

Limerick mourns beloved Bishop

The death occurred yesterday at the early age of 61 of the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Henry Murphy, one of Ireland's leading educationalists and churchmen, and a very highly esteemed member of the Irish hierarchy.

He suffered a heart attack a week ago (his second in some years) and he had been making good progress at the Milford House Convalescent Home, Limerick, when he took a turn for the worse and died.

A native of Ardpatrik, Co. Limerick, he was educated at Ardpatrik N.S., Christian Brothers, Charleville, and St. Munchin's College, Limerick.

He was ordained at Maynooth in 1936 and then entered the Dunboyne Establishment where he obtained his doctorate of divinity.

He joined the teaching staff of St. Munchin's College, where he specialised in science and taught for a number of years. He was chaplain of the Immaculate Training College and a lecturer in medical ethics to the Medical Guild of Saints Luke, Cosmas and Damian. He was also prominent in the Christus Rex Society.

Dr. Murphy was consecrated Bishop of Limerick in St. John's Cathedral, on August 31, 1958, and since then established himself as an outstanding leader in the educational and pastoral fields. For some years he acted as secretary to the Irish hierarchy.

MANY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Murphy, who resided at Kilmoyle House, Ennis Road, will be remembered by his flock in the Limerick diocese for such achievements as the building of the new St. Munchin's diocesan college at Corbally; the founding of the Limerick Social Service centre; and the creation of a series of new parishes in the rapidly expanding city in recent years.

Above all Dr. Murphy was renowned for his valuable contribution to the welfare of the city in the educational sphere. He was prominently connected with the campaign to have a university in the third city of the Republic and went on a number of deputations to Dublin with the Limerick University Project Committee. This struggle culminated in the opening of the new National Institution for Higher Education at Plassy over a year ago.

Dr. Murphy is survived by his three brothers, Messrs. Patrick, Michael and Gerard Murphy and sister, Mrs. Mary Quilty, Ardpatrik.

TRIBUTES

Among the earliest callers to Milford House to tender their sympathy, were the Mayor of Limerick, Ald. Michael Lipper, and Mr. T. F. McDermot, Limerick city manager.

People in Limerick city and county were shocked by the sad news. Cllr. J. P. Liddy leader of the Fianna Fail party on the city council recalled that when he was mayor in 1958, he was honoured to be one of only two lay speakers at the consecration of Dr. Murphy as Bishop of Limerick.

"Dr. Murphy was a great leader and a tremendous social reformer. He will be a big loss to the people of the diocese. He was a man with very great ideals, and did a great deal of work not alone in the educational and social fields, but also for church unity."

OUTSTANDING

Right Rev. Mgr. P. J. Lee, V.G., P.P., St. Mary's, described Dr. Murphy as "one of the outstanding bishops of his time"

"Dr. Murphy was a tireless worker and was involved in every section of the community. He is a great loss to the citizens of all classes and creeds. The Limerick Social Service Centre is a lasting memorial of his great work. His unceasing efforts in the educational and ecumenical spheres were renowned."

Senator G. E. Russell, said that apart from the late Bishop Murphy's tireless work in church matters, he was to the forefront of every movement for the advancement of the city, even in matters that did not come within his role as bishop. Senator Russell said that perhaps Bishop Murphy's most striking characteristic was his great humanity and his concern for the poor and underprivileged sections of the community.

He said Bishop Murphy was in no way controversial, and this was one of his greatest strengths because he suited the temperament of the people of his diocese and received the full co-operation and goodwill of all sections of the community.

UNASSUMING

A telegram from Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly, said: "Deepest sympathy to the priests and



people of Limerick on the death of their beloved bishop after all too short years in his untiring and unassuming service to the diocese and the Irish hierarchy."

ACTION NOT WORDS

Rev. Donal Giltinan, Director of the Limerick Social Service Centre, founded by the late Bishop in 1965, in a tribute said: "His Lordship's physical presence and support are going to be sadly missed in the Centre's work in future, but we know that his spiritual presence will always remain with us. One of his greatest characteristics was his concern for the disadvantaged citizens of our community, and he showed action rather than words by his setting up of this Centre."

Ald. Stephen Coughlan T.D., said that his first association with Dr. Murphy was in the early thirties when he was a classmate of his in St. Munchin's College. "At that time we all recognised his ability and it came as no surprise when he was appointed Bishop of Limerick. He has left memorials in the diocese by the setting up of the Social Service Centre, the building of the new St. Munchin's Diocesan College, the building of new schools and churches and his initiation of the proposed building of the £1 million Bawnmore

Centre for mentally handicapped by the Brothers of Charity.

"He is a great personal loss to me as he was always available for advice and counsel when I sought it," said Ald Coughlan.

Mrs. Margaret Lyddy, Secretary of the Limerick University Project Committee, and a member of the Planning Board of the new National Institute for Higher Education, paid a glowing tribute to the late Bishop for his outstanding work in the field of higher education. She said he was of tremendous assistance in the long struggle for higher education especially at a crucial period in the negotiations.

MAYOR SHOCKED

The Mayor of Limerick Ald. Michael Lipper in a statement of condolence said: "It is with deep shock and a sense of loss that I heard of the death of Most Rev. Henry Murphy, Bishop of Limerick. I know I speak for all the citizens of Limerick when I say we have lost a close and personal friend. The warmth and humanity of Dr. Murphy's personality were most clearly evident when he was dealing with human problems of which he was most keenly aware.

"He established the Limerick Social Service Centre with a view to co-ordinating the work of the statutory bodies and many voluntary organisations in the diocese caring for the old and the lonely, the sick and the poverty-stricken and those with countless other problems.

"Dr. Murphy worked in the closest co-operation with Limerick Corporation in providing churches and schools for the people in the city's new housing estates and never spared himself in the service of his people.

"A most humble and approachable man, Dr. Murphy's wise counsel will be sadly missed not only in his native Limerick but also throughout the country."

FUNERAL

The remains of Bishop Murphy will be removed to St. John's Cathedral tonight at 7 p.m. The body will lie in state in the Cathedral tomorrow and the funeral will take place on Thursday to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, following concelebrated Requiem Mass at 12 noon.

City Council adjourns as mark of respect

The outstanding achievements and qualities of Most Rev. Dr. Henry Murphy, Bishop of Limerick, who died yesterday were referred to at last night's meeting of Limerick City Council which was adjourned as a mark of respect to the late Dr. Murphy.

Limerick City Manager, Mr. C. F. McDermott, and the Council members joined in the tribute. A minute's silence was observed before the adjournment.

Limerick County Council have postponed a function due to be held in the Riverroom Motel, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, tonight during which special silver medals were to be presented to the members of the All-Ireland winning Limerick hurling team, as a mark of respect.