

## APRIL 28, 2005 Fr Leo Conlon, CM



**Leo Bernard Conlon** was born in Williamstown, Victoria on 1 May 1920. He attended St Therese's School, Essendon for his primary education, and pursued his secondary schooling at Christian Brothers' College North Melbourne, and Christian Brothers' College, Toorak. He joined the Vincentian community on 19 March 1938, and was ordained to the Priesthood at St Patrick's College, Manly on 7 December 1944.

Leo exercised a wide-ranging ministry during his sixty years of priesthood. During those years he ministered in the Parishes of Malvern (Vic), Wandal (Qld), Marsfield and Ashfield (NSW), and Kwinana (WA). He taught at St Francis Xavier Seminary, Rostrevor, South Australia, and during that time began studies in Latin, Greek, English and European History at Adelaide University. These were interrupted by his transfer to St Vincent's College, Bendigo, Victoria, in 1955 where he taught for five years. He was the Spiritual Director at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, New Zealand, and at St Joseph's Seminary, Eastwood in Sydney. He was the Provincial Bursar for a number of years and the Director of the Daughters of Charity for five years, before retiring to Malvern because of ill health.

Towards the end of 2004 Leo sent this email to his confreres:

*"Dear Confreres. There is some information that I want to share with you on a personal level rather than have you learn it from externs. Briefly, after a period of tests, the specialists have confirmed a cancer on the oesophagus, for which there will be no treatment. Surgery for this is so severe I would not survive, Chemo, likewise, would be so severe that the after-effects would not be worth it. As it would not cure the cancer – only prolong it – the cancer is malignant and could have been present for 6-12 months – the life expectancy is for 12-15 months more. There you have it. In three weeks time, the specialist will insert a stent in the oesophagus to enable food to pass through. Please share this with absent confreres. Many thanks. Don't cry for me Argentina! Be joyful in the Lord.*

*Leo Conlon"*

Leo was able to celebrate with confreres, friends and parishioners of Malvern his Diamond Jubilee of priesthood in December of 2004. He died peacefully at 3.35 am on the morning of 28 April at Cabrini, Prahran.

Leo was farewelled and commended to God at a Vigil service at St Joseph's Church, Malvern on Tuesday evening, 3 May, and at the Mass of Christian Burial, the following morning, Wednesday 4 May, also at St Joseph's, Malvern.

Leo's kindness, gentleness, good humour and care for all enriched those who came in contact with him, and he will be greatly missed by his confreres, Daughters of Charity and his many friends.