

2 September

Fr FRANCIS PRESTON 17 April 1903 – 2 September 1979



Frank followed his brother Herbert (Bert) into the Society in 1920. They grew up near St Ignatius, Stamford Hill, and went to school there. He was noted for his 'cheery, happy disposition' and was 'bustling with energy'. As a regent he taught at Hodder, the preparatory school for Stonyhurst, for six years. He seemed in no hurry to move on and made himself somehow indispensable. He won the respect of the parents and when there was a difficult case of a physically disabled boy having to be sent home because he could not cope, Frank was asked to do the difficult task

He was ordained in 1936 and went to St George's in 1938. He was 21 years at the college with some years in the middle at Campion House where his hospital visiting was appreciated, especially in the children's ward. He had a great tenor voice and was a member of the choir wherever he was. He was part of Br Connors' choir tour of the Federation in 1957

He was said to have full control of the classes he taught and never had to order punishments. His piercing look was enough to restore order.

He suffered from ulcers and had an operation in Cape Town in 1948 and ended up with only one ninth of his stomach. He spoke of a dream as he entered the operating theatre, where he saw Edmund Campion who said 'I did not have all the prayers you have received when I was cut'.