

FATHER FRANCIS WHITE.

Francis White of Limerick, a young student for the priesthood in Paris, in the middle of the 17th century, met and was attracted by the religious zeal of St. Vincent de Paul, and in 1645 became one of the first members of his newly founded Missionary Order, the Vincentians.

At the request of Bishop O'Dwyer, he returned with several other Irish Vincentians to his native Diocese where, for several years, they devoted themselves to missionary work. In 1650, when the Cromwellian soldiers were devastating the county and the natives had flocked into the city, a great Vincentian mission was held, and it was estimated that 20,000 people attended and received the Sacraments.

In 1651, Father White, having in the meantime returned to Paris, set out on a mission to the Scottish Highlands in company with another Limerick priest, Father Duggan. They travelled from Holland, disguised as merchants, in the company of Mac-Donnell, Lord of Glengarry, but were detected by a renegade priest immediately on landing, and would have been discovered to the authorities but for the sudden death of the poor apostate.

Father Duggan went to the Western Isles but Father White remained in the Highlands doing missionary work under more hazardous conditions but protected by Donald McDonnell, an old chieftain of more than ninety years whom he had converted. When ministering to the household of the Marquis of Huntley on Ash Wednesday, 1655, he was captured and lodged in Aberdeen Gaol and, with some other priests, was sentenced to transportation to the Barbadoes. When St. Vincent heard of the sentence he went to his patron, the Queen of France, who, through diplomatic circles, had the sentence lifted. Father White was released and returned to his missionary work in the Highlands.

The work was strenuous and unremitting and eventually broke the body of the saintly priest. He visited Paris for a rest in 1660, and on his return to Scotland continued his work unceasingly until his death on 27th January, 1679. In spite of a lapse of close on three hundred years, Father White's name and his great work in preserving and renewing the Catholic Faith in the Highlands of Scotland is still remembered there with veneration and reverence.

FATHER DAVID WOLFE, S.J.

Father David Wolfe, Jesuit and Papal Nuncio to Ireland, was born in the County Limerick about the beginning of the 16th century. While in Rome, on a mission from the Limerick Diocese, he met St. Ignatius Loyola, joined his Order, and became one of the first great Jesuit missionaries of the counter-Reformation.