

Richard (Don) Lane S.J.

Richard Donal (Don) Lane is one of the many grand children of Patrick Carrucan and Mary O'Brien.

When Bridget Carrucan, the eldest child of Patrick and Mary, moved from Eltham to the Kalgoorlie gold fields in Western Australia in 1895 along with her husband Paddy Lane and their small family, a new family line emerged on the other side of the Australian continent.

Don himself was the third child born to Richard Donal (Dick) Lane, the sixth and youngest child of Bridget and Paddy. Thus he is part of that first generation of Western Australian Carrucans.

From 1946 to 1952 he attended St Louis Jesuit School in the Perth suburb of Claremont, achieving excellent academic results and participating in whatever was available in drama, music and debating. Even though he had won a Commonwealth Scholarship to attend university he decided to enter the Jesuit Novitiate in 1953 and moved to Loyola College at Watsonia in Victoria. Then in 1955 he entered the Juniorate, also at Watsonia. This pre-university year was considered an opportunity to broaden the base of his education. Between 1956 and 1958 Don continued studies in philosophy, which comprised a wide range of theoretical and practical subjects. In 1959 he enrolled in an Arts degree at the University of Melbourne and he took singing as an extra study at the Melbourne University conservatorium under Victor Harding, leading to the A.Mus.A diploma.

During his university studies, the 'Messenger Bookshop' was initiated and Don and another scholastic managed it. This venture was in conjunction with Messenger Publications, a significant Jesuit project at the period. The tertiary studies were interrupted by two years (1961-1962) spent teaching at Xavier College in Kew in Victoria. Completing his Arts degree in 1963, Don then went to Canisius College at Pymble in New South Wales, where from 1964 to 1967 he studied theology and at the same time successfully completed a Diploma of Education by external study from the University of New England.

At the completion of his third year he was ordained on 6 December, 1966¹ and from then on at least one weekend in three was spent 'on supply' in various parishes around Sydney. From 1967 he published a monthly Liturgical Column in the majority of Catholic papers in Australia. This followed the Second Vatican Council's updating of the liturgy, and continued until Don left for Tertianship (study, usually overseas) in 1970.

From 1968 to 1978, Don taught at St Aloysius College at Milsons Point in Sydney where the subjects taught included Geography, Science, Latin, French and English. A major involvement during these years was with drama and music, based in the then newly built school hall. This included the production, direction, set design and staging of 78 one act plays presented to the public and the set design and the staging of eleven Gilbert and Sullivan productions and well as a multitude of other involvements in drama. Don's involvement and reputation in dramatics led to an invitation to become a member of the Australian Association of Theatre Technicians, where for some time he was the only non-professional member. He served on the committee of the organisation for a year.

As well as teaching and organizing the school's dramatic activities, Don was deeply involved in its music. Activities included the design and commission of the new pipe organ for the chapel, the formation and training of a brass and wind ensemble, principally for Chapel music but for important school occasions, and the arrangement of music for the ensemble and for the schools cadet band. He also sang on special

¹ Thus he was finally ordained after 14 years in the Jesuit family. This is typical of the long and rigorous preparation undertaken by Jesuits. Even nowadays, the typical pre-ordination period takes between 8 and 14 years, depending on the man's background and previous education, and final vows are taken several years after that, making Jesuit formation among the longest of any of the religious orders.

occasions with the Singers of David, one of which was the papal visit to Sydney.

Another major involvement was with the school cadet corps, whose nominal strength ranged from 400 to 500 participants. This began informally in 1970, with help during the annual camp as chaplain. Formal involvement began the following year, leading to the position of 2IC with the rank of Major. In this position his duties were manifold.

During his teaching at St Aloysius College in Sydney, Don was given leave to travel overseas from mid-1969 to mid-1970 to undertake his Tertianship studies at St Bueno's College at St Asaph in Wales.

Apart from the personal development component of the year, pastoral experiences included school retreats in the north east and in Kent, Easter talks and ceremonies in Kent, a total of six weeks at St Mary's approved school, at Bishopbriggs, Glasgow. This was a 'reform' school for boys between 12 and 16 under court order. At the end of this period the headmaster offered Don a permanent position there. This offer was declined in favour of returning to the educational field in Australia.

In early December 1978 Don underwent five months' hospitalisation and convalescence with varicose vein problems. The remainder of the year based at St Mary's parish, North Sydney, but with continuing work at St Aloysius with the drama and Cadets. In 1980 he moved to St Ignatius College at Athelstone in South Australia, where the principal subject he taught was Science in middle school, with English second language (year 12), French, Latin and English (year 8), English (year 9) and Geography (years 9 and 10). He also trained in computer instruction and added Computer Studies to his range of teaching subjects.

In 1995 Don's teaching was interrupted by coronary by-pass surgery, but resumed in 1996.

In 1997, Don retired from school life but continued his apostolic work, engaging in locum work for country parishes, enabling parish priests to take study or long service leave, or simply filling gaps. He continued to engage in same ministry, having been at Broken Hill (Wilcannia - Forbes), Coober Pedy (Port Pirie), Streaky Bay (P.Pirie), Ceduna (P.Pirie), Cleve as parish priest (P.Pirie), Leonora - Meekathara (Geraldton), Bordertown first as supply, then as Priest in Charge (Adelaide), Hillston as Administrator (W - Forbes), Ayr, then Julia Creek (Townsville), Hillston again, then Balranald (W-Forbes) until retirement in early 2002.

In retirement Don is at the Jesuit office and residence in NSW, engaged in the domestic support of the community.