

II. DEATH RE-UNITES US TO CHRIST

Death is wrapped in the paschal mystery and our lips, like the stone removed from the tomb, must proclaim that in Christ our life does not come to an end in the dust of the earth. The good we have done remains as a treasure in heaven and as the heritage we leave to the boys. Beyond the veil of suffering and sadness, death must be celebrated as the "birthday" of our new life in the Kingdom of God. The saying of Don Bosco; "A piece of paradise will settle everything" has finally become a reality for our brother who has spent himself in the Congregation. He desires that we forget the unpleasant memories of his life, just as the Father has freed him from the remnants of sin, bringing to a conclusion his journey of suffering and conversion through the sacred anointing and the holy viaticum. The prayerful vigil at his bier is an act of faith in and a witness to the resurrection.

The memory of our brother, recalled with hearts weighed down with sorrow but not despair, becomes prayer and longing to unite ourselves one day at the same sacred banquet. Both the eucharistic celebration and the funeral rites must clearly bring out the paschal dimension, the passage from a life weighed down by sin to a full life in Christ achieved through a deliberate and profound interior purification. The daily and annual suffrages become the occasion to strengthen the union between the militant Church and the triumphant.

SUGGESTED SCHEMES OF CELEBRATION

We give here some schemes of prayers for the deceased: prayer vigil, rosary, daily remembrance of the departed and community visit to the cemetery.

I. PRAYER-VIGIL FOR THE DEPARTED

GREETING OF THE CELEBRANT

C Brethren, we are gathered here around our brother, who has left us. He has shared our life, believed what we believe, worked in the Lord's vineyard, and his now returned to the Father. We are immersed in sorrow. This sad event affects our community and each one of us. But we must see it in the light of faith. The word of God gives it sense and meaning. Death does not break our ties with our brother. It only transforms them. We can still help him and he too can help us. The bond is reciprocal prayer. We will pray for him, and to him. We are sure to have in him our intercessor before God.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

One or more of the following psalms may be recited or sung in alternate choirs, each psalm being concluded with a suitable prayer that recalls the memory of the deceased.

- Ps. 130.

Am. To you, O Lord, I lift up my voice. (or) ° My soul hopes in the Lord.

- Ps. 23.

Ant. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

- Ps. "114,1-8; Ps. 115,1-11.

Ant. May Christ the Lord welcome you in paradise.

Should each of the psalms not be followed by a spontaneous prayer, this section can be concluded by one of the following prayers. ,

C Let us pray.

Listen, o Lord, to the prayers of your Church for our brother NN. . . Just as the true faith bound him to community of believers, so may your mercy now unite him to the assembly of the saints, in their home of light and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

(OR)

c O God, merciful Father, you give us the certainty that in the faithful departed the mystery of the death and resurrection of your Son is realized. Through this faith that we profess, grant our confrere N.N., who now sleeps in Christ, the grace to rise with him, in joy of the resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

LISTENING TO THE WORD?

Choose one of the following:

- Job. 19,23-27a.
- 1 Cor. 15,1-4.
- 1 Cor. 15,12-20.
- -- 2 Cor. 5,1,6-10.
- .- Jn. 6,35-40.
- Jn. 6,53-58.

REFLECTION

Certain edifying episodes from the life of the deceased may be narrated by way of reflection. For else, certain sections from "The Death of Don Bosco" could be read.

(1) The Death of Don Bosco

THE LAST MOMENTS OF DON BOSCO'S LIFE

Every Salesian reads with feeling the account of the last days of Don Bosco's life. Here is a short narrative of the important counsels, significant conversations and moving moments before the death of Don Bosco.

WE ARE CHRISTIANS AND WE MUST MAKE A FREE GIFT OF OUR LIFE TO) GOD.

Whenever someone approached him, he gave him a souvenir as if he were about to leave this world. Then taking the hand of Don Bonetti, the catechist-general, he said: "Be the strong support of Don Rut always." A little later he turned to his secretary, /IGet ready for' the administration of the Holy Viaticum. We are Christians and we must make a free gift of our life to God.

" THE SALESIANS LIVE TO DEFEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE POPE

Then bishop Cagliari walked in. Don Bosco said to him. "Why do you think the Holy Father must protect our missions? You will tell the Holy Father what has been so far kept a secret. The Congregation and the Salesians have a special duty to uphold the authority of the Pope wherever they go. Protected by him, you will go to Africa. You will cross it. You will go to Asia and beyond. Have

faith. "FORGETFUL OF HIMSELF AND THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS

When a certain missionary, Don Cassini, came to see him, Don Bosco whispered in his ear: " I understand your mother is in straits. Speak to me freely and only to me. No one else shall come to know about what you tell me. Then [myself will give

you whatever is necessary, without anyone else's knowledge. " He would inquire of everyone present about their health, whether they were sufficiently protected from the cold, whether they needed anything. He would ask everyone, even bishop Cagliero, how they spent the day and what works they had at hand. He was concerned about those who served him and treated him. He feared they might fall sick on account of the loss of sleep and recreation. The infirmarians, however, were tireless. ' Such was their love for Don Bosco that they were ready to make any sacrifice to serve him. Don Bosco's heart in turn was full of fatherly love for them. But his love had a unique mark. He loved all in such a way that each one thought that he was the predilect of Don Bosco. In the forenoon he spoke to Don Durando: "I request you to thank all the doctors in my Dame far all the care they have taken of me with so much charity."

HELP ME TO RECEIVE JESUS

A little later his confessor and friend Fr. Giacomelli, came in: They spent a few minutes alone.

Don Bosco had expressed such a resolute desire for receiving Holy Viaticum that no one wished to take the responsibility of postponing it further. Therefore on 24th morning preparations were made for the administration of the last sacraments. When Don Bosco was informed about it, he requested Don Bonetti and Don Viglietti: "Help me, help me to receive Jesus. I am confused... In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum.

"The procession consisting of altar boys, clerics and priests, came out of the main entrance of the church, and entered the Oratory through the main gate. Don Bosco was moved when he heard the singing. When the Blessed Sacrament was brought in by

bishop Cagliero, he burst into tears. He had put on a stole and looked like an angel.

TO DIE WITHOUT A PENNY IN THE POCKET

Then he said to Don Viglietti: "Please see if there is any money in my pockets. My purse and pocket book are there. I don't think there is any money. But if by chance you find any, please give it to Father Rua. I want to die in such a way that people may say, Don Bosco died without a penny in his pocket."

HE SPOKE OF NOTHING BUT ETERNITY

All these gestures of Don Bosco induced the superiors to decide that Bishop Cagliero should administer the Anointing of the Sick to Don Bosco. He, however, asked that they request the blessing of the Holy Father first. It was immediately seen to. After receiving the Anointing of the Sick, Don Bosco spoke of nothing but eternity.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS BROTHERS

Towards dusk Don Bosco sent for Don Rua and bishop Cagliero. Then mustering the little strength still left in him, he gave them his message for themselves and for all the Salesians: "Put your affairs in order. Love each other as brothers. Love each other, help each other and stand by each other as brothers. The help of God and Mary help of Christians will never fail you. Recommend to all my eternal salvation and pray for me. 'Alter alterius onera portate ... Exemplum bonorum operum...'" Finally he repeated the same words: "promise that you will love one another as brothers. Insist on frequent communion and devotion to Mary help of Christians.

" RUSH TO SAVE THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE

Suddenly Don Bosco pulled himself up and clapping his hands,

exclaimed: "Rush to save those young people. Mary most Holy, help them. Mother, Mother..." He suffered much because he could hardly change his position. Those who assisted him begged him to think of Jesus who suffered greatly on the cross unable to move any limb. Don Bosco replied: "Is, that is what I do always."

OUR CONGREGATION IS DIRECTED BY GOD AND PROTECTED BY MARY ' HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Don Bosco joined hands and prayed. Don Sala allowed him to rest for a few minutes and then whispered in his ear: "Don Bosco, now you will be happy at the thought that after such a life of sacrifice and what you have succeeded in starting houses in various parts of the world, and in establishing the Salesian Congregation on a solid foundation." Don Bosco replied: "What I have done, I have done for the Lord. I could have done more... My sons will complete the work... Our Congregation is directed by God and protected by Mary Help of Christians."

INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, I COMMEND MY SPIRIT

During the day, Don Bosco had told his secretary: "When I shall not be able to speak and when someone comes asking for my blessing, lift my hand and make the sign of the cross, pronouncing the formula. I shall put the intention."

In his coma, he could understand nothing except when someone spoke to him or heaven and the things of the soul. In these cases he would nod in recognition.

If anyone suggested an ejaculatory prayer, he would move his lips.

When Don Bonetti prayed: "Mary, Mother of Grace, protect us from the enemy," Don Bosco continued "And receive us at the hour of death."

Often during the day he would say, "Mother!Mother!" At times he would add: "Tomorrow, tomorrow." He whispered time and again the words: "Jesus, Mary! Jesus, Mary, I give you my heart and soul. Into your hands, O Lord; I commend myself. Mother, O Mother, open for me the gates of heaven." He also continued repeating certain scriptural texts that had been his rule of life and the norm in all his works: "Lave...lave your enemies. Bless those who persecute you. Seek the kingdom of God. Cleanse me, Lord; cleanse me, Lord; cleanse me from my sin." At the sound of the Angelus bell, Don Bonetti invited Don Bosco to greet Our Lady saying, "Viva Maria." He repeated in an audible and devout voice: "Viva Maria." One of the last sayings Don Bosco told Don Rua was: "Make yourself loved."

As further alternatives, we give references of readings which can be found in the Office of the Hours.

- (2) Christ will change our lowly body (S1. Anastasius – Office of the Dead).
- (3) The Risen Christ is the hope of all believers (S1. Braulio - Office of the Dead).
- (4) It is a holy thought to pray for the dead (St. Gregory Nazanzian - Friday, XXXI Week of Ordinary Time).
- (5) We must die with Christ if we wish to live with him (S1. Ambrose - Nov.1: Commemoration of all the faithful departed).
- (6) I will sing for ever of the mercies of the Lord (St. Aloysius Gonzaga - June 21: Memoria of the Saint).
- (7) Let us carry the death of Jesus in our bodies (St. Ambrose - Saturday, XXXI Week of Ordinary Time).
- (8) He who conquers death shall not be hurt by the second

death (St. Fulgentius of Ruspe- Monday, XXXIII Week of Ordinary Time).

(9) Putting aside the fear of death lei us think about immortality

(St.Cyprian - Friday, XIV Wek ofOrdinary Time).

(10) The death of St. Monica (St. Augustine - August 27: Memoria of the Saint).

(11) Example of St. Martin's death (Sulpicius Severus - November 11: Memoria of the Saint).

PROFESSION OF FAITH

C This is the message we have received.

A This is our faith: Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.

He was buried and rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures, and appeared to Cephas and the twelve.

C The Lord is risen:

the first fruit of the dead.

A Just as all of us have died in Adam,
so shall we all rise in Christ.

THANKSGIVING

C The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

C Lift up your hearts.

A We have lifted them up to the Lord.

C Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A It is right to give him thanks and praise.

C Father, all powerful and .ever living God,

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Offering himself to die for all m en, he alone has freed all from death and sacrificing his life far us, he has opened far us the portals of immortal life. Through this mystery of salvation, O Father , we know your great lave far us. Now as we await your Kingdom of infinite justice and peace, we invoke you with the prayer that Jesus has taught us.

CA Our Father...

(OR)

INTERCESSIONS

C Brethren, since we ave intimately united with Christ through baptism, we shall share also his glorious destiny . In him we are united with each other even beyond death. Let us turn to him with faith.

A Lord, hear us.

G - For the Church: that she may be in the world the sign of hope, lave and life, lei us pray.

- For the world: that the will to live, that God has planted in the hearts of his creatures, may triumph over all the forces of death, especially of sin, lei us pray.

- For those who think that death is the end of everything: that the testimony of our faith may help them regain hope, lei us pray.

- For our confrere N.N., who believed and placed his hope in Christ who died and rose again: that the Lord may welcome him into his eternal home, lei us pray.

- For our confrere N.N., who responded to the call of Christ and followed him till the end of his life: that the Lord may give him the reward of the good and faithful servant, lei us pray.

- For our confrere N.N." , who nourished himself with the bread of life: that the Lord may raise him to the joy of the resurrection, let us pray.
 - For our confrere N.N ., who was weak and fragile like any man: that the Lord may mercifully free him from all his faults, let us pray.
 - For all here present: that the Lord may help us to be faithful to him till the end of our life, let us pray.
 A Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Prayers from the Funeral Rite or from the Mass for the Dead may also be used.

C O . O Lord,
 you are the God of the living,
 not of the dead. Listen to our prayer.
 Give us an active faith, a strong love
 and a persevering hope, and grant
 to our confrere joy without end.
 Through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

(OR)

C O God, you are the glory of the believers
 and the life of the just, for you have saved us
 through the death and resurrection of your Son.
 Be merciful to our confrere N.N., who, in his
 Salesian apostate , professed his faith
 in the resurrection. Bless him with happiness
 without end. Through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

2. ROSARY FOR THE DEPARTED

• following two rosary-services can be used either on the occasion of the annual commemoration of our departed confreres and of those of the Salesian Family , or at the death of a Salesian. In this last case the prayers should be suitably adapted.

A SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The first service is based on the meditation of the sorrowful mysteries, with reflection taken from "The Threefold Garland" Urs von Balthasar.

ENTRANCE HYMN

G• "Death for the Salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord, and when it happens that a Salesian dies working for souls, the Congregation has won a great triumph. The memory of departed confreres unites, 'in a love that will not pass away', those who are still pilgrims with those who are already resting in Christ" (Const. 54).

United with the whole Church, in remembrance of our departed confreres, let us pray together that the Lord may revive our hope as we face the reality of death and may help us to work for him till the end. •

D God, come to our aid...
 Glory be to the Father...
 Eternal rest grant unto them...

HYMN TO OUR LADY

• The first mystery: Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane

and sweated blood far us

R In his frightful anguish of not being equal to what is demanded, he must struggle to arrive at the word of asselle. It is truly a wrestling match with himself; he must struggle until he produces the "Thy will be done" by overstraining in uttermost weakness. The disciples are not up to the mark in their calling and they leave Jesus alone. We see their failure: they sleep for sheer sadness, for desperate confusion, but also because of a failure in their obedience, which cannot utter the "yes" of faith to the bitter end, which is not watchful and prayerful enough.

G Let us pray for the dying, who are about to give the supreme assent of their lives to God's will.

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... Eternal rest...

G The second mystery: Jesus is scourged for us

R The imprisonment, the hearings and the condemnation have already taken place when Jesus is led to the whipping post. The consequences of the greatest misjudgment in human history begin to take effect. For all of mankind is gathered. What God the Father is doing in his hand is the Lamb of God, which takes upon itself the sin of the world, truly and bodily. What is involved here is a kind of perverse sacrament that effects interiorly what it signifies in the external image: the sufferings which are being driven into the body of Jesus are in truth the sins of the world, knocked forcibly into his divine and human person... In its totality, Christianity never ceases being Incarnation: God's incarnation in Christ, the incarnation of sin in Christ, and Christ's incarnation in our corporeal existence.

G Let us pray for all the victims of the meaningless violence of man, of every age and condition, that, with Christ, made

the justice of God, they may make reparation for the injustices of men
A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... Eternal rest...

G The third mystery: Jesus is crowned with thorns for us

R Seen from the outside, scenes of the Passion succeed one another, always showing new aspects of the work of salvation. The King's crown is pressed into his head until it has become anchored in flesh and bone. The thorns of contempt lodge deep. These thorns represent everything that rejects the God of majestic humiliation, the God who washes feet, the God who squanders himself in the Eucharist. It could be religion as a work or self-perfectioning or as a bulwark erected against God, or religion as ritualism and fierce tradition, as bourgeois convention or as magic. It could be a godlessness that oscillates between the Eastern and Western extremes, either as denial of the world or as materialistic communism, with all their possible variations. In every case what is involved is the world as self-sufficient, a world for which God, in the event that he does exist, is but means to its own goals.

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G Let us pray for our departed parents who, through their words and piety, taught us the "religion that is pure and without stain".

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... Eternal rest...

G The fourth mystery: Jesus carried for us the weight of the cross.

R "For us": these two words occur in every sorrowful mystery and we will here consider them expressly. This "for us" is the first and fundamental word of Christian faith, the root from which has developed the entire tree of the Creed and of dogmatics. It is in this that the Christian principle is

radically different from all other religions and world views, it is here that its uniqueness lies. Who would ever surrender his physical and spiritual life for people who are his enemies? And who could do it" efficaciously for all of humanity in the name of a God who is ignored and hated, fully empowered by this God to do so out of the common understanding of a love that presupposes, precisely, the mystery of God's Trinity? There must exist the free offer of a love that seeks to reconcile the world with God: we find this in the Gospels. There must exist a mandate that freely allows this to be done in obedience: we find this in the Father. There must exist the indissoluble unity of these two freedoms: this is the Spirit. And in this exchange one last thing is required: the agreement of "us" for whom the God-made suffers: this is Mary's word of assent, spoken in place of all those others who cannot yet utter it, for otherwise the act of Christ's substitution for us would not only remain one-sided, but indeed exterior.

G Let us pray for our departed confreres and for all those who have continued in the world the mission of Don Bosco.
A Our Father... Hail! Mary... Glory be... Eternal rest...

G The fifth mystery: Jesus died on the cross for us
R Every word is silenced before this last station of the "way of the cross", when God's living Word is nailed by men into deathly immobility. The mystery of the Cross is the supreme revelation of the Trinity. The Cross is the turning point, the transition, the Passover. And in the turning point - in the Crucified - both things coincide: God's fury, which will make no compromises with sin but call only reject it and burn it to ashes, and God's love, which begins to reveal itself precisely at the place of this inexorable confrontation. It is as such a turning point that the Crucified

is the Word which the Father addresses to the world. At this moment the Word cannot hear itself. It shatters in the cry for the lost God. The mysteries of the Passion culminate in the cry of the God-forsaken Jesus on the cross and in his plunge into the night of a sinner's death. It is doubtless these mysteries which form the "sorrowful garland". But if we were to look ahead at the third "glorious garland", we would see that it reveals only what was already contained in the Cross in a hidden way: God's victory over our sin in the Body of Jesus and in the accompanying, co-suffering body of his Mother.

G Let us pray for the departed of the whole world that the Lord may unite them all into his one family.
A Our Father... Hail! Mary... Glory be... Eternal rest...

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin may be recited.

CONCLUDING HYMN

B MYSTERIES OF OUR FAITH

This alternate rosary-service proposes a meditation on some salient features of the life of Our Lord taken from the Gospels and gives some points of reflection taken from our Constitutions.

ENTRANCE HYMN

G "Faith in the risen Christ sustains our hope and keeps alive our communion with our brothers who testify in Christ's peace. They have spent their lives in the Congregation, and not a few have suffered even to the point of martyrdom for love of the Lord. United with them in an exchange of

spiritual benefits, we gratefully offer for them the prescribed suffrages. Their remembrance is an incentive to continue faithfully in our mission (Const. 94).

D • God, our Father, you created us in a wonderful way according to your image, and renewed and redeemed us in a still more wonderful manner. Have mercy on our departed brothers who professed their faith in the resurrection and granted them the possession of eternal joy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

G The first mystery: the institution of the Eucharist.
R Lk. 22,14-20.

G The Salesian community is made O by the Eucharist. "The community celebrates the paschal mystery and unites itself to the immolated body of Christ, which it receives so as to build itself in him into a fraternal communion and renew its apostolic commitment" (Const. 88).

To the first part of the 'Hail Mary' add the words: "...who became our food".

A Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

The second mystery: the way of the Cross.

R Lk. 23,26.

A journey of continual conversion. "Aware of our weakness, we respond by vigilance and sincere repentance, brotherly correction, mutual forgiveness and the calm acceptance of our daily cross" (Const. 90).

To the first part of the 'Hail Mary' add the words: "...who set out for Calvary".

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

G The third mystery: (Mar)!, Mother of the Church.
R Jn. 19,25-27.

G Mar} "in the Me of the Salesian.

"Mary... is a model of prayer and of pastoral love, the teacher of wisdom and guide of our Family... Mary Immaculate, Help of Christians, leads us to the fullness of our offering to the Lord and gives us courage for the service of our brethren" (Const. 92).

To the first part of the 'Hail Mary' add the words: "...who made us brothers in Mary".

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

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G The fourth mystery: the death of Jesus.
R Lk. 23,44-46.

G The death of the Salesian.

"When the hour comes for him to bring his consecrated life to its highest fulfillment, his brothers help him to enter fully into Christ's paschal mystery. Death for the Salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord" (Const. 54).

To the first part of the 'Hail Mary' add the words: "...who died for us."

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

G The fifth mystery: the resurrection of Christ.
R Jn. 20,14-18.

G Leading the young to the person of the risen Lord.

"Like Don Bosco, we are all called to be educators to the faith at every opportunity. Our highest knowledge therefore is to know Jesus Christ and our greatest delight is to reveal to all people the unfathomable riches of his mystery. We walk side by side with the young so as to lead them to the risen Lord, and so discover in him and in his Gospel the deepest meaning of their own existence, and thus grow into new men" (Const. 34).

To the first part of the Hail Mary I add the words: Il.~owho rose to give us life

A Our-Father... Hail. Mary... Glory be...

G The sixth mystery: the ascension

R Acts 1,9-11.

G Contemplative in action.

The Salesian "cultivates union with God, aware of the need to pray without ceasing in a simple heart-to-heart colloquy with the living Christ and with the Father, whom he feels close at hand. Attentive to the presence of the Spirit and doing everything for God in his love he becomes like Don Bosco a contemplative in action" (Const. 12).

To the first part of the Hail Mary I add the words: Il.~.who is seated at the right hand of the Father

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

G The seventh mystery: the pentecost.

R Jn. 15:26-27.

G The witness of holiness

"The action of the Spirit is for the professed member a lasting source of grace and a support for his daily efforts

to grow towards perfect love of God and men. The confreres who are living or have lived to the full the gospel project of the Constitutions are for us a stimulus and help on the path of holiness. The witness of such holiness, achieved within the Salesian mission, reveals the unique worth of the beatitudes and is the most precious gift we can offer to the young" (Const. 25)

To the first part of the Hail Mary I add the words: Il.~owho sent us the Consoler

A Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

CONCLUSION

D) Lord, our God, grant to your faithful to enjoy always health in mind and body, and through the glorious intercession of the most holy and ever virgin Mary, save us from all the evils that sadden us and lead us to everlasting happiness. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. A Amen.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

"Hail! Holy Queen", or during the Easter Season "Queen of Heaven".

3. THE DAILY REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEPARTED

Individual communities should decide on an opportune moment for the daily reading of the necrology (Regul.47). It could

be meaningfully done at the dose of the intercessions during the Evening Prayer. Occasionally the memory of all the departed of the Salesian Family should be recalled in personal and community prayer. Besides, the list, of confreres, who have distinguished themselves at the local, provincial or world-level of the Congregation, could also be recalled during the "Good Night".

We present here some formulae of introduction and conclusion. These and others must express our sense of gratitude to God for their life and our suffrage for their lot in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

Let us remember our departed confreres.

- Let us remember our departed confreres whose death anniversary occurs tomorrow (today).
- Let us pray for our deceased confreres, aware of our own weakness and misery and at the same time of the merciful love of our Lord.
- Let us pray for our deceased confreres who, in the pursuit of holiness, worked for the good of youth in the name of Don Bosco.
- Let us invoke the mercy and peace of God our Father for our deceased confreres, whose memory is a blessing for those who knew and loved them.

CONCLUSION

A Eternal rest grant to them,
O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

(OR)

G Eternal rest grant, O Lord,
A to all who long to be in your peace.

(OR)

G God has raised Jesus from the dead:
A may he grant life to our mortal bodies,
through his Spirit who dwells in us

4. VISIT TO THE CEMETERY

Besides the traditional rites and the daily remembrance of the dead, there is a very ancient Christian tradition of visiting the cemetery to pray and to offer suffrages for the dead, thus professing our belief in the resurrection of the dead.

Where it is possible, it is good to celebrate in the cemetery chapel or in another suitable place a community Mass for all the departed confreres. Then the community could go in procession from the place where the Mass was celebrated to the tomb and offer particular prayers in suffrage. The Rite of Funerals contains responsorial psalms, readings, intercessory prayers and concluding prayers which can be made likewise. The prayer at the tomb could begin with a brief invitation to pray, a short reading, responsory, the Our Father and a concluding prayer followed by the sprinkling of the tomb with holy water.

COMMON INTERCESSIONS

G God, our Father, in your omnipotent plan of salvation, you

do not destine to the dust those whom you have created according to your own image:

A Look on these your sons, we pray you, who have died in the hope of their fatherland in heaven.

G O Christ, Son of God, you have conquered death and the ancient curse, restoring the temple of your body and reopening the gates of heaven: ,

A Receive in the abode of light and holiness those who have chosen to follow you with a sincere heart in the service of youth.

G O Spirit of peace, you were the support of these our confreres in their moments of difficulties and trials. They have left this world to meet those who preceded them in the same faith:

A Do not forget us who are still seeking to store up treasures in heaven in the hope of everlasting joy.

GA Our Father...

C Let us pray. Receive, O Lord, in the company of your saints our departed confreres (names could be mentioned). They have followed the life of perfect love for the sake of Christ. Grant that their mortal remains may share in the final resurrection and bless that which you have destined for your glory from all eternity. Through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

The tomb could be sprinkled with holy water while all the priests present join in the blessing.

C May the souls of our departed confreres and of all the departed Testin peace.

A Amen

An appropriate hymn may be sung.