



ACTS OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL

OF THE SALESIAN SOCIETY

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S. G. S. - ROMA

I. LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

Rome, October 1977

My dear Confreres and sons,

We now are the threshold of the General Chapter. When this issue of the Acts gets into your hands, the Chapter will probably be under way.

During the last few months the preparatory work has become more and more intense: topics have been studied more thoroughly and rough drafts of documents have been readied by the Pre-capitular Commission. This Commission — it is our duty to acknowledge it in this place — worked with admirable diligence and without sparing any efforts to provide the Capitulars with solid study material on the various topics of the Chapter. To all the members of the Commission who under the able and inspiring leadership of the Moderator got this very useful material ready, we express our warmest thanks.

By receiving such material towards the end of August, the Capitulars have had the opportunity to study in depth the weighty issues dealt with in it, and thereby to get themselves ready for the Chapter discussions. As we have stated repeatedly, it is the goal of this Chapter to check on what has been done during the last six years in order to make concrete plans and proposals on what needs to be done during the next six years.

Fervent, humble and trusting prayer

As I mentioned on another occasion, since I am fully aware of the importance of this Chapter for the wellbeing of our beloved Congregation, I have invited many other religious institutes,

especially those of contemplative life, to give us the precious support of their prayers, and have received a cordial assurance from very many of them. Also the various branches of the Salesian Family have pledged themselves to stay fraternally close to us in imploring from the Holy Spirit his much-needed guiding light.

It should however be clear that we must be the first to feel concerned and indeed duty-bound to have recourse to prayer. I therefore invite all of you, particularly the sick and suffering confreres, to accompany the Chapter members with your fervent, humble and trusting prayer. The work of this great assembly of ours touches our deepest spiritual concerns and needs. This is one more reason why we should enrich it with that wealth which comes from our contact with God-prayer that is.

We can thus feel hopeful that the Chapter will attain its set goals and will bring about the Salesian spiritual and apostolic renewal which is eagerly awaited not only by our confreres, but also by all those who regard themselves as a vital part of our Family and cherish the destiny and mission entrusted by Divine Providence to our beloved Congregation in the Church and society.

Divine Providence now summons us to look forward

Dear Confreres, with this brief letter at the conclusion of my six-year term of office, we bring to an end a long series of letters by which we meant to strengthen our fraternal and family ties uniting each member of the Congregation, regardless of where he may be living, to the Rector Major and to the center of the Congregation — a center we all must look to as the center of power and light in our Family.

Looking back, I remember first of all our very many meetings in the most varied places of the world — meetings which were always marked by the Salesian family spirit. Once again I can see all of you and relive with a great deal of personal satisfaction those happy and enriching moments spent together.

On many other occasions I had the opportunity to get in touch with you through my letters addressed either to individuals or more commonly to groups. Through this means too were we able to share deep and cherished sentiments of fidelity and love to Don Bosco and the Congregation.

But Divine Providence now asks us to look forward. It is to this end that we are about to celebrate the 21st General Chapter.

The Superiors who will be elected by this Chapter will, as we deeply trust, be assisted by the One who always stood by Don Bosco with motherly care, and watched over and guided and comforted our Congregation in its often difficult and troubled journey. Supported by the consensus and active collaboration of all of us, the new Superiors will promote the advancement of our Congregation. They will give every bit of their energies to the carrying out of the constructive, practical and stimulating deliberations which will come out of the General Chapter.

We will join whatever forces we have — be they large or small, it hardly matters — for the accomplishment of a program of resolute renewal.

My cordial and brotherly greeting

On my own part, I first of all send my cordial and brotherly greeting to each of you, particularly to those who are suffering in body or spirit and those who are prevented, against their wills, from participating in full in the life and mission of the Congregation.

And I ask you to remember me frequently to the good Lord that in his infinite mercy he may overlook all the shortcomings and failures of my far from short term of office.

At the same time I should like to express from the bottom of my heart my sincere regret for any wrong that I may have done anyone in any way, albeit unintentionally, in the exercise of my mandate.

The Good Lord grant me to make myself, within the limits of my capacities, still useful to the Congregation, most of all

through prayer, a loving observance of the Constitutions and any service — modest though it may be — which I will still be able to render to it.

May Mary Help of Christians bless all the Salesians, the Salesian Sisters, the Cooperators and all those who, from the Volunteers of Don Bosco to the Past Pupils, feel that they are a living part of our great and beautiful Family.

And may Don Bosco always be our Father and Teacher.

Fr. LOUIS RICCERI
Rector Major

A grave loss

We just received the very sad news of the death of His Excellency Monsignor ANTONI BARANIAK, Archbishop of Poznam (Poland).

He was born at Sebastianowo, in the archdiocese of Poznam, on 1st January 1904. Ordained priest on 3rd August 1930, he was elected Titular Bishop of Theodosiopolis in Armenia and nominated Auxiliary of the Archbishop of Gnesna on 26th April 1951. He was promoted Archbishop of Poznam on 30th May 1957. He died piously in the Lord on 13th August 1977.

I shared in spirit the profound bereavement and sorrow of the clergy and the faithful of Poznam, and of the beloved confreres of Poland on the grave loss of this very worthy confrere, and I reserved to myself the writing of his obituary letter. In it I will present the figure of this great son of Don Bosco who in difficult and even tragic moments managed to be always a faithful servant of the Church, according to the teachings of Don Bosco.

In the meantime I recommend him to your prayers, so that he may be welcomed into God's Kingdom through the loving-kindness of our Blessed Lord.

II. THE 21st GENERAL CHAPTER

The Work of the Precapitular Commission

1. *The Precapitular Commission completed its work* on August 1, 1977. All its members agreed that they had had an unforgettable experience in Salesian brotherliness. The sacrifice which they personally and their Provinces made to accomplish their task on behalf of the Congregation was in the end a great joy.

2. *The Commission produced four Precapitular Schemata* on: 1) the Constitutions and Regulations; 2) the General Study Topic: Witnessing and proclaiming the Gospel: Two essentials of Salesian life amongst the young; 3) the Salesian Coadjutor Brother: his identity and formation; 4) Salesian formation.

A booklet, containing the Schemata, was printed with great speed and accuracy at the Vatican Polyglot Press through the solicitude of the confreres working there, and a copy of it was mailed to every GC 21 participant on the vigil of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Along with it were also mailed a copy of the General Chapter Regulations, a roster of the Chapter Participants, and a Capitular Commission Choice application form. (This form, duly filled in, should be received by the Moderator before October 10, 1977).

3. *The Capitular Commissions and Subcommissions*, about which the Capitulars are invited to express their preference, are as follows:

FIRST COMMISSION: « CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS ».

In view of the revision of the text of the Constitutions and Regulations, this Commission will consider: 1) the problems related to our apostolic mission; 2) the problems related to our fraternal and apostolic community; 3) the problems related to our vows; 4) the problems related to our government structures.

SECOND COMMISSION: « GENERAL STUDY TOPIC: WITNESSING AND PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL ». This Commission is divided into 7 Subcommissions:

1st. Subcommission: Some problems concerning our vocational identity; *2nd. Subcommission:* The Salesian Community evangelizes above all through witnessing: fraternal life and chastity; *3rd. Subcommission:* The Salesian Community evangelizes above all through witnessing: prayer; *4th. Subcommission:* The Salesian Community evangelizes above all through witnessing: the “animation” of the community, the image of the Rector; *5th. Subcommission:* Workers and preferential sectors of evangelization: Don Bosco’s educational project — lay co-workers; *6th. Subcommission:* Workers and preferential sectors of evangelization: the school in particular; *7th. Subcommission:* Pastoral work for vocations.

THIRD COMMISSION: « FORMATION »

This Commission is divided into 3 Subcommissions: *1st. Subcommission:* Problems of and proposals on the unity of formation (fundamental criteria for the drafting of *Ratio institutionis salesiana* and of the Program of studies in our Congregation); *2nd. Subcommission:* Problems of and proposals on the formation stages; *3rd. Subcommission:* Problems of and proposals on the On-going Formation and the training of ‘*formatores*’, i.e. those immediately in charge of formation.

Outside the three Commissions mentioned above, but in close partnership with them, there will be a SPECIAL WORK GROUP on the “Salesian Coadiutor Brother”, which will pass its findings on to the Commissions. Other special working groups, requested by the Constitutions or the Special General Chapter, such as a Chapter Information Commission (Reg. 112), and a Special Work Group on UPS (ASGC, 750 i), will be set up during the General Chapter itself.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Solidarity Fund (24th report)

a) CONTRIBUTING PROVINCES (May 6 - September 20, 1977)

AMERICA

United States, San Francisco	L. 7,619,375
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ASIA

India, Bombay	680,000
India, Calcutta	1,000,000
Japan	3,500,000
Philippines	120,000
Thailand	500,000

EUROPE

Belgium, Nord	6,000,000
Italy, Saint Mark	1,352,000
Italy, Southern	200,000
Italy, Subalpine	4,057,400

<i>Total</i>	<u>25,028,775</u>
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<i>Cash on hand</i>	<u>4,742</u>
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<i>Total amount for distribution</i>	<u><u>25,033,517</u></u>
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b) DISBURSEMENT (May 6 - September 20, 1977)

AFRICA

Central Africa: for poor students in Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire	1,500,000
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Egypt, Cairo: for the training of poor trade-school students	500,000
Egypt, Alexandria: for the poor youth of the Oratory	500,000
Ethiopia, Makallè: for war victims	1,000,000
Ethiopia, Makallè: from San Francisco	124,250
Mozambique, Tetè: for the urgent needs of the local Church	1,000,000
South Africa: for the food program for needy children	500,000

AMERICA

Argentina, Bahía Blanca: for a chapel	1,000,000
Argentina, La Plata, San Miguel: to purchase books	188,450
Argentina, La Plata: for a scholarship in Spain	1,020,000
Chile, Linares: for catechetical supplies	900,000
Ecuador, Mendez: for supplies for the apostolate	1,000,000
Ecuador, Mendez: for a missiology scholarship	600,000
Mexico: for the promotion of vocations among the Mixes	1,000,000

ASIA

India, Calcutta: for the Catechetical Center	1,000,000
India, Dibrugarh, Margherita: for a well-pump and for repairing a chapel	1,000,000
India, Krishnagar, Ranaghat: for 5 small homes for flood victims	1,000,000
India, Madras, Ayanavaram: for a projector and catechetical material	1,000,000
India, Madras, Basinbridge: for an urgent need	1,000,000
India, Madras, Katpadi: for the purchase of a small plot of land for farmers	718,900
India, Madras, Tirupattur: for the needs of the aspirantate	1,000,000
India, Shillong: for the native Sisters	1,000,000
Israel, Bethlehem: for the poor trade-school students	500,000

Israel, Nazareth: for the poor students	500,000
Philippines: for Maboto from Edmonton	406,875
Philippines: for Tondo from San Francisco	175,000
Philippines, Tondo: for small homes for the poor	1,400,000
Thailand: for the new studentate from Japan	3,500,000
<i>Total</i>	<u>23,033,475</u>
<i>Cash on hand</i>	42
<i>Total</i>	<u><u>25,033,517</u></u>

c) SOLIDARITY FUND as of September 20, 1977

<i>Income</i>	586,687,031
<i>Disbursement</i>	586,686,989
<i>Cash on hand</i>	<u><u>42</u></u>

IV. NECROLOGY

Fr. Ladislaus Adám

* Budapest, Hungary, 14.12.1892; † there 13.6.1977; 84 years old, 66 prof., 57 priest, 18 Rector.

At age 15 he went to Cacaglià (Italy), where a house for Hungarian-born Sons of Mary been opened some years earlier. When he came out of it, he was a man of sterling character, clear ideas and total commitment to his mission. He made use of his eloquence and the power of his pen to spread Don Bosco's name far and wide. If Don Bosco became a well-known saint in Hungary, most of the credit is due to Fr. Adám's writings. He helped found the *Don Bosco Press*, which for the twenty-year long period between the two World Wars gave a large contribution to the spreading of good literature in that country. Even in prison, where he was confined for some time, he had helping and encouraging words for everyone about him. His activity was halted by a paralysis which in a few months destroyed his robust fiber. He was buried in the crypt of the church in Szombathely built by him.

Fr. Emanuel Alves

* Vila Nova de Cucujães, Porto, Portugal, 21.4.1901; † Los Angeles, California, USA, 7.9.1976; 75 years old, 57 prof., 47 priest.

He came from a good Christian family that gave our Congregation two priests. Because of persecution in Portugal, he went to Spain and there he joined the Salesians. After his priestly ordination, he covered successfully several offices in various Salesian houses in Spain. He was sent to India as a missionary, but poor health forced him to leave that country after only two years. In 1953 he went to the United States, and for about ten years he travelled all over California to preach missions. Sent to Don Bosco Tech, in Los Angeles as confessor and spiritual director, he for 13 years showed great interest in the confreres, especially the young clerics and Coadjutor Brothers, who placed their full confidence in him because of his wisdom and goodness. He remained serene and trusting in the Lord till the very end, even though he knew that cancer was consuming him.

Fr. Gino Balducci

* Imola, Bologna, Italy, 1.11.1911; † Parma, Italy, 7.12.1976; 65 years old, 49 prof., 39 priest.

“A dynamic life ended in a sorrowing sunset”, said his Provincial at the conclusion of his eulogy. He was a likable example of the energetic, cheerful and optimistic Salesian. His fine, original and inexhaustible humor was proverbial throughout the Province. With his brilliant mind he combined a generous heart: he gave evidence of this especially during the difficult times of World War II, when he spent himself to help the most hapless war victims. He worked in youth centers, and was appreciated and loved as a teacher. A progressive paralysis slowly led him to his Calvary. He died on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, under whose motherly protection he had lived his priestly life.

Fr. Adalbert Bali

* Alsóság, Vas, Hungary, 11.6.1903; † Vécs, Hungary, 12.8.1977; 74 years old, 56 prof., 48 priest, 12 Rector.

After a number of pastoral experiences, he was appointed Master of Novices in Hungary. He later was the spiritual guide of several parish communities. Though the environment where he worked was unamenable and his health precarious, he dedicated himself to his task wholeheartedly. By working according to the spirit of Don Bosco he was able to win over many a “lost soul”. At all times he was an example of self-denial, bearing — as our Constitutions suggest — “with heat, cold, thirst, hunger and fatigue”. His last job was the restoration of a crumbling parish church building. This undertaking over, a heart attack suddenly finished his very active life.

Fr. John Berta

* Foglizzo, Turin, Italy, 8.11.1908; † Turin, Italy, 27.11.1976; 68 years old, 49 prof., 41 priest, 25 Rector.

Coad. Bro. Lawrence Biello

* Santo Stefano Belbo, Cuneo, Italy 16.3.1891; † Shrigley, Great Britain, 31.5.1977; 86 years old, 64 prof.

He made his aspirantate in Penango (where he entered in 1910) and his novitiate in San Benigno, near Turin. Military service kept him away from community life for four years, but afterwards he returned full of good will and enthusiasm. He then was sent to Great Britain, where he made his perpetual profession. He exercised his apostolate as chef for over 40 years

in various houses of the Province. Lately he was made infirmarian of the aspirantate in Shrigley. He loved music and played the violin with gusto. His exemplary Eucharistic and Marian piety and his attachment to Don Bosco were a real inspiration and comfort to all his confreres.

Fr. Ambrose Bonfanti

* Olginate, Como, Italy, 6.12.1885; † Eugenio Bustos, Mendoza, Argentina, 30.3.1977; 91 years old, 74 prof., 66 priest, 18 Rector.

Patriarch of the Córdoba (Argentina) province, he since its beginnings covered posts of high responsibility, and was able to give a vigorous head start as their Rector to such new foundations as Salta and Eugenio Bustos. Endowed with outstanding human and religious qualities, especially an affable and simple way of dealing with people, he was able to win the friendship of all who approached him. He loved the Congregation to whose service he dedicated his long life self-sacrificingly. He spent his last 30 years at Eugenio Bustos, where he worked unstintingly for its development.

Fr. Attilius Guerrino Boscariol

* Fiume Veneto, Udine, Italy, 23.12.1915; † San Vito al Tagliamento, Pordenone, Italy, 30.12.1976; 61 years old, 38 prof., 28 priest.

The Lord gave him a cheerful and serene disposition during a sickness that accompanied him on and off during his missionary life in China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and lastly Italy. His numerous hospitalizations were always occasions for the spiritual edification of the sick as well as the hospital staff. His health suffered severely, because he never spared himself on the job, both during his 10 years in China and 12 in the Philippines, in his effort to help poor and abandoned youth. His docility, readiness to serve and humility were showed in the assistance he gave Msgr. Arduino as his secretary for 10 years at Geraci-Locri. Patience, availability and humility refined his soul and prepared it to an edifying and tranquil death, accepted in a spirit of faith and love. On his deathbed, as he was receiving the Anointing of the Sick and the Viaticum, he broke out in joyous Allelujas.

Coad. Bro. Guerriero Calvaresi

* Ripatransone, Ascoli Piceno, Italy, 13.7.1899; † Lanciano (hospital), Chieti, Italy, 11.5.1977; 77 years old, 55 prof.

After his religious profession he left for the mission of Mato Grosso (Brazil), where he spent most of his life. It be difficult to tell how much he toiled and suffered in those long 37 years of missionary life. His humble readiness to do God's will never foundered. After his definite return to

Italy, despite fatigue and illness he made himself available to work as a door-keeper. At the end of his working days, he spent his time in prayer — a thing with which he had woven the fabric of his entire life. Because of his childlike simplicity he belonged to that group of Salesians who by their mere presence in a community create a climate of relaxation, brotherliness and togetherness.

Fr. Hugh Colmán

* Montevideo, Uruguay, 30.6.1925; † there, 27.4.1977; 51 years old, 31 prof., 21 priest.

By his lifestyle he gave witness to God's presence, and with great enthusiasm he tried to instil love of the Blessed Mother into his pupils and the people who approached him. In everything he went for the essential. He was a much-wanted catechist — one of those men whose activity would alone be considered sufficient to justify a pastoral undertaking. His life was an unceasing praise of and thanksgiving to God. His prayer spread a joyful sense of living faith about time. His last illness brought him to a still more intimate communion with the Lord.

Coad. Bro. James De Giovannini

* Benevagienna, Cueno, Italy, 29.12.1913; † Bra, Cuneo, Italy, 18.6.1977; 63 years old, 46 prof.

A prudent and wise provider, he was wholly dedicated to his work. With a penchant for practicality, he impressed everyone by his industriousness and the ability and precision with which he carried out his assignments. A generous and open-minded man, he could easily adjust to people and anticipate their wishes and needs. Conscious of his being a consecrated man, he nurtured a solid piety and loved Don Bosco, the Congregation and the young. He is affectionately remembered by his confreres, past pupils and friends.

Fr. Gonzalo Domínguez

* Horcajo de Montemayor, Salamanca, Spain, 25.11.1912; † Barcelona, Spain, 4.4.1976; 63 years old, 47 prof., 36 priest, 3 Rector.

This simple and patient Salesian priest worked with great zeal in various houses and parishes of the Barcelona province and during his last years in our Publishing House in Sarriá. Even when his energies were ebbing away despite all medical efforts, his spirits remained high, and he was still anxious to return to his customary work.

Fr. William Drohan

* Galway, Ireland, 4.11.1917; † Limerick, Ireland, 14.7.1977; 59 years old, 41 prof., 30 priest.

This humble and unpretentious priest was able with his smile and kindness to lavish his superior talents of mind and heart on many generations of Salesian aspirants. Towards the end of his active life, notwithstanding his failing health he was Chaplain of a juvenile rehabilitation center: he looked after the inmates' welfare with real earnestness. His almost sudden passing away left in deep sorrow all his confreres and pupils who cherish an unforgettable memory of him.

Fr. Antoninus Fállica

* Pedara, Catania, Italy, 25.2.1914; † Ferrara, Italy, 7.6.1977; 63 years old, 47 prof., 37 priest, 17 Rector.

Since his formation period he showed himself constantly exemplary in piety, kindness and understanding. After he was ordained priest in Turin in 1940 and after the war was over, he returned to his native Sicily. There he filled several offices in various houses, with responsibility and sound judgement. Because of this he was soon called by the Superiors to direct several communities. In 1962 he was nominated Delegate of the Past Pupils and Cooperators of all Sicily, and showed his talent for organization and guidance of our "Third Family", especially the young. His departure left a large void and a deep sorrow in the Salesian Sicilian Province and in that of the FMA's. (He was the esteemed chaplain and confessor in several communities of the latter).

Fr. Pompeius Finamore

* Alberona, Foggia, Italy, 24.4.1918; † Bari, Italy, 26.7.1977; 50 years old, 43 prof., 34 priest, 6 Rector.

He was a parish priest in Bova Marina, Bari, Cerignola and Molfetta. In each of these place he spent himself for the poorest. In performing charitable deeds he showed a jovial character, tireless energy, priestly zeal and compassion. Because of these qualities his death was mourned by confreres, relatives, Cooperators, parishioners and friends. Nominated Delegate of the Cooperators, he took assiduous care of their spiritual formation and Salesian apostolic commitment. Diligent organizer of Marian pilgrimages, he drew many souls to the Faith through the Blessed Mother.

Coad. Bro. Paul Jiménez

* Macotera, Salamanca, Spain, 24.9.1889; † Barcelona, Spain, 10.7.1977; 87 years old, 59 prof.

Born of a solidly Christian family — with a sister in a religious order, a brother amongst the Jesuits and another brother in the diocesan clergy —, he entered the Congregation at the mature age of 28. At first he devoted himself to farming; then became a self-taught building foreman for 7 years in Cuba. Upon returning to his country, he was a “providential provider” for the house of Sarriá during the difficult years of the post-war food shortage. When he was in his 60’s, he accepted the management of the vegetable garden and cattle farm at Girona for 13 years. A man of God, he made every effort to submit his strong temperament to God’s Will and the service of his confreres. Those who knew him, admired in him a mature religious man wholly dedicated to the Congregation. As a sacristan of the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration at the Sacred Heart Shrine in Tibidabo, he was a source of spiritual edification to those who could see him spend hours on end in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Charles Kieft

* Chlopice, Rzeszów, Poland, 29.12.1907; † Marszalki, Poland, 19.4.1977; 69 years old, 51 prof., 40 priest.

Ordained priest in 1937 and prevented from engaging in any activity by his heart condition, he devoted himself to the ministry of the confessional, and was in great demand by his parishioners, confreres and Sisters. He was exemplary in bearing patiently with the continuous sufferings caused by his sickness.

Coad. Bro. Mauritius Kuan

* Port-Louis, Mauritius Islands, 17.6.1923; † Hong Kong, 3.6.1976; 53 years old, 30 prof.

Fr. Edward Mangini

* Montevideo, Uruguay, 30.6.1893; † there 12.3.1977; 83 years old, 65 prof., 56 priest.

A model Salesian worker, pious, obedient, friendly, ecclesially-minded. He learned how to overcome his outward gruffness and difficult character, and displayed exquisite finess and kindness. Though he was fully involved in teaching, he was ready to put teaching aside and to go to work, with a great deal of enthusiasm, in the youth center, whenever he was requested to do so. During the present shortage of vocations he has been show-

ing his love of the Congregation by praying very hard for vocations. During his long illness many people visited him to seek his advice and absolution. He never sought after titles and honors, but throughout his humble religious and priestly life he sought to honor his poor and shabby-looking cassock, as he had promised to do on vestition day.

Fr. Romeo Ogiegło

* Zator, Krachów, Poland, 28.7.1905; † Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 16.8.1977; 72 years old, 47 prof., 39 priest.

After his first year of philosophy at Krachów he was sent to Brazil and assigned to our house in Campinas. Through he was of a rather difficult character, he learned how to master it and show the typically Salesian affability in the performance of his duties as educator and teacher, especially of Religion — a performance out of love and self-sacrifice. He was able to win the liking and trust of his pupils and parishioners, especially in the confessional as assistant parish priest. He worked in St. John Bosco's parish for many years, giving constant evidence of total dedication to parish work, and becoming — like St. Paul — all things to all men to win all to the Lord.

Coad. Bro. Joseph Penasso

* Mondonio di Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Asti, Italy, 9.8.1911; †Casalette, Turin, Italy, 26.7.1977; 65 years old and 17 prof.

Having remained the only son at home after the death of his parents in his village of Mondonio — the place sanctified by St. Dominic Savio's death —, he at age 47 left his home and landed property to some relatives and followed in the footsteps of his brother Francis, who some years earlier had become a Salesian Coadjutor Brother. In this manner he fulfilled a dream he had been cherishing for some time — that of consecrating his life to the Lord and being with Don Bosco. With his great simplicity and time-tested self-sacrifice he carried on as a Salesian the same kind of work he had been doing before — farming, that is — only too glad that it would now benefit the new community to which he felt deeply attached. The Caselette community where he lived since 1970, and the numerous confreres who passed through that retreat house remember him as exemplary in the practices of piety, available for all kinds of services (even the humblest), serene and welcoming on all occasions. Death overtook him suddenly, but not unpreparedly, in a highway automobile accident while he was returning with some relatives from a funeral.

Fr. Ernest Pérez

* Itagua, Paraguay, 17.1.1889; † Asunción, Paraguay, 24.4.1977; 88 years old, 79 prof., 61 priest, 18 Rector.

Richly talented though he was, he preferred to appear like any ordinary simple man. Experienced and courageous, he founded the first groups of *Exploradores Paraguayos*, the forerunners in Paraguay of the Boy Scouts, whose organization he promoted some years later. He fought against atheism and Marxism from soapboxes in the streets, attacking his adversaries with his iron-clad logic. During his many years as Rector and parish priest, he cultivated many friendships and thus achieved the ideal of the true Shepherd of souls. As war-time chaplain, he displayed bravery and readiness to risk his life for his friends; in the post-war period he was a sharp apologist, a humorous writer in the *Rumbos* daily paper; and in all occasions he acted like a priest. His deep love of Don Bosco, Mary Help of Christians and the Congregation helped him overcome every difficulty.

Fr. John Pianazzi

* Zocca, Modena, Italy, 18.9.1916; † Rome, Italy, 26.6.1977; 60 years old, 42 prof., 32 priest.

After earning his licentiate in Canon Law, he began his apostolate as a Professor in the Monteortone studentate. Three years later, on a request from his Superiors, he obediently took up Moral Theology, and then he taught it for the rest of his life. He was outstanding for competence, solid doctrine and openness to dialogue. Study (he got his degree in Moral Theology when he was past fifty) and suffering (he was ill for seven years) and reflection perfected his ministry as priest, Professor of Moral Theology and spiritual guide. Many houses of Salesian and non-Salesian Sisters were the vast field of his apostolate as confessor and spiritual guide for their pupils, past pupils and Sisters themselves. He worked indefatigably, yielding but very slowly to the advancing ailment. One of his Italian radio talks on family morality was aired shortly before his death. His long illness emphasized his many natural talents and spiritual graces, and perfected his generous availability to all.

Coad. Bro. Francis Piccinetti

* Latera, Viterbo, Italy, 4.10.1887; † Frascati, Roma, Italy, 18.5.1977; 89 years old and 13 prof.

He became acquainted with the Salesians in 1934 when, after becoming a widower, he entered the house of Lanuvio as a gardener. A tireless and diligent worker, he impressed everyone for his physical and even

more for his moral stamina. He was not yet a professed religious, and he was already living like one. So it was no surprise that the Lord called him at the age of 76 to join the Salesians. Simple, sincere and honest with God and men, he was by word and example an admirable teacher of industry and self-sacrifice to the many novices and young confreres, who always looked upon him as one of their dearest friends and educators. His grave illness showed his spiritual mettle: he whole-heartedly accepted suffering and death, and offered himself to God for the Church, the Congregation and especially for the perseverance of vocations.

Fr. Maurilius Prieto

* Matadeón, León, Spain, 12.5.1947; † Valera, Trujillo, Venezuela, 17.6.1977; 30 years old, 13 prof., 1 priest.

His vocation came about in a Salesian school and was encouraged by its firm, home-like Christian atmosphere. He showed a great capacity for work and constant dedication to his studies during the formation period, the practical training and especially this year which was his first and only year in the priesthood. His remarkable talents as a practical and dynamic man and his spirit of initiative were devoted pastoral work and catechesis. He made the school Pastoral Center into a pilot center, well equipped with audiovisual aids.

Fr. Edward Baptist Roberto

* Jacirandi, Brazil, 24.6.1900; † São Paulo, Brazil, 26.8.1977; 77 years old, 57 prof., 49 priest, 3 Rector.

He was one of the first aspirants in our house at Lavrinhas. He was a great leader of youth as assistant, Prefect of Studies, and Catechist. He set up the JOC (Young Christian Workers) organization in São Paulo. From 1960 on he was the ecclesiastical supervisor of the State organization for the protection of minors, and was a highly respected orator and preacher. For three years he held the Rector's office, and in the last few years he worked for religious and ecclesiastical vocations.

Coad. Bro. Albert Sangiorgi

* Ravenna, Italy, 1.9.1917; † Bologna, Italy, 7.8.1977; 59 years old and 41 prof.

After losing both his parents at a very young age, he was taken into the Salesian house in Ravenna, where he came in contact with some very fine Salesians, and his vocation developed. He made his after-novitiate at San Benigno Canavese as a bookbinder, and afterwards he worked al-

most exclusively in our house in Bologna, with the exception of short period in Milan. Being a modest man, he cultivated deep friendships, especially amongst his fellow Coadjutor Brothers. His death came suddenly in an automobile accident while returning from a short vacation in the mountains, spent in the quiet company of confreres and boys.

Fr. Henry Sarnowski

* Schenectady, New York, U.S.A., 22.3.1912; † Suffern, N.Y., U.S.A., 6.1.1977; 64 years old, 45 prof., 37 priest, 11 Rector.

The personality of Fr. Sarnowski touched the lives of many Salesians, students, parents and countless friends of the Salesian work in the New Rochelle province. He was a born leader. To the communities where he was Rector or even only a teacher he brought his amazing capacity for work and his exuberant cheerfulness. He displayed a lively and warm concern for others: he took time to listen to them. He was fond of community get-togethers and celebrations. He was very proud of his priestly and Salesian vocation, and very enthusiastic about Don Bosco's educational system. He loved church music and the sacred liturgy, and personally saw to it that church services were carried out with great decorum. He distinguished himself as an educator, and by word and example he promoted love of the Blessed Sacrament, devotion to Mary Help of Christians, and love of the Pope and the Church. He rendered distinguished service to the Province through the reorganization and development of the libraries at Newton, Ramsey and other houses. He was active in local and national professional associations, and served for a time as Officer of the U.S.A. Catholic Library Association and since 1968 as Library Consultant for the Province. In 1959 he suffered a major stroke, which left him partially paralyzed and from which he made an amazing recovery in the succeeding years.

Coad. Bro. Armand Schalch

* Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, 4.6.1883; † Jaciguá, Espirito Santo, Brazil, 18.5.1977; 93 years old and 68 prof.

He was a veteran with the old-time Salesian qualities — piety, humility, spirit of self-sacrifice, and faithfulness to prayer and to work — all in keeping with the spirit of Don Bosco. School, assistance and day-to-day tasks were wholly oriented towards education. Being a typical Salesian, he loved the "Festive Oratory". Tactful with everyone, especially, with past pupils, he won everyone over with his good-heartedness. He had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and with the zeal of an apostle

he spread the practice of the Nine Offices far and wide. With his death, a lifetime of splendid Salesian examples and perfect religious observance has come to an end.

Fr. Karl Sedlmaier

* Augsburg, Swabia, Germany, 24.3.1897; † Krems, Austria, 20.5.1977; 80 years old, 56 prof., 49 priest.

Zeal for souls, good-heartedness and great love for Don Bosco and his works distinguished him throughout his Salesian life.

Coad. Bro. Paul Sola

* Racconigi, Cuneo, Italy, 12.5.1891; † Cuneo, Italy, 6.6.1977; 86 years, 64 prof.

For forty years he was the irreplaceable “animator” of the Cuneo Youth Centers. Sports, music and theatre were the fields of his apostolate: he joined many a soccer, bocce and card game to keep both youngsters and adults occupied. He was an unparalleled mimic and comedian, and always used these talents for education. But his greatest achievements were in the field of band music. He was the Maestro of music — and the master of hearts. His firm and practical piety, his devotion to Our Lady, his booming voice raised in the praise of the Lord, his good-nights, speeches and circulars were a real boost for so many young people and adults who today grieve the death of this true son of Don Bosco.

Coad. Bro. Andrew Szóstek

* Okulice, Poland, 28.10.1892; † Kraków, Poland, 23.7.1977; 84 years old, 56 prof.

He entered the novitiate after having fought in World War I. In his religious life he distinguished himself for his untiring work as baker and later gardener. With his hearing impaired as a result of severing in the artillery division, he suffered severe pain with exemplary serenity for over 50 years. His self-sacrifice was total and perfect.

Fr. Louis Testa Rosso

* Grana, Asti, Italy, 3.1.1893, †Montevideo, Uruguay, 28.5.1977; 84 years old, 68 prof., 60 priest, 20 Rector.

His life was enriched with great love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, Mary and her Rosary, Don Bosco and his Congregation, the Pope and the Church. He anticipated modern times with the most up-to-date means of evangelization. He was a great promoter of the “Festive Oratory”, to which

he freely gave of his remarkable talent for getting things organized and done. With much apostolic zeal, he devoted his energies to youth through catechesis and missions in the cities and rural areas. He had a special pastoral ability to understand the needs of his people, especially the poorest.

Fr. Dominick Tristano

* Terlizzi, Bari, Italy, 7.1.1915; † Naples, Italy, 1.7.1977; 62 years old, 46 prof., 37 priest, 20 Rector.

He is remembered by many as a "catechist" in both the new and the old sense of the word, that is, in the priestly quality that characterized his various life experiences as teacher, catechist, economer, Rector, Youth Center Director and parish priest. In all his occupations which he carried out with a spirit of responsibility and commitment in various houses, he was loved for his reserved, understanding and unpretentious mien. He was a true priest and religious, deeply and thoroughly convinced, sensitive and open to the needs of others, but at the same time faithful to the Church and to Don Bosco. He was untiring and closely attached to his duty until the end of his life.

Fr. Paul Vella

* Valletta, Mata, 8.1.1910; † Sliema, Malta, 11.7.1977; 67 years old, 47 prof., 39 priest.

This good Maltese confrere spent his Salesian life in three provinces. In the Sicilian Province he entered the Congregation, became a priest and worked for several years before returning to his native country, where for five years he served the confreres and boys as Economer. In 1951 he moved to the Adriatic Province and stayed there for 17 years, again serving as Economer in various houses. In 1968 he once again returned to Malta, where remained till his death. He spent his last years distributing catechetical books and material. A man of few words and much compassion, he endured for almost one year an incurable disease which eventually led him to his death.

Fr. Joseph Villani

* Catania, Italy, 25.10.1892; † Naples, Italy, 12.7.1977; 84 years old, 67 prof., 57 priest, 9 Rector.

Throughout his long life characterized by a deep love of Don Bosco, a fervent priestly spirit and courageous achievements, Fr. Villani represented for his confreres and boys the strong, firm and decisive man, fully convinced of his priestly and Salesian ideals and thoroughly achieving them. He

was a maker of fine men. One of the aspects and secrets of his educational activity was his ability to adapt himself to wherever he was assigned to work: he was an Andrian in Andria, a Neopolitan in Naples. His life-style as that of the common people among whom he exercised his educational ministry, sharing his life and ideals with them.

Coad. Bro. Gabriel Virág

* Rábacsécsény, Győr, Hungary, 13.1.1893; † Pannonhalma, Hungary, 26.6.1977; 84 years old, 43 prof.

As a forty-year old farmer he left his work in the fields to work those in the House of the Lord, giving completely of himself to His service. He took this decision after a long adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. His love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist lasted him all his life. In the Congregation he found work, bread, and a promise of Paradise. His chief traits were industry, serenity, respect for authority, goodness and above all living in union with God. Whenever he was not busy in work, he was seen saying the rosary. He was always ready to lend a helping hand in case of need, and for this he was loved by all. Closely attached to the Congregation, he wanted his worn-out book of the Constitutions to be put in his coffin together with his rosary beads. He accepted death with tranquillity. His last words were: "God's will be done!".

Fr. Fiore Zampieri

* Sargnano, Belluno, Italy, 6.7.1905; † Este, Padua, Italy, 20.7.1977; 72 years old, 43 prof., 39 priest.

He was a Salesian faithful to the Rule and wholly dedicated to the school apostolate. From the classroom desk he proclaimed the Gospel, and with his example he won the respect and love of his pupils. It was this bond of affection that made him a successful educator. A man of clear and serene conscience, he lived his priestly and Salesian vocation with vigorous faith.

Fr. Francis Zannini

* Campolongo sul Brenta, Vicenza, Italy, 22.8.1911; † Abadan, Iran, 30.5.1977; 65 years old, 48 prof., 38 priest, 12 Rector.

After finishing his aspirantate in Italy, he left for India where he made his novitiate. He was already a priest when he was imprisoned along with other Salesians in a concentration camp during World War II. After the War he went to the Middle East Province where he taught

English, was Rector and parish priest. For two years he also did parish work in the United States. He was an highly competent Italian and English teacher, and knew several other languages as well. Wherever he worked, he succeeded in winning the heart of everyone with his kindness and friendliness.

3rd Elenco for 1977

- 57 Sac. ADAM Ladislao † a Budapest (Ungheria) 1977 a 84 a.
- 58 Sac. ALVES Emanuele † a Los Angeles (USA) 1976 a 75 a.
- 59 Sac. BALDUCCI Gino † a Parma (Italia) 1976 a 65 a.
- 60 Sac. BALI Adalberto † a Vécs (Ungheria) 1977 a 74 a.
- 61 Sac. BERTA Giovanni † Torino (Italia) 1976 a 68 a.
- 62 Coad. BIELLO Lorenzo † Shrigley (Gran Bretagna) 1977 a 86 a.
- 63 Sac. BONFANTI Ambrogio † a Eugenio Bustos (Argentina) 1977 a 91 a.
- 64 Sac. BOSCARDIOL Attilio Guerrino † a S. Vito al Tagliamento (Italia) 1976 a 61 a.
- 65 Coad. CALVARESI Guerirero † a Lanciano (Chieti-Italia) 1977 a 77 a.
- 66 Sac. COLMAN Ugo † Montevideo (Uruguay) 1977 a 51 a.
- 67 Coad. DE GIOVANNINI Giacomo † a Bra (Cuneo-Italia) 1977 a 63 a.
- 68 Sac. DOMINGUEZ Gonzalo † a Barcelona (Spagna) 1976 a 63 a.
- 69 Sac. DROHAN Guglielmo † a Limerick (Irlanda) 1977 a 59 a.
- 70 Sac. FALLICA Antonio † a Ferrara (Italia) 1977 a 63 a.
- 71 Sac. FINAMORE Pompeo † a Bari (Italia) 1977 a 59 a.
- 72 Coad. JIMENEZ Paolo † a Barcelona (Spagna) 1977 a 87 a.
- 73 Sac. KIELT Carlo † a Marszalki (Polonia) 1977 a 69 a.
- 74 Coad. KUAN Maurizio † a Hong Kong 1976 a 53 a.
- 75 Sac. MANGINI Edoardo † a Montevideo (Uruguay) 1977 a 83 a.
- 76 Sac. OGIEGLO Romeo † a Rio de Janeiro (Brasile) 1977 a 72 a.
- 77 Coad. PENASSO Giuseppe † a Casalette (Torino-Italia) 1977 a 65 a.
- 78 Sac. PEREZ Ernesto † a Asunción (Paraguay) 1977 a 88 a.
- 79 Sac. PIANAZZI Giovanni † a Roma (Italia) 1977 a 60 a.
- 80 Coad. PICCINETTI Francesco † a Frascati (Roma-Italia) 1977 a 89 a.
- 81 Sac. PRIETO Maurilio † a Valera (Trujillo-Venezuela) 1977 a 30 a.
- 82 Sac. ROBERTO Edoardo Batista † a S. Paulo (Brasile) 1977 a 77 a.
- 83 Coad. SANGIORGI Alberto † a Bologna (Italia) 1977 a 59 a.
- 84 Sac. SARNOWSKI Enrico † a Suffern (New York-USA) 1977 a 64 a.
- 85 Coad. SCHALCH Armando † a Jaciguá (Espirito Santo-Brasile) 1977 a 93 a.
- 86 Sac. SEDLMAIER Carlo † a Krems (Austria) 1977 a 80 a.
- 87 Coad. SOLA Paolo † a Cuneo (Italia) 1977 a 86 a.
- 88 Coad. SZOSTEK Andrea † a Kraków (Polonia) 1977 a 84 a.
- 89 Sac. TESTA (Rosso) Luigi † a Montevideo (Uruguay) 1977 a 84 a.
- 90 Sac. TRISTANO Domenico † a Napoli (Italia) 1977 a 62 a.
- 91 Sac. VELLA Paolo † a Sliema (Malta) 1977 a 67 a.
- 92 Sac. VILLANI Giuseppe † a Napoli (Italia) 1977 a 84 a.
- 93 Coad. VIRAGH Gabriele † a Pannonhalma (Ungheria) 1977 a 84 a.
- 94 Sac. ZAMPIERI Fiore † a Este (Padova-Italia) 1977 a 72 a.
- 95 Sac. ZANNINI Francesco † ad Abadan (Iran) 1977 a 65 a.



