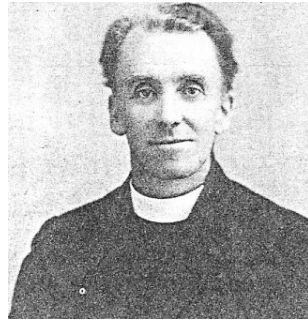


## **MAY 25, 1953 Fr. Richard Macken, CM**



In 1953, at Ashfield, the death of Fr Richard Macken, second Visitor of the Australian Province. He was born in County Meath, Ireland, and entered Blackrock seminary at the age of 18. He was ordained in 1906. Occupied in various works of the Irish Province as a teacher, bursar and a very successful missionary, he was appointed to Australia in 1921 as a member of the mission staff. He was then made Superior and Parish Priest of Ashfield and it was during his term of office there that he became Visitor on the death of Fr Maurice O'Reilly in 1933. He remained Visitor till the beginning of 1946 when he was succeeded by Fr Nicholas Rossiter. During Fr Macken's term as Visitor new houses were established at Mosgiel, New Zealand, and St Leo's College in Brisbane. He was Director also of the Daughters of Charity for 20 years, during which period they made many new foundations and extended their seminary accommodation at Eastwood. Fr Macken was a very holy man, and he had an extraordinary influence for good over people and especially priests. His secular clergy retreats and days of recollection reminded many of what they thought St Vincent must have been like in simplicity, humility and holiness. For many years he was threatened with a crippling bone disease which he held at bay right to the end of his life by riding a bicycle. Some believe he had a premonition of his death; for the last 5 months of his life he spent hours each night in the chapel. Six days before he died, he anointed Fr John Hall and sat by him till he died. He had a stroke himself that same night, but waited till the rising bell before telling the nearest confrere. "I'll soon follow Fr John", he said.

*("Vincentian Journal")*