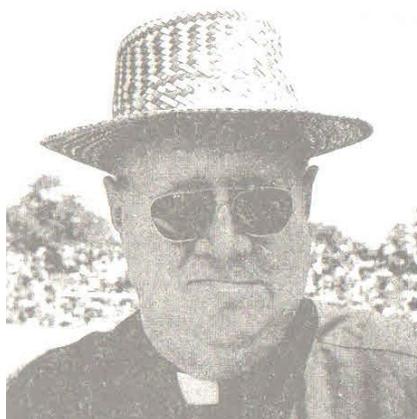


13 July

Fr ANTHONY O'FLYNN 12 October 1915 – 13 July 1992



'Tones', as those of us who studied Shona tones with him at Prestage House, used to call this tall solidly built man – the seminarians called him *The Gentle Giant* - from New Orleans, via Rome, came to teach Moral Theology and Canon Law at the seminary in 1972. He taught other courses too as required, in philosophy and theology, and was always available to advise bishops, facilitate assemblies, chapters and meetings of religious. He was a popular spiritual director and retreat giver and was always ready to give talks and lectures. He never went on leave and only left the country, in 1988, when his eyes began to fail.

He joined the Society in 1935 and was ordained in 1946. He taught at Dallas, Loyola U and the Gregorian in Rome before volunteering for Africa. He is remembered as a colourful character who always wore his Roman soutane with his hands sometimes in his belt in the manner of a cowboy about to draw. Everyone who knew him has their story. Dominic Mkusha was a seminarian at the time and delighted in his language. When he disagreed with Dominic's opinion, he said, 'I don't buy that'. Common enough usage now but fresh at the time. Dick Randolph used to take him out for a meal occasionally and once, after Tones had demolished a large steak, Dick asked him what he would like next. Tones replied, 'I think I'd like another.'

Brian Enright remembers him as a popular chairman as he would announce at the beginning the closing time of the meeting. When that moment arrived, even though someone was in full flow, Tones would intervene, 'Time's up.' Brian also remembers Tones gleefully exposing some of the more excessive expressions of casuistry in his subject, 'Tell me the answer you want and I'll provide the reasons for supporting it.' Peter Edmonds recalls how he would hold court daily on the balcony of the staff wing at the seminary. There, Tones would delight in conversation about things serious or comic. He never seemed in any hurry to go anywhere. He was just there, a dependable presence.

On his return to his home province, he was still able to teach a few courses and Br Evaristo Mapuranga was one of his students. Evaristo was most caring of him when Tones was diagnosed with lung cancer and a brain tumour and was there at his death. Fr Kizito Mhembere, on behalf of the bishops, wrote to the

provincial, 'his extended and conscientious ministry to seminarians left a lasting and noble mark upon the priesthood of our country.'

In the photo at the seminary above in the early 1970s he is third from the left in the front row after the sisters.



Peter Edmonds adds: as superior of the Jesuit community, he brought stability in the uncertain times of the war, and on a more eirenic note, was a popular retreat giver for Religious, specializing in the Letter to the Romans.