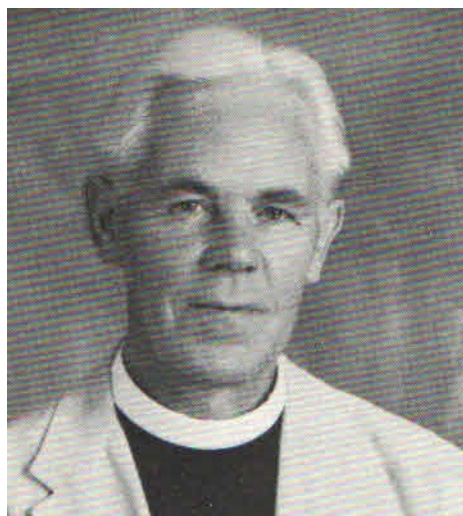


21 December

Fr WILLIAM ERDOZAIN 4 July 1910 – 21 December 1975



Bill Erdozain's parents were Spanish and he was born in Mexico. The family moved to England and Bill was educated at Preston Jesuit College. He entered the Society in 1928 and did a BA at London University and went on to teach at Beaumont for three years. Ordained in 1944, he moved to St George's in Salisbury in 1947. Chris Farwell called him 'a born teacher' and added Bill took trouble to enter into the minds of the young. He knew how to get the best out of the clever - and the dull. He had a

great desire to serve and his courtesy and impeccable manners were noticeable.

From his early years he suffered from debilitating arthritis and he was in constant pain as he taught. Before reaching Rhodesia, he spent some months in Khartoum teaching as it was hoped this would help him. It was not a permanent solution and the relatively dry climate of Rhodesia was tried instead. The senior boys saw how he was suffering but the young ones had no idea. Despite this burden he had a quick and easy wit.

He ran the photographic society in the college and produced one remarkable photo which was often used.

He was the first chaplain of the new St Michael's and was great help to the sisters when they were starting the school.

In 1956 he went to New York as there was a renowned doctor there. He joined the teaching staff at Fordham but no great cure emerged. He returned to Africa and went to the Seminary to teach dogma and metaphysics and he promoted the pastoral reforms of Vatican II. A seminarian later wrote, 'it was apparent from his swollen, distorted joints and unsteady gait how old and suffering he was' though he always dressed smartly and looked younger than he was.

His last task was as the Superior Regular's secretary at Garnet House. Towards the end, his physical deterioration was coupled with a mental one.