

Death of Fr. Paul Zundolovich

A Priest of the Great Outback

By the death, briefly reported in last week's issue, of Rev. Fr. Paul E. Zundolovich, at the presbytery, Moama, New South Wales, on Tuesday morning, 7th inst., there was removed one of the most picturesque personalities in Southern Riverina. During the past eighteen years "Father Paul," as he was affectionately known, was in charge of the Moama parish, and his unexpected death cast a gloom over the large district. Following medical advice, Father Paul was taken to Melbourne for treatment in February. He returned to Moama on the Thursday before his death. Arriving in apparently good health, the venerable priest immediately arranged to take over his parish duties, which, during his absence, were carried out by Fr. T. M. Stokes. An unexpected relapse occurred, and the end came with tragic suddenness. The last rites of Holy Church were received at the hands of Very Rev. Prior Doyle, O.S.A., Echuca.

A Noted Linguist.

Born in Lithuania about 70 years ago, in which place he spent his early years, Father Paul, following his ordination in Rome, came to Australia in 1892 as a missionary priest. Parochial responsibilities at Wilcannia and Whitecliffs, N.S.W., absorbed his religious labours for some years, when his priestly work necessitated the use of horse-drawn vehicles. Fr. Zundolovich made many friends in all spheres of outback life, and he was loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike for his personal charm and devotion to his priestly vocation. A noted linguist, he was able to converse in many languages, and was a reputed Hebrew scholar.

able to converse in many languages, and was a reputed Hebrew scholar, being converted from Judaism in Cairo. He numbered amongst his scholastic classmates the present Archbishop of Hobart, Most Rev. Dr. Hayden, and to the present Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes, the Most Rev. T. M. Fox, D.D., he had the distinction of administering the Sacrament of Baptism. Typical of his love for his parishioners and Church, one of the last expressions of the departed priest on his return to Moama from Melbourne was of his delight at being back in the field of his labours, where, had God willed, he was prepared to continue his noble work.

SOLEMN REQUIEM MASS.

Beginning with the arrival of his Lordship Bishop Fox at St. Mary's Church, Echuca, on Thursday at 10 a.m., the obsequies in connection with the late priest commenced. A large congregation, comprising parishioners from all parts of the Moama parish and Echuca, filled the church, where Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Fr. T. M. Stokes. The deacon was Fr. Glancy, of Barham, N.S.W.; sub-deacon, Rev. Prior Maddock, O.S.A., Kyabram (Vic.); and master of ceremonies, Fr. Tehan, of Rushworth. His Lordship Dr. McCarthy, Bishop of Sandhurst, was specially represented by Very Rev. Fr. Kelly, Adm. The Moama and Echuca Borough Councils were represented by their respective mayors, Messrs. L. Martin (Moama) and J. H. Broderick (Echuca). Music for the Mass was sung by a choir of visiting priests comprising Rev. Prior Meredith, Frs. Ryan (Elmore), Kelly, Carroll and Ryan (Balranald), Cremin, Armstrong, Murphy, McGoldrick, Stokes, Doyle, and Priors Roche and Doyle. The final absolution was performed by Bishop Fox.

Bishop Fox's Tribute.

At the conclusion of Mass, his Lordship said they were gathered to pay a tribute of respect to and pray for

a tribute of respect to and pray for the soul of one whom to know was to love. Father Paul was a friend to all with whom he came in contact. In relating the life of the late priest, Dr. Fox referred to his ordination in Rome in 1891, and his arrival in Australia in 1892. The greater part of his forty-three years of religious service was spent in the Outback, in a parish with an area of 40,000 square miles. The nearest priest to him when he was stationed at Whitecliffs was 120 miles away, at Broken Hill, which place he visited once yearly for his retreat. Father Paul was often away from home for months at a time, travelling the vast territory and ministering to his people. Unlike many young Irish priests who came to Australia in the early days, Father Paul arrived as a complete foreigner, unable to speak the language, and unaccustomed to the life and standards of Australians; but,

R.I.P.

with the Faith so deep within him, he early overcame these difficulties. Although he had been in Moama for twenty years, his name was still fondly remembered and mentioned in the Outback as a true man of God. The late priest's life work included establishing convents at Whitecliffs, Mathoura, and Mildura, and building the first Catholic churches at Whitecliffs, Mildura, and Wamboona. The Bishop concluded his address by thanking the priests of the Bendigo diocese, and particularly the Augustinian Fathers of Echuca, for their kindly help and co-operation in the day's sad ceremonies, and asked all to remember Father Paul in their prayers.

To the tolling of the bell the cortege moved off across the Murray Bridge to the Moama Cemetery, making a detour to pass the Moama church. The large number of cars that formed the funeral procession testified to the great love and esteem felt for the late priest.

Bishop Fox, assisted by Fr. T. M. Stokes, officiated at the graveside.