

## Businessman who fulfilled his vocation in church

FRANK Scally was one of the lucky few who managed to combine a happy marriage, family life, fulfilling business career, and a vocation in the Catholic Church, juggling all while giving each 100%.

Born on May 3, 1933, he was the oldest surviving son of world champion road runner Allan Scally and his wife, Elizabeth, (his twin brother died shortly after birth). With brothers Allan and Bill, he grew up a stone's throw from St Bridget's Baillieston, where his love of the church was nurtured.

On finishing his education at 14 in St Bridget's, Frank started an apprenticeship as an upholster with Lewis's in Glasgow.

His two years of national service in the RAF earned him plenty of recognition as a runner rather than a radar operator. Friends from the time still remember the day a plane was spotted on the screen fast approaching Prestwick – only to be identified as a sports car on Fenwick Moor.

After his national service, Frank worked for Galloway and Lee, before setting up his own upholstery and carpetfitting business, Laidwell (Baillieston) Ltd, in his home town.

Initially the majority of the work was domestic, but increasingly, Laidwell (Baillieston) Ltd supplied wall seating and bar fittings to pubs and hotels throughout Scotland.

Throughout his youth Frank was a committed member of Shettleston Harriers, where his father was coach. Frank is best remembered there as a good club runner, and an extremely good social convener. The regular fund-raising dances organised by Frank and his sub-committee are legendary.

He was an active member of



**BROTHERS IN ARMS:** Frank Scally, centre, spent his happiest days in retirement with his brothers and his family.

the Knights of St Columba, holding posts at council and provincial level, before being elected on to the board in 1980. He became supreme secretary soon after, and as his natural gift for organisation became apparent, this became his full-time occupation in 1983.

Before his time on the board, Frank had organised pilgrimages to Iona and Rome, Palm Sunday walks, and the commercial souvenir sales for the papal visit in 1982 – including papal bricks. He later organised the use of the remaining bricks in Scotland's shrine to Our Lady in Carfin. He was proud to lead a Scottish convoy of caravans to Italy after a devastating earthquake left thou-

sands homeless. That gesture saw the setting up of a KSC council in the village his caravan was sent.

Although ill health forced Frank's retreat in 1990, he recovered enough to go back to school to finish his education, and fulfil another ambition of studying for the permanent diaconate. Illness again tried to thwart his ambition, but within months of a leg amputation in 1999 he walked to the altar of Motherwell Cathedral for his ordination.

In his three years as deacon at his home parish, St Augustine's, Coatbridge, he acted as visitor to the sick and housebound and spiritual adviser to parents seeking baptism for children.

During the course of his studies, Frank built up a strong affiliation with the Rev James Greer and the congregation of the Middle Church in Coatbridge.

So much so, that while in hospital in one of his latter illnesses, a neighbour in the next bed asked Frank what religion he was as he had priests, nuns, and ministers regularly coming to visit.

A natural communicator, Frank loved to write, read, talk, sing, and play guitar, and away from the office and church he loved a party and a sing-song.

He and his guitar were a well-known double act.

During a spell in hospital as a teenager, he was given his own balcony at Glasgow Royal Infir-

mary to play in all day, and doctors even anaesthetised his fingers for him each day so he didn't feel the pain.

A stickler for detail in his working life, his liberal attitude to harmonies and words in songs, however, were a family legend. He combined all his loves when accompanying his daughter Trish, busking for Christian Aid in Beith.

His repertoire of songs was greatly appreciated by the generous people of Beith, and their musical efforts contributed to the annual Christian Aid appeal.

Family life was his greatest joy. He and Susan Murphy were married in 1960 and had four children. His happiest holidays since

retirement were spent with his brothers and their wives, the six visiting Scotland, Ireland, and America.

Despite repeated illness in recent years, Frank's gregarious nature and zest for life rarely saw anything get him down, and he survived and thrived after ailments which would have felled most.

Frank is survived by his wife, Susan; children, Patricia Susan, Stephen, and Jacqueline; and grandchildren Jillian, Kathy, Harry, Robbie, Elizabeth, Donald, Amy, Andrew, and Jennifer.

**Francis Scally; born May 3, 1933, died August 16, 2002.**