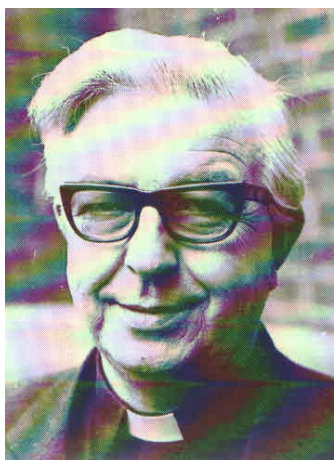


June 16

Fr LACHLAN HUGHES

18 January 1925 – 16 June 1985



Born in Glasgow, Lachie grew up close to the Jesuits. His brother Jim joined the White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa) but followed Lachie into the Jesuits after ordination. Lachie tells his own story and remembers how, 'I developed early the skill of asking radical questions which would devastate a class.' But, seemingly, having dropped his bomb, he would then lose interest.

He entered the Society in 1942 and was appointed to Africa where he arrived (St Aidan's) in 1951. He was touched by the great welcome he received at St John's Beaumont in the term before sailing. He reflected enigmatically, 'Jesuits were probably never doing less damage than when engaged in teaching'.

After ordination, he was sent to Rome to prepare to teach dogma at the seminary in Chishawasha but before he could get there, he had an accident and 'smashed his right leg imaginatively and comprehensively.' This delayed him for a year and when he got to Rome, he found he had been switched from dogma to Canon Law. He did his doctorate and passed *summa cum laude*.

While at the seminary he was chosen to represent the mission at GC31. On his return, he gradually became involved in many cases requiring canon law judgements and developed a practical and helpful approach that was much appreciated. In 1971 he moved to South Africa to help with *Fons Vitae*, which was set up to help religious congregations to update themselves after Vatican II.

In 1974, Lachie returned to Britain and for the next ten years continued his work with religious congregations. Based at Farm St in London, his work took him all over the country. In 1981 he had a major heart attack and stroke but recovered sufficiently to continue his work at a reduced level. After his death one congregation wrote in to say, 'he has been a staunch friend and wise adviser for almost ten years and we will miss him sorely. The depth and quality of his spirituality, his great common sense, his humour and the infinite pains to took to help our Chapter and our revision of the Constitutions won him the affection and respect of our sisters everywhere.'