

“TAKE IT AS A CHALLENGE”

(Fr. Bill)

Dear Friends of our Beloved Fr. Bill,

Like myself, I am sure a lot of you are still in shock and disbelief at the death of our beloved teacher and brother.

Our greatest consolation is that he is now most definitely in the presence of the One he spoke to us so lovingly about every minute of his life. We are the true witnesses of how he lovingly did indeed ‘give every second of his life, every cell of his body’ to Him whom he now can see face to Face.

In the shock of his death, I wrote about the cancellation of Knock and left the remainder of the year’s schedule at a standstill, since I could not think at the time what to do. However, since that, I believe that even though Fr. Bill may be gone from our sights, he is most certainly not gone from our thoughts and memories. I also believe, like the Hound of Heaven he spoke of each week, he himself is beginning to ‘hound’ me!!!!!!

Naturally in the last few years and especially the most recent months, we had spoken about his death and his mission and his wishes after his death. These conversations are coming strongly to mind and to give it to you in brief, I believe Fr. Bill would most certainly not want us to stop now. He did not start this worldwide evangelization mission, just to have it ended upon his death. This was most certainly not his intention. We simply cannot allow all the love and untiring work he put into this world, to be forgotten and left to die.

Just like Jesus was with the apostles for three years, teaching and preparing them (unknown to them) for his eventual departure, then sending them out all over the world to continue His Mission, so too have we now all been ‘taught and prepared’ by Fr. Bill to go out also and continue his mission.

Of course, there will never be another Fr. Bill – this is a fact. But Fr. Bill’s mission was evangelization and Total Person Therapy - a fact he would always argue. It was not about him but about Jesus. His retreats tell us this, when every sentence he spoke contained the words Jesus or Bible. He was, as he repeatedly told us, ‘a donkey for Jesus’!

I would like each of you to think and pray hard – speak with Fr. Bill – he now has all the time in the world to listen to us and in his own way, he will answer our questions. I remember how, sometimes exhausted during counselling late at night, people would come out and tell me ‘he fell asleep and I didn’t have the heart to waken him’ and then suddenly he would awake and ask them a question out of the blue which was exactly what was needed, Upon their answer, he would give them the advice and walk out on air! So even

though he is by no means sleeping, he will answer us and above all, I know he will help us if we are open to continuing to work for his mission. He told us how he would work even harder in Heaven – so he is waiting on our requests!! And again, knowing Fr. Bill, he would want our first priority to be ‘bring them to a retreat’!!!!

I will be speaking hopefully with his Provincial and I intend asking him about plans to allow one of Fr. Bill’s disciples to continue his work. I know he had some, specifically in mind to follow him. What I need to know from you all is if you would still be willing to continue to organise the retreats and see how things go?

He did all the ‘ground’ work and I firmly believe its now up to us to continue the ‘building’. So who is up for the challenge?? Please get back to me ASAP!!

So, giving Fr. Bill the last word.....

**“ DON’T WORRY!! BE HAPPY!!
DO IT FOR JESUS ”**

God bless you all, joan