



The Prefect of Studies

In Memoriam – Fr Rory Maguire, S.J.
(January 19, 1913-Feb 23, 1971)
Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1942-1957
Prefect of Studies, Wah Yan College, Kowloon 1955-1957

A. Photographs, 1952-1957

FORM IV A

Form-master:
Rev. R. Maguire, S.J.



F4A, 1952-1953

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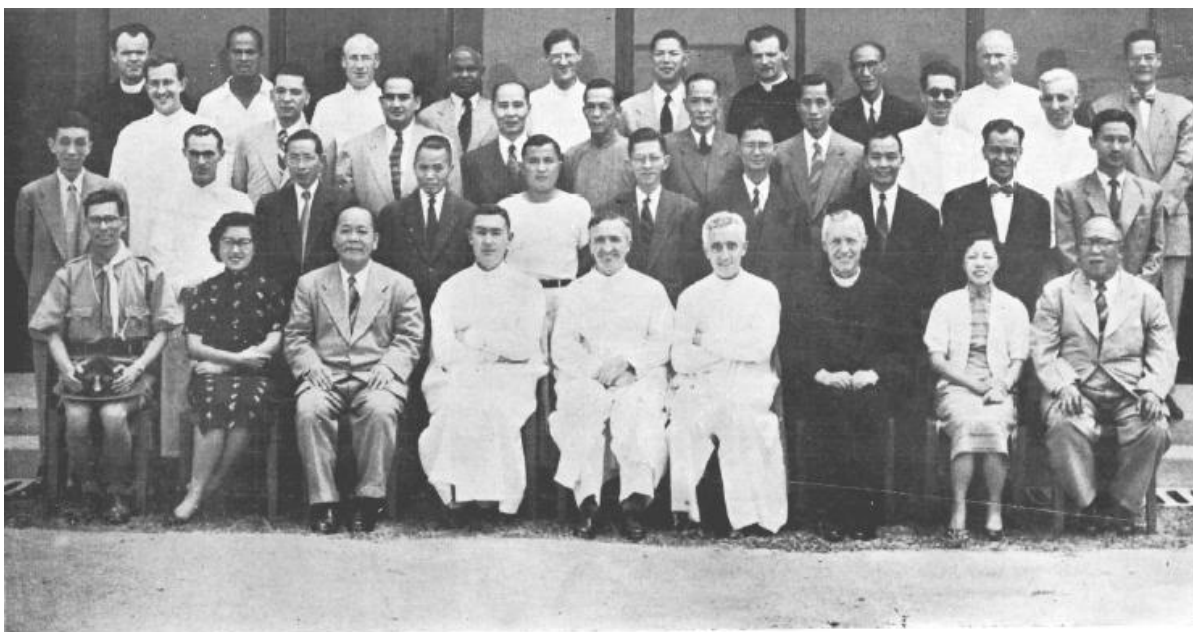
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1954-1955, Staff (as Prefect of Studies)



THE STAFF

1952-1953, Staff – top row – 2nd right



Fr. Maguire
and
Mr. Chu

1953-1954, (as Sportsmaster) with Mr Chu



(C. L. Chow)

"I missed the bus, Father"

1956-1957, as Prefect of Studies

B. From The Shield 19 (1971)

Obituary

Fr. Rory Maguire, S.J.

The School Notes in the 1955 Shield open thus:

September 6 School re-opens. Our new Prefect of Studies, Fr. Maguire, is there to welcome us and say a few words. Oh, yes, a few words are quite sufficient. We will work steadily this year. ('We' here means principally Fr. Maguire; it also includes a certain amount of 'us'.)

September 7 Classes in full swing. Off on a flying start. Fr. Maguire has the knack of getting things (in this case 'us') going fast.

Three years sped by, and the School Notes in the 1958 Shield open thus:

September 7, 1957 Opening Day. We return. We miss Fr. Maguire's quiet smile and friendly nod from the Office door.

The entry for September 7, 1957, would express more truly the happy relationship between Fr. Maguire and the boys than would the earlier ones of September, 1955, in which the 'annalist' playfully portrays him as a task-master. Fr. Maguire was a man of very big build — wide-shouldered, broad-chested — and he had an eagle eye. On first acquaintance with him as he was on his rounds in the classrooms, even the studious boys might gulp with apprehension, and the hearts of the 'Easy-does-it' ones might be pounding with apprehension plus guilt until he left for another class; then normal breathing was restored. However, the boys were quick to learn that the glint in the eye would yield place quickly to a smile — and it was his kindness, sympathy, broadmindedness and understanding that made them very fond of him. They knew that he was extremely just, and that they would get a very sympathetic hearing if they approached him about personal or family problems. He was very interested in sports — and his 'touch-line presence' did much to strengthen the happy relationships with the boys. It is by that 'quiet smile and friendly nod' in the September 7, 1957, entry that he is best remembered.

Fr. Maguire came to Hong Kong in 1947. After a short spell in Canton he joined the teaching staff in Wah Yan, Hong Kong, in Robinson Road. When we opened the Evening School, he was appointed Headmaster, and it was there that his

gifts of organisation and 'sportsmastership' revealed themselves. When our Waterloo Road Wah Yan opened in 1952, the Evening School and our Nelson Street Wah Yan amalgamated, and Fr. Maguire was on the teaching staff. In 1955 he was appointed Prefect of Studies. During his last year here, he suffered greatly as a result of a slipped disc; he spent quite a while in hospital, but had to return to Ireland. There he improved and joined the Mission Staff giving retreats and missions round the country. In this he was very successful as as he was so very kind and understanding.

We had had a letter from him towards the end of February. It was, then, a great shock when we had news, within a week, of his death. We learned later that he was on his way by car to the opening of a new shop in the country; the owner, a Chinese from Hong Kong, had invited him as a guest of honour. The steering gear broke and his car crashed into an oncoming one. Fr. Maguire was killed instantaneously; the drivers of both cars were seriously injured. His Requiem Mass was celebrated and served by his Chinese and Irish Jesuit confreres from Hong Kong. The presence of so many of his former friends at the Requiem Mass here in this school was proof of the warm and sincere memories they have of him.

May he rest in peace.