



In Memory of Our Founding Supervisor

Fr. Peter Alphonsus Reilly, M.M.
(15 July, 1912 - 19 June, 1994)

神父賴存忠 校監



Father Peter A. Reilly, M.M. was the founding supervisor of Maryknoll Fathers' School. Fr. Reilly was ordained to the Priesthood in 1940 and deployed to Kwangsi, South China soon after. Of his twelve years of services on the war-torn mainland, he witnessed the plights of millions of destitute Chinese who lacked the necessities to life. The times and circumstances shrieked for service and generosity of self. Fr. Reilly immersed himself in service to others and played that role of service to others. In the wake of the war, hundreds of thousands of refugees were forced to relocate to Hong Kong, including Fr. Reilly.

Fr. Reilly served the Kowloontsai parish as a missionary in 1952, where people were living in a jungle of wooden huts. Negotiating with the local authorities, Fr. Reilly opened a welfare centre with parochial facilities, one of the first in Hong Kong. He worked tirelessly to serve the parish: He advocated manufacturing opportunities for the locals, launched domestic businesses, and recommended workers to public and private services. He also took care of their medical and public health needs from settling medical bills for the ill to performing memorial ceremonies for the deceased.

Fr. Reilly's most notable work was establishing and managing schools in the then newly developed resettlement areas, including the Maryknoll Fathers' School. In the refugee-filled area of Kowloontsai, he and the catechists turned the welfare centre into a primary school of six classes. The school provided invaluable education opportunities to students at a very low cost. Over the years, Maryknoll Fathers' School has turned into a reputable government subsidised primary-secondary, co-educational school in Hong Kong. With the help of the first principal, Mrs. Tong Yu Sheung Woon, faculty, and staff, Fr. Reilly's educational efforts have enabled countless graduates to prepare themselves for life in Hong Kong and overseas. He also planned an advisory board for all the schools under the Maryknoll jurisdiction, which oversaw more than 26,000 students at one point.

Fr. Reilly was suffering from arterial problems in the last years of his life. He bid farewell to this world on 19 June 1994 at St. Teresa's Hospital in Kowloon. We at Maryknoll Fathers' School and all whose lives are influenced by Fr. Reilly in one way or another will always remember him with gratitude and affection.