the years of the Emergency helping to supply the large senior scholasticate with all the important victuals. Teams of scholastics were pressed into service under his direction during the holiday periods and he believed in availing of their services to the full. He did not spare himself either, but those not inured to such a regime found the going tough. But as years passed it was again the anecdotes that most often came to mind, and the colourful Sunday homilies. His penchant for exaggeration ran wild whenever there was any scope for using the phrase 'thousands and thousands'. He loved to engage in theological discussions with the scholastics and was never known to admit defeat, a characteristic which was noted again later when he took up golf. The Provincial, Fr Dan Murphy, appreciated his wholehearted dedication to the job in hand. He was also aware of his simple guile. When the farm at Kill was to be stocked in 1940, Dr Dan came to Kilshane, and leaving Fr White under the impression that Br Aidan was to be put in charge of it, he asked Fr White to select some good cattle from among his herd to start him off. Fr James included in the bunch a few which had made unsuccessful appearances at local fairs. When they were well on the way to Kill, Fr Murphy informed Jas that he did not think Br Aidan was up to the job and that he would have to call on himself to face the challenge! In 1947 Fr White was allowed to return to East Africa. When he announced to the assembled scholasticate that he was glad to be able to give the last lap of his life to Almighty God just as he had given the first lap, some one was overheard to remark that at last he was admitting that the Old Boy had a hand in the 'middle lap'! But Fr Jim had no doubt that he was working always for God, or about what God wanted from his parishioners on the mission. Again he worked himself very hard: like Fr O'Flynn 'he prodded the lazy ones and coaxed (a euphemism, surely) the aisy ones'. He kept at his post until failing sight and hearing forced him to return to Ireland. There was no retiring from the prayers, however: he really relished his mass, his breviary and the rosary to the end, and was most at home in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A final anecdote; shared this time. It was known that he had a special relationship with his junior brother, Fr Paul, but they had an extraordinary way of displaying their fraternal friendship: they delighted in telling one another off in the most colourful language! Fr James White died after a full life in

the service of God and his people 22 May 1986 aged 90 and was buried in Kimmage. As he strove manfully to master his own native language as well as East African dialects we add: *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam saonta. IPNI 1986, 63*

**WHITE, Fr James Jr 1915-1996**



Born in Coole East, Athea, Co. Limerick, 31 October 1915, Jim did his secondary studies in Rockwell and having joined the Congregation he made his first profession in 1938. Having done Philosophy in Kimmage, he prefectured in Rockwell and was ordained in 1944. While working on the farm in Kill during the holidays, under the supervision of Fr Jim White senior, he suffered a severe injury to his back from which he fortunately made a good recovery. He was recalled as a steady influence among his confreres as he was seen to be devout, peaceful and supportive. Appointed to The Gambia in 1945 Fr Jim was to spend his life in the service of that mission except for a year (1950-51) spent in Newark, Nottingham. He has been described as a man of deep faith, gifted with a charisma for listening to the problems of others and showing a profound respect for them. All in the mission - priests, Sisters and the faithful - looked to him as a father. Fr Jim had his own cross to carry. Diagnosed as suffering from Hanson's disease (leprosy), he persevered with a long, drawn-out drug and exercise treatment and showed that leprosy is curable with modern treatment. From 1945 to 1960 Jim worked in the Falabantang-Sambang area. Basse mission was 60 miles to the east of him and Bwiam 120 miles to the west. There was no road, merely a bush path. This meant a life of loneliness, but Jim had the inner resources that his confreres had noted during his student days and later he had drawn on to sustain his confreres in moments of frustration and depression. He reminded them "that the seeds of the Word were in the culture, in the situation; that the Spirit was working quietly but effectively; that it was their great privilege to share in the triumphant action of the Holy Spirit; and that this was always a task of patience and hope." After almost sixty years of dedicated service to the mission in The Gambia Fr Jim White died in Banjul 28 February 1996. He was buried in The Gambia. *IPNI No.2 1996*

**WHITE, Fr Joseph J. 1923-1980**



Born 19 December 1923 in Rathmines, Dublin, he was educated at Synge St CBS and at Blackrock College, 1939-41. He went to Kilshane in 1941 and after his profession he qualified for the BA at UCD. He prefectured in Trinidad where his athletic ability and skill at soccer secured him a place on the island's national soccer team. Returning to Ireland in 1948 he was ordained in 1951. The following year he was appointed to Nigeria and served in the dioceses of Owerri and Umuahia being director of Fatima Training College at Nsu and at the secondary school of Isuikwato. Forced to return to Ireland in 1969 because of the Biafran War he was appointed in 1971 to Ghana where he spent nine years as Rector of the Diocesan Junior Seminary in Kamasi - a post he relinquished in June 1980 in favour of a Ghanaian priest. Earlier in the year he had the honour of having Pope John Paul II stay with him overnight in the Seminary at Kamasi. He attended the Spiritan meeting at Blackrock in his usual good spirits and then replaced a confrere as a chaplain at the James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, for a few days. He suffered a stroke after saying the 7.30 mass on the morning of 23 July 1980 and died late that

same night. Fr Joseph White was 56 years of age and was buried in Kimmage. Because of his affability, sound common sense and gentleness he always radiated an aura of peacefulness and had a caring approach to all. *IPNI* July 1980 November; *BCA* 1981 177; *SpWW* 1087; *SpNM* 319.

### **WHITE, Fr Peter Paul 1906-1988**



Born 29 June 1906 in Kilmoyler, Cahir, Co. Tipperary, Paul did his secondary studies at Rockwell, 1920-24. He then entered the novitiate at Kimmage as his three elder brothers Edward, James and David had done. Professed in 1925 he went on to Blackrock where he was Day boys' prefect under Fr Michael O'Connor, and did his studies for the priesthood at the Castle. Ordained in 1932 he was appointed the following year to Kenya where he was to serve for the next forty-six years with total dedication. Most of that time was spent among the Wakamba tribe. He mastered Kiswahili, the lingua franca of East Africa, and Kilamba - the language of the Wakamba. He worked for eleven years in a school. Then he was asked by Bishop Heffernan to found a new mission at Kitui - an area removed over a hundred miles from Nairobi. All had to be begun. He built a church, a residence and a school, and from this centre he set up out-stations over a large district which is today the diocese of Kitui. Towards the end of his missionary life he built a new mission at Matuu in the diocese of Machakos where he continued to work full time as of old. His older brother, Fr Jim, came to help him at Matuu. Their pastoral approach differed, as did some aspects of their theology. Their fraternal disagreements became legendary, especially as the language used was not from the text books. Fr Paul accused Fr Jim of trying to make Irish Catholics of the Africans and, as Fr Jim still looked on Paul as 'junior', he did not take kindly to correction. He was overheard remarking during a heated debate: 'Paul, only for the reverence I have for our dear mother, I would call you a S.O.B!' Paul was also noted for his blunt unparliamentary language, put in most forceful style, but he never bore a grudge against anyone and few were known to bear a grudge against him. He was always a good host and a most sociable confrere. The people he served with such dedication begged the Bishop to allow him stay on when it was obvious that his health was failing; they promised to look after him well. It was realised, however, that it was only in Ireland could he receive the care he needed. He still remained a missionary in his retirement through his fidelity to the Mass and his private prayers. It was one of the touching sights of Kimmage to see himself and Fr Jim walking the paths together reciting the rosary. Fr Paul answered the Lord's final call on the Feast of the Epiphany - 6 January, 1988 and was buried in Kimmage. He was aged 82 years. *IPNI* No 68, April 1988; *RCA* 1988 166.

### **WHITNEY, Fr James Francis 1912-1967**



Born 29 June 1912 in Elphin, Co. Roscommon, with an address also at Drumlish, Co. Longford, Frank was a student at Blackrock, 1926-31. After his profession at Kimmage in 1932 he studied philosophy at Blackrock and prefected at St Mary's, Trinidad, 1934-36. Suffering from tuberculosis, he was sent to Montana, Switzerland, where he did his theology course and was ordained priest in 1939. Appointed to Kenya he was to spend much of his life at Mombasa where he was in charge of St Brendan's Guest House. He is remembered for his kindness and sense of humour in the fulfilment of his role as guest master. He went

almost everyday to the Cathedral Parish to be with Fr Tom McVicar in his illness, playing a game of chess or bridge with him. Frank was also gifted as a mechanic and nothing gave him more pleasure than getting his bag of tools to sort out some mechanical problem. He spent some time at Kabaa High School and at St Austin's, Nairobi, where his aunt Nancy served as a very competent matron at St Mary's College. Due to his continuing ill-health he spent much time in hospitals and sanatoria in South Africa, Ireland and Switzerland. We find him given as in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 1948-50, in Montana, Switzerland, 1955, and in Ballinasloe and Merlin Park hospitals in 1956. He spent a period at Kimmage and was on leave in Australia 1963-64. He died in Kenya 26 January 1967 aged 55 and was buried at Giriama. He was a relative of Fr Pat Whitney, founder of St Patrick's Missionary Society of Kiltegan. IPArch; *BCA* 1967 32.

#### **WILLMS, Fr John 1849-1914**



Born 22 March 1849 in Nideggan, Eifel, Germany, John followed his two brothers' example in entering the Congregation. His first appointment after ordination was to the college recently opened in Pittsburgh, USA, where he joined the teaching staff and later acted as bursar. He came to Ireland for reasons of health in 1884, residing mainly at Blackrock, but he also spent some time at Rockwell. Restored in health and having improved his fluency in English he returned to the United States where his main work from then on was the promotion of the Holy Childhood association. He travelled extensively and published its 'Annals' in English and German while also distributing versions for other ethnic groups in the States. Fr John Willms died after a brief illness 3 January 1914 aged 65. He was buried in the USA *BG* XXVII 516; XXVIII 79ff; *Rath* 48f; *SpWW* 217.

#### **WILSON, Bishop Bartholomew 1884-19387**



Born 22 May 1884 in Cobh, Co. Cork, Bartholomew came as a boarder to Rockwell in 1898. In 1900 he left school to enter the jewellery trade at Fermoy, but after four years he returned to Rockwell - this time to enter the Congregation. He did a further two year's study before going to France to do his novitiate. Professed in 1908 he did one year as prefect at Rockwell before resuming his studies in France. Ordained in 1913, he was appointed to the following year to accompany Fr Joseph Shanahan as he returned to Nigeria after his first holiday in eight years. When it was realised that Fr Wilson was suffering from a chest complaint he was advised to rest for a few months before setting out for Nigeria. Later he was transferred to the parish confided to the Congregation at Peasley Cross, St Helen's. Shortly after the outbreak of the Great War he volunteered as Military Chaplain and served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Division. One of his daring deeds was to bring in from 'No Man's Land' five wounded men - the last of them being shot off his back. He was awarded the Military Cross and recommended for the V.C. "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action" and was featured for this in the *London Gazette*. Eventually, he was wounded by a shell fragment and had to be invalided home. He served as Dean of discipline in Rockwell, 1918-19, and was Director of the juniorate at Blackrock, 1919-21. He was then reappointed to the missions but this time to East Africa. His talents as a missionary leader were soon recognised. He was named Religious superior in 1922 for members of the Congregation and appointed Vicar

Apostolic of Bagomoyo in 1924. Came 1933 this mission was entrusted to the Dutch province of the Congregation because of the increased number of Dutchmen. Bishop Wilson was then transferred to Sierra Leone in succession to Bishop John O'Gorman, who had retired through illness. Bishop Wilson's own health, which had suffered a serious set back after a case of accidental food poisoning in East Africa, soon found that the climate of Sierra Leone was too severe for him. He was ordered home by his doctors in 1936. His departure from the field of action for the last time was felt as a great loss; he had proved a good leader of men, a loveable confrere with the saving habit of looking on the bright and humorous side of life. He drew the best out of his fellow-workers with a ready tact that made him beloved of all. On retirement he resided as chaplain to the convent in Woodfort, Mallow. On Friday 28th October, 1938, the 25th anniversary of his ordination as priest, he died at the age of 54 years. Bishop Bartholomew Wilson was buried in Rockwell and Bishop Joseph Shanahan attended the funeral, that being his last visit to Rockwell before leaving for East Africa. *RCA* 1939 54ff; *BG* 39, 107.

**WINTERS, Br Mary Joseph (Christopher) 1894-1927**

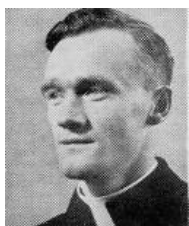
Born 19 December 1894 in Drogheda, Co. Louth, Christopher entered the Brothers' novitiate in Kimmage in 1919 and was professed in 1922. Being an excellent worker, a strong and competent farmer, as well as a good religious, it was expected that he would give great service to the community at Kimmage. Three years later, just when Br Berchmans was beginning his long career at Kimmage, it was noticed that Brother M. Joseph had become somewhat less dedicated to his work. He asked to be sent "on the missions." He was, in fact, sent to Trinidad in 1925, but soon after his arrival there he took ill and never recovered. After two years of suffering Br Mary Joseph Winters died of a haemorrhage 18th December 1927 aged 33 years. He was buried in Trinidad. *BG XXXIII* 611; *SpWW* 387

**WISSER, Br Engelbert (Theodor) 1839-1930**



Born 19 December 1839 in Luckenwald-Westerwald, Germany, Theodor had been apprenticed to a tailor before entering Marienstatt - the first house of the Congregation in Germany. He was professed in 1869 and, because of Bismarck's suppression of the houses of the Congregation in Germany, he came to Blackrock in 1873 where he and Br James were in charge of the tailoring department. When the German confreres began to work in the USA, Fr Strub, his former superior at Marienstatt, asked for Br Engelbert to be sent to the USA and it was there that he was to spend the rest of his long life. He served mostly at the college in Pittsburgh where he worked at his normal métier as tailor but also acted as infirmarian, porter etc. Fr Martin Hehir is reported as saying that Engelbert Wisser was the most perfect Brother he had known. He died 25 November 1930 aged 91 years. He was buried in the USA. *BG* 35, 262; *Rath* 290; *SpWW* 374

### **WOULFE, Fr Michael 1922-1995**



Born 14 July 1922 in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, Mick received his secondary education in Rockwell College (1935-38, 39-41) and in St Munchin's College 1938-39. He joined the Congregation in 1941 and made his first profession in 1942. He professed on the 'Burse' from 1943 to 1945. Ordained in 1950 Fr Mick was appointed to the Promotions team in Ireland in 1951. There his organising talent came to the fore. He had an ability to get people to work for the missions and, in the process, he formed relationships and friendships that were to last a life time. In 1959 he was appointed to Kenya where he served in the Archdiocese of Nairobi - first in Mbitini in Camba country, then in Ngara Riga near Limuru, then back to Nairobi to minister in the Cathedral parish and, later, as an administrator of the Catholic Bookshop located nearby. In 1962 he was sent by Archbishop J.J. McCarthy to the USA to raise funds for the diocese, in particular for the building of the Junior Seminary. Fr Michael engaged in fund raising in New York with an office in the Empire State building. After a very successful stint in fund raising he returned to pastoral work, this time in a parish and later as chaplain to the Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco. This was mainly a home for the old and disabled, many of whom were without friends or relatives to care for them. He used his organising ability in bettering their lot and in involving others to organise a day's outing for the patients and in dressing and preparing those confined to wheelchairs in order to enable them attend mass on Sundays. Fr Michael also served for a term as superior in the West Coast. In 1992 he was appointed chaplain to Marian House, Kimmage Manor where once again his kindness, goodness and caring approach of the elderly was evident to all. His sudden death 21 October 1995 came as a shock to all, especially those to whom he had been so close in Marian House. Fr Michael Woulfe was aged 73 years. His two brothers also joined the Congregation, Fr Con and Fr Richard, as did his two first cousins, Frs Patrick and Con Holly. They were all nephews of Con Colbert, the youngest of the executed 1916 leaders. *IPNI* No. 5 1995.

### **Woulfe, Father Richard Michael 1919-2003**

Richard was born at "The Pharmacy", New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1919. After his secondary school studies at Rockwell Juniorate he entered the Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1938. In 1944 he was awarded a B.A. in Philosophy from U.C.D. He professed at Blackrock College for the years 1939- '42. Richard was ordained to the Priesthood on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1947. He made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1948. After ordination to the priesthood he worked in the Gambia for nine years. He came to Kenya in 1960 and his first appointment was to Kilimambogo Teachers College where he taught for nine years. In 1969 he began work in Nairobi in the parishes of Makadara and Buruburu. During this time he worked primarily building good relations with Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. Among these people he was highly esteemed and made many friends. In 1999, he was appointed Chaplain to Nyumba ya Wazee Ruaraka (Little Sisters of the Poor) where he worked until 2001 after which he retired at the Holy Ghost Fathers house in Nairobi. He died after a very short illness at the Mater Hospital, Nairobi, on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2003. He is buried in St. Austin's Cemetery.

**ZIELENBACH, Fr Anthony 1855-1917**

Born 28 January 1855 in Wendershagen, Morchbach, Rhineland, Anthony entered the German juniorate of the Congregation at Marienstatt in 1871. Because of Bismarck's Kulturkampf, Anthony was transferred to Blackrock where he completed his secondary studies, 1872-4. He then went to Langonnet and later to Chevilly where he was ordained priest in 1878. The following year he was appointed to the USA where the displaced members of the German province were working among their compatriots. Fr Anthony worked for a period at the new Marienstatt centre in Arkansas as bursar and later as superior. In 1878 he was called on to serve at the newly opened High School at Pittsburgh. Later he worked at Millvale as pastor, 1891-98, and during this period he served as national director of the Holy Childhood association. In 1898 he was appointed provincial superior of the American province and set up the senior scholasticate at Cornwells Heights as part of Mgr Le Roy's strategy to develop separate provinces within the Congregation. In 1906 Fr Anthony was elected to the General Council to represent the USA and the revived province of Germany. Because of his fluency in English he was given charge of dealing with the correspondence from the heads of missions and provinces in the English-speaking areas of the Congregation. He resided in Paris till the outbreak of the war in 1914 when he returned to Germany. He taught in the senior seminary at Knechtsteden until his death from a heart attack 3rd October 1917. Fr Anthony Zielenbach was aged 62 years. He was buried in Knechtsteden. *BG*, 28, 283; *Rath*, 64f.; *BCA* 1962 195; *SpWW* 244



**ZIMMERMANN, Br Dismas (Modest) 1880-1967 424**

Born 16 September 1880 in Ernolsheim, Alsace, Modest was the third in a family of thirteen. When he was fifteen he wanted to join the Congregation but his father told him to wait till he knew his own mind better. He served as a waiter and head of catering in a hotel in Strasbourg for five years. At the age of twenty he entered the Brothers' novitiate at Knechtsteden where he was professed in 1902. He remained on as cook there till 1904 when he was transferred to Neufgrange. Then he did two years of military service with the Trier regiment of the German army. From 1909 to 1912 he served at the community in Fr Libermann's native town, Saverne. Then new novitiate and scholasticate founded in Kimmage called for a good cook. They got an excellent one in Br Dismas who arrived in 1912, staying on till 1916 when he was transferred to Blackrock. During the seventeen years he served there he organised the catering for two major Garden Parties namely, the one for the centenary of Catholic Emancipation in 1929 and the much larger one in 1932 during the Eucharistic Congress. In November, 1933 his services as cook were called for again in Kimmage when the Theology students transferred from the Castle. In 1940 he was to move from the kitchen to an outdoor function as *commissionaire*. His short active figure became well known from then on in the major shops and in banks in the city as he transacted his almost daily errands with a shrewd air of deceptive simplicity helped by his unmistakable Germanic version of English. Irish Christian names in the scholasticate caused him some trouble which he met with his customary directness. The three bearers of the name Barry were referred to as Fat Barry, Laughing Barry and Rosary Barry. He did not take easily to the walking saints so much admired by others. When Fr Bill O'Connor was directed by Archbishop McQuaid to make



preliminary enquiries into the reported sanctity of Br Gaspard O'Reilly under whom Dismas had served in Blackrock, the canonical process came unstuck with the first reply from Dismas: 'I no more believe in him than I do in G(K)earney!' That cut short the canonical process! At his Golden Jubilee his fellow countryman, Fr Charles Meyer, sang a newly composed song in German to the air of "the Meeting of the Waters". It was all in praise of Dismas' native place, and for those who did not know German they read the translation in Dismas' signs of delight. Dismas confined his replies to all the laudatory speeches to, "Dank you". He was a man of few words but these were very effective in putting over forward scholastics in their proper place. His passion was for order and economy as he measured out the rations from the well guarded store. At his Diamond Jubilee he managed to squeeze himself into the soutane he had worn on the day of his profession in 1902, and he rejoiced at the reception of a telegram from the Vatican. He served the Congregation long and well. Eventually he answered the Lord when he 'caught the waiter's eye' on 23 July 1967. Br Dismas Zimmermann was aged 86 years. He was buried in Kimmage. *Rath* 639; *BCA* 1967 37; *IPArch*.

**ZINDT, Fr Alphonse                      1873-1925**



Born 22 Dec. 1873 in Soultzbach, Alsace, Alphonse began his secondary studies at Cellule college in 1890 where he was a contemporary of Joseph Shanahan. Like Shanahan, he participated in the novitiate year extraordinary, 1896-7, when there were three official novitiates operating simultaneously in order to bring the Congregation in line with the demand from Rome that profession should precede advancement for major orders. Like Shanahan again, he participated in the experiment to set up a senior scholasticate in Ireland, 1898-1900, at Rockwell. After his ordination in Ireland in 1900 he was posted to CIC Trinidad. Though he disliked teaching, he obediently taught French and classics there for the rest of his active life as well as being choirmaster for the school. When his health gave cause for concern he retired to Langonnet where he died 19 April 1925 aged 51 years. He was buried in Knechtsteden *GenArch*; *BG* 32 208f; *SpWW* 317.



## Abbreviations

BC Blackrock College  
BCA Blackrock College Annual  
BC95 Blackrock College 1860-95  
MA Missionary Annals  
RC Rockwell College  
RCA Rockwell College Annual  
StMa St Mary's College, Rathmines  
StMaA St Mary's College Annual  
StMaC St Mary's College History  
CIC College of the Immaculate Conception, Trinidad.  
B. *Notice Biographique* 1907  
P Portrait  
T Team  
Grp Group  
Ord-grp Ordination group  
IPArch-P Irish Provincial Archives