

# DOMINIC COLLEGE HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

## HUMAN SPIRIT



### *Father Denis Allen: Boys' Town 1947-1950*

Fr Denis Allen is 78-years old and last year celebrated his 50th year as a priest. His early life as a child was spent in relatively poor circumstances; his father spent much time in and out of hospital and died in 1958 as Denis entered the seminary.

Because of his parents ill-health in 1947 when he was nine, he came to Boys Town for three weeks respite, which grew into three years. In this challenging time Fr Denis recalls a happy little community and his first contact with 'catholicity' and priests, and he became surrounded by the Catholic ethos, mystery and ritual, with Benediction, Sacraments and the Salesian Brothers and Priests.

After leaving school and working at the Government Printing Office he decided to become a priest, and Archbishop Guilford Young sent him to Victoria to complete enough studies to allow him to enter the seminary. Fr Denis was ordained by Archbishop Young in 1965, arguably the first Diocesan priest to be ordained out of a Salesian school in Australia.

From the very humble beginnings at Boys' Town, Fr Denis went on to serve the Church and the community in Tasmania in many roles and parishes, including that of Vicar General to Archbishop D'Arcy.

'This school has been a great place from its inception,' Fr Denis says.  
'The buildings and staff have changed but the spirit of Don Bosco lives on.'

