

Fr. Stephan McCabe, C.Ss.R.

At 6.40am Irish time on the morning of Monday 27th October 2014, at the Cura d'Ars Hospital in Fortaleza, Brazil, Father Stephen McCabe breathed his last. His confrere, Fr. Albert McGettrick, also a Dubliner who was ordained with Stephen, was at his bedside when he died.

Stephen was born in Dublin on the 14th August 1951. In 1969 he entered the Redemptorist Novitiate in Esker, Co. Galway and was professed on the 1st September 1970 after which he followed the prescribed philosophy and theology courses in preparation for ordination, first in Galway and then in Dublin.

From 1975 to 1977 Stephen spent his two year pastoral experience in Brazil. On returning to Ireland in 1977 he complete his theological studies and on the 3rd June 1978 was ordained a priest.

He returned to Brazil in 1979 where his first assignment was to Teresina where he spent many years including some as Parish Priest. He also worked in poor districts of Fortaleza, both these cities are in the north east of Brazil. In more recent years he worked in Paraiso do Tocantins (northern region of Brazil) and in Nazária (a town near Teresina). His last assignment was in the Interprovincial Noviciate in Campina Grande, north-eastern Brazil where, just a year ago, he was diagnosed with cerebral cancer. This illness he suffered with great patience and admirable courage.

Fr McCabe was a man of profound faith and an intense spiritual life among which traits were noted: his spirit of prayer, his fervent priestly ministry, his beautiful witness of a simple and austere life, his total understanding of the gospel message, his great dedication to his religious confreres, his sincere welcome and respect for the poor, his constant smile and jovial manner, his serenity, peacefulness and friendly manner of being as well as his dedication to study and work.

He was a great musician and many Redemptorist feasts and liturgies were animated by his accordion or organ playing.

Funeral arrangements in Brazil are different to those in Ireland and are: Stephen's remains were brought to São Raimundo church at noon on Monday and his Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, 28th October, at 9.00am with burial afterwards in the Parque da Paz cemetery - all times local to Fortaleza.

A Mass to celebrate Stephen's life will be said on Sunday, 30th November at 3.00 p.m. in Redemptorist Chapel, Marianella, 75 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

R I P.