



Father Donald MACDONALD
(1934-2001)

*Died 23 November 2001, in Stirling (Scotland)
aged 67, with 46 years of Religious Profession.*

Donald Miles Macdonald was born on 2 November 1934 in Caterham, Surrey, England, where his father, a civil servant, was at that time stationed, but he grew up in Scotland, where he received his primary education and began his secondary schooling. In 1949 he entered Montfort College, the Junior Seminary of the Company of Mary in Romsey, and in 1954 went on from there to the Novitiate in Ashurst, where he made his first profession on 8 September 1955. There followed the usual 6 years of philosophy and theology at St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, where he was ordained to the priesthood on 25 February 1961.

After a pastoral year spent in the Montfort Mission house in Leeds, his first few years of priesthood were divided between teaching Scripture in the scholasticate, and studying for a Teacher's Certificate. Then in 1968 he was appointed Novice-Master in Ashurst, a post he held for a year. This experience was to serve him in good stead ten years later in India, but in the meantime he began what was to be his life's major work, the preaching of missions and retreats around Great Britain, based first of all in Ashurst, then later in Leeds. His great love was the Letters of St Paul, and these moulded his thinking and his style throughout his life. In 1972 or thereabouts, he began writing articles for various Catholic reviews, beginning with the Irish review, "The Furrow", but later including the "Catholic Gazette", "Maria Legionis", "The Messenger of the Sacred Heart", "Adoremus" (the review of the Priest's Eucharistic League), "Mount Carmel", "Intercom", "Queen of All Hearts" (the American Montfortian review), and "Review for Religious" (the Jesuit review published in St. Louis, Missouri). Through these writings he became known to many people, especially Religious, around the world.

In 1979, he was requested to go to help with a new foundation of the Company of Mary in India. He served as Novice-Master there for three years before returning to England to take up once again his ministry as a retreat and mission preacher, first in Highgate, London, and later in Todmorden, where the Province had taken charge of a parish. He was to be Novice-Master once again in the service of the wider Congregation, when, in 1994, he went to the Philippines and spent some years there. In both India and in the Philippines his contribution had a defining effect on the young religious of the Company of Mary. The result of his stay is still evident in both places today, and is not only shown in the love and respect which they have for him as a person and one who influenced their religious life, but also in the consecrated lives of so many excellent young men who are part of these general delegations.

The last few years of his life were spent in Barrhead, Scotland, where he was Superior, as well as being a valued member of the Provincial Council. His rather sudden death deprives the Province of one who was a real inspiration to all by his life and his sincerity.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE