



Father Jeremiah McCARTHY
(1913 - 1997)

*Died 16 August 1997, in Liverpool (England)
aged 83, with 62 years of Religious Profession.*

Jeremiah McCarthy was born in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, in Ireland on 23rd November 1913. At about the age of 10 he moved with the rest of his family to Liverpool, England, where his father was a licensed victualler. His secondary studies were undertaken at St. Edward's College, Liverpool, and Montfort College, Romsey. He entered the novitiate in Celles-sur-Belle, France, in 1933, and there made his first religious profession on 8th September 1934. He studied philosophy and theology at Montfort-sur-Meu (with one year's break teaching at Montfort College, Romsey) until after his perpetual profession in 1939. Along with all the other English and Irish scholastics, he had to leave France in 1940 as the German forces approached. It was thus that he was ordained priest at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, England, on 29th March 1941.

The first six years of his priestly ministry were devoted to teaching at the Junior Seminary, Montfort College, in Romsey, until, in 1947, he left for Malawi, where he spent just over a year teaching at the Child Jesus Seminary, Nankhunda. Ill health, however, forced his return to England in 1949, when he returned to Montfort College, Romsey, to continue his teaching.

In 1954 Father McCarthy was appointed to the novitiate in Totton, to be local bursar, and also Novice Master for the lay brothers. He remained there until 1957, when he was transferred to St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, where again he was local bursar as well as teaching Church History. He also looked after the nearby parish of Craven Arms for a few years while stationed at Church Stretton.

After a year spent working in St. Brendan's parish in Liverpool, Fr. McCarthy returned, in 1967, to Montfort College, Romsey, where he spent another nine years teaching. Ill-health dogged him, however, and in 1976, he was posted to Montfort House, Liverpool. There, despite his health, he continued to give service for many years as a chaplain to one of the local convents. When bad circulation in his legs forced the amputation of one of them, he began to see his apostolate as more and more one of prayer for the Province and for those in need, an apostolate to which he was faithfully committed to the end, especially during the last few years when he had been unable to get out.

His death came rather suddenly, on 16th August 1997, after he was admitted to hospital with an aneurysm. He will be missed by his confreres especially for his dedication to prayer and astonishing ability to remember long poems by heart.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE