



**Fr. Ronald Austin LLOYD**  
**(1919-1999)**

*Died in Bay Shore (USA) on 31 October 1999,  
aged 80, with 61 years of Religious Profession.*

Fr. Ronnie Lloyd was born in Wigan, Lancashire, England, on 28 May 1919. His parents were not Catholic, though they later converted to the Catholic faith. Ronnie himself became a Catholic at the age of 10 (by his own choice, even before his mother's conversion), when he was baptised conditionally at St Agnes's church, Huyton, near Liverpool, and confirmed just six days later. Shortly afterwards, he began his secondary studies at the Jesuit school, St Francis Xavier's College, in Liverpool. After five years there, he completed his secondary education at Montfort College, Romsey, then entered the noviciate of the Company of Mary at Celles-sur-Belle in France, where he made his first profession on 8 September 1938. He began his studies in philosophy at Chézelles, then theology at Montfort-sur-Meu; but, along with all the other English students there, had to return to England in 1940, and there he completed his theological studies, and was ordained priest at St Mary's church, Chipping (where the English scholasticate was in those days) on 24 October 1943.

His first appointment after his ordination was to the Provincial House and Noviciate at Totton, where he became editor of the Montfortian magazine, "Queen and Mother", a post he held for five years. He was then appointed, in 1949, to the new mission house in Leeds, where he spent six years as superior of the community (1949-1955). His next appointment was to Montfort House, Liverpool, as a member of the mission team, and he remained there, giving parish missions and retreats, until February 1959.

At that moment a whole new phase in his life began, in one sense, for he was then sent to the United States to help the American Province in its itinerant mission apostolate. Yet, in another sense, it was just a continuation of the dedicated mission work which he had begun in England. He remained in the United States for the rest of his life, returning only occasionally for holidays and visits to his family, and was much appreciated by the confreres there, as he had been by those in England, where he was remembered as a very kind man, with always a good word for people.

He was always a mission preacher and a good orator, with a strong voice, an infectious sense of humour, a fund of stories, and a tremendous love of St. Louis Marie and Our Blessed Lady. His soft but enduring Lancashire accent was heard in many places as he travelled about from Ozone Park, New York (1959-1963); St. Louis, Missouri; Dighton, Massachusetts; and finally Litchfield, Connecticut, where he lived from the early 70s until 1996. Even when, as he grew older, he had to reduce his preaching engagements, he would spend hours sitting under a tree, hearing confessions for the many pilgrims coming to the shrine of "Lourdes in Litchfield" - he was affectionately known to many simply as "the priest under the tree".

His last two and a half years were spent at Bay Shore, marked by increasing short-term memory loss; but he remained cheerful and devoted. Congestive heart-failure finally hospitalised him, and after seeming to rally (to the surprise of everyone), he went to meet his Lord in the afternoon of the Eve of All Saints.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**