

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Louis Michael O'Halloran OP, RIP

Dominican priest Louis Michael O'Halloran died in Glendonagh Nursing Home, Dungowney, Midleton, Co Cork yesterday morning.

Louis, known in the Order as Lou or indeed, 'The Lou' was born in Cork in 1925, joined the Irish Dominicans in 1950 and was ordained a priest in July 1956.

He went to the famous CBS North Monastery secondary school. In his young days he was a keen tennis player. His parents owned and ran a general grocery shop on the Commons Road in Cork city.

Before coming to the Dominicans he studied engineering at University College Cork, graduating with a degree from the National University of Ireland.

After priestly ordination he did further studies, obtaining his Higher Diploma in Education, subsequently spending sometime teaching mathematics at Newbridge College in Co Kildare.

He also taught mathematics at the then Dominican-run Holy Cross College in Trinidad. He is remembered as a no-nonsense teacher.

Lou was teaching in Holy Cross during the emergence of the Black Power movement and on one occasion spoke critically of the behaviour of a number of students, which did not endear him to those involved in the new political development.

While in Trinidad among the many practical jobs he did was to label all the cabling, sockets, fuses and terminals at Holy Cross Priory, which over the years proved most helpful especially later when extensions or modifications were made to the building.

After Trinidad Fr O'Halloran moved to the United States of America where he worked as a prison chaplain and also ministered in parishes in California.

While spending many years outside his native Ireland he was to his core a Cork man and so proud of it.

In 2014 he returned to his beloved Cork and was living at the Dominican Priory, Ennismore, Montenote, Cork until he moved to the nursing home in Midleton.

May he rest in peace.