



John Hill

Province of Australia



Born into a family of five, John Hill was born in Adelaide on 5 June 1923, to William and Hilda Hill. John's father was a telephone technician. John's Primary education was done with the Josephites at Mt Carmel School, Alberton, followed by five years of Secondary with the Marist Brothers, at Alberton (one year) and Glenelg (four years).

John entered the Society of Mary at Toongabbie in February 1941 and lived there for the next eight years: one year's novitiate and seven years of scholasticate. Only three remain from John's Novitiate band at the time of writing, Tom Maloney (Woodlawn), Phil Brennan (NZ), and John in Japan. John was ordained in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Adelaide, on 28th July 1948.

John's first two years of ministry were spent teaching at Woodlawn College, during which time he completed a year's study at the University of Queensland. He left for the Japanese mission in April 1951. Following his course in the Language School, John was appointed to join the 3 Marists who were already working in the Nara prefecture, Kyoto Diocese. At the end of 1956 John came back to Australia where he was to spend the next eight years. During this period John spent a year each at Burnie and St Pat's doing parish work and this was followed teaching in schools of the Province, notably Traralgon and Geelong.

In 1965 John returned to Japan and has been there ever since being very involved in all aspects of parish work, prison chaplaincy, and working with handicapped children in sheltered workshops.

It was a joy to John to learn late in life that one of his father's family who migrated to NZ in the late 1800's or early in the 1900's, had a descendant, Sr Marie Connolly, who entered the SMSM's. Before her death a year or so ago, Sr Marie had spent many years in Tonga and also been Novice Mistress in Australia.

Returning from the Japan mission in 2012, the ever-cheerful Fr John joined the Maryvale/Montbel community at Hunters Hill, NSW, before moving to St Catherine's Aged Care facility at nearby Eastwood. He died peacefully there on May 20, 2017. May he rest in peace.