



Fr William (Bill) Skehan was born on 27

December 1933 in Coolbawn, Fethard, Co.

Tipperary. After his secondary schooling, he went

to the novitiate in 1951 and took first vows on 24

September 1952. After ordination in 1959, Bill did a pastoral year in Limerick where he studied Ilongo, spoken mainly in the central Philippines, as it was presumed he would be sent to this area.

He travelled to the Philippines in July 1961 but on his way by ship discovered that he had been appointed to the Cebuano-speaking mission. This meant he had to learn another dialect.

He spent most of the following 20 years in Davao where he gave missions in the remotest parts of Mindanao, an island larger than Ireland. In 1983 he was back in Dumaguete where he spent his first years and later was appointed to Tacloban, where he was engaged in parish ministry.

Bill was a man who liked to keep up with the news and the latest trends in theology. He could be critical of the church's ways but was always respectful. Fr Skehan wrote: "From my own experience I have come away with the conviction that work for justice and peace is an integral part of our mission. A genuine spirituality must incorporate some action for justice and peace, mainly at the levels of reflection, prayer and preaching." After a lingering illness, Bill died on 4 February 2016 and is buried in Cebu.