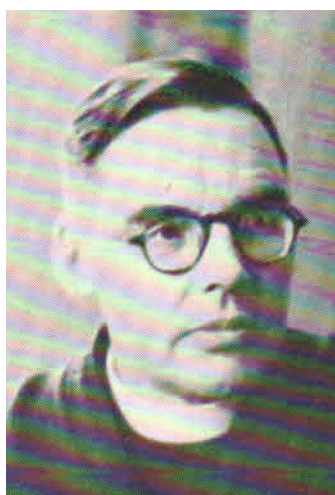


June 29

Fr LESLIE PIPER

16 February 1905 – 29 June 1974



Leslie Piper somehow acquired the name Peter. He was born into an Anglican family in Fordingbridge, Hants, England and was one of four friends at Mirfield Anglican College who wanted to go for the Anglican ministry but veered towards Rome. One of them joined Quarr Abbey and Peter toyed with idea of following him into Benedictine life. The death of his father meant responsibility for the family devolved on him and he became an accountant and, when war came, joined the army. Feeling free after the war and following contacts he had made with Jesuits during it, he joined the

Society in 1946. He was 41. Bernard Leeming was the renowned novice master who fielded a huge intake made up of a variety of characters and ages when hostilities ceased.

Peter was fast-tracked and was ordained in 1952. In 1954 he went as minister to St George's and did the same task at Campion House a year later. He was not happy at St George's as he was more pastorally inclined but got on well with the domestic staff who appreciated his interest and warm sense of humour. He had quite a ministry at the Cathedral instructing converts from Anglicanism.

But he was only three years in Africa and was recalled to become minister at Farm St, London, where Br Banfield remembers him as 'worried and depressed by the state of the world'. But he was a wise counsellor and had enormous experience not only of 'the world' but of a sister communion. In 1961 he was asked to be socius to the Novice Master, Frank Roberts, and oversaw the moves, first to Harlaxton and then to Woodhall (Edinburgh). Frank found him wonderful. 'He had gifts I lacked.' He was interested, as a former Anglican, in all that was coming out of the Vatican Council, especially in the liturgy.

But he overstretched himself – especially in the move from Manresa where everything had to be disposed of. Frank said 'he (Piper) felt deeply the *malaise* in the Church and in the Society' and this caused him 'deep depression'. In 1966 he moved to Hodder, the prep school for Stonyhurst, where he was remembered as a wise father figure. He then moved to Preston and finally Lauriston (Edinburgh) where he kept up doing what he could, punctually and willingly, to the end.