

Fr. William Francis HOGAN 79 USA

\* March 18, 1913, Philadelphia

\* August 14, 1992, Philadelphia

The world's most disastrous influenza epidemic in 1918 reduced him and his brother Cornelius to orphans when both parents died the same day of that affliction. Their uncle Edward and his wife accepted the boys into their own family, which included their son, Edward.

Bill followed his brother Con as a High School and Junior College student at Cornwells, 1927-1933. He made his profession in Ridgefield, CT, July 31, 1934 and then went to Ferndale to continue his studies. Bp. Joseph Byrne ordained him there June 15, 1939.

In Ferndale he earned good grades, but the way he performed his work assignments drew attention because it was invariably perfect. In addition, he was full of original ideas for executing assigned tasks and knew how to put them into practice. In short, he had everything needed to become a very successful businessman, but his keen interest in all that pertained to the Congregation made him subordinate his talents to its service.

Unsurprisingly, his first assignment in 1940 took him to Duquesne University to take charge of the purchasing department. He performed so well in that capacity that he earned the highest praise from the school's President for his efficiency during the difficult war years and, thereafter, the era of massive influx of former G.I.'s into education. He himself had also become a Navy Chaplain, but saw service only in the USA and in a Puerto Rico Navy Hospital (1945-46).

An incident in his brief Navy service may illustrate the way he handled a delicate situation. One day his commanding officer gave him an order which, as a priest, he could not obey in good conscience. When he declined to do so, the Captain called him in and told him to comply at once. Lowly Lieutenant Hogan replied: "I will reserve compliance, respectfully, until I get approval from Admiral Kelly, Chaplain of the

Naval District.” Being a prudent man, only two years away from retirement and a full pension, the Captain saw no benefit in having an annotation on his record stating that interference from an Admiral had been needed to make him change an unreasonable command; so, he quickly rescinded that order.

In 1954 he was assigned to St. Emma Military Academy, Powhatan, VA, where he served for three years, and then to the Provincial Office in Washington, DC, as director of promotion.

By 1959 we find him back at Duquesne as community bursar and director of purchasing. Once again, he earned the highest praise for his “dedication, devotion, zeal, tireless hours of labor, integrity and expertise,” as we read in a letter from Fr. Henry McAnulty, University President, on the occasion of his departure in 1971. He had served Duquesne for 24 years. His second stay had been during the years when the University went through a huge development of its campus with all the purchasing that new buildings entail.

Transferred to Philadelphia, he served another twenty years as associate to Fr. Francis Duffy, Director of St. Joseph’s House. He became greatly appreciated there for the advice he was able to give those teenagers. Little children, too, were fascinated by him and the tricks he could do. He used his spare time to show his concern for old people, especially housebound Sisters who needed his priestly service.

Having celebrated the Golden Anniversary of his ordination in 1989, he retired in failing health to Spiritan Hall, Cornwells, in May 1992. A few months later, he died of congestive heart failure.

Interment took place in the Cornwells community cemetery.