



BROTHER ROXIE (ROCCO) MAROTTA, S.D.B.

March 1, 1985

Dear Confreres,

Our confrere, Brother Roxie Marotta, had his great wish fulfilled at 1:25 pm on the 19th of February, 1985. He went home to Heaven!

Just a few weeks prior, he chose a passage of Scripture as the central theme for his funeral Mass. "Our true home is in Heaven, and Jesus, whose return we long for, will come to save us." "That verse sums up my whole life," Brother Roxie said. "Forget the other readings!"

Brother Roxie loved his home and family. It would only be natural that he would have chosen those biblical words. Brother Roxie was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 24, 1914. He was baptized solemnly in the Immaculate Conception Church on January 24th, 1915. Brother Roxie recalls, "My father was a barber and my mother, a housewife. My father got married on ten dollars a week; he worked hard; he

made life easy for us." Brother Roxie's schooling was at St. Aloysius in Cleveland where he was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph. His high school education was at Cathedral Latin. He wanted to go out to college, but the depression was on and World War II was in the offing.

Brother Roxie loved his country too, "The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave." He joined the National Guard on September 14, 1938. From there he entered the Regular Army Corps on November 28, 1942. In May of 1943 he was sent to the Eighth Air Force as a member of the Second Air Division.

After the war, Brother Roxie recalled, he had some decisions to make . . . "Should I stay in or get out? I had risen from Private first class to Captain in three years. I had a promotion to Major in my lap. I thought it over; I'm getting out."

It was two years later, at the behest of Sister Augustine, a devotee of St. John Bosco, that Brother Roxie thought of the Salesian brotherhood. He came to Don Bosco College, Newton, New Jersey on October 21, 1948 and was met by the Venerable Father Franco. He made his first profession into the hands of Bishop Stephen Ferrando of India on Friday, September 8, 1950. It was the Holy Year.

After five years of training in Newton, Brother Roxie went to the provincial house in New Rochelle, where he stayed for two years.

Brother Roxie made the last 35 years of his life at home with Don Bosco. He loved the Salesian Family. Whether in New Rochelle, Boston, or Ipswich where he spent fifteen years, or in Newton, Columbus or West Haverstraw, he was a full family member.

The majority of his years were spent as a financial administrator. In fact, he began this ministry of service at a time when it wasn't customary for a brother to have this office.

Brother Roxie always made a great contribution. He gave himself, his personal gifts and talents, and above all, his energy and rich experience to the family.

Brother Roxie loved sports, and was an avid fan as well as a participant. At football, basketball, volleyball, bowling or his favorite, softball, he was an inspiration of good sportsmanship. Father Dominic DeBlase, Provincial, reminisced at the interment in Goshen, that Brother Roxie conducted umpire and referee clinics at Newton. "Brother Roxie was always a man of the Rule, a man of principle." "Brother Roxie was tough in this respect," Father Dominic said.

It was this "toughness," coupled with his deep faith, that he brought to his sickness of cancer. There were times, towards the end of his life, when Brother Roxie felt lost, disoriented and confused. Sometimes self-pity tugged at his soul. He got fed up with pills, wanted no more of chemotherapy. His real strength was his personal faith in God drawn from his deeply religious family background. He had made his own the faith of St. Paul, "We are, however, citizens of heaven and we eagerly await our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus. In that home, He will change our mortal bodies and make them like His own glorious body."

On the morning of his death, Brother Roxie said to his confrere, Brother John Cauda, "I'd like to be transferred from the Bluegate Residence." Well, the Lord Jesus listened to his request. He's been transferred to the best community in the Congregation, situated somewhere in that proverbial "Salesian Garden."

The many confreres and friends who attended Brother Roxie's Mass of Christian Burial attest to the fact that his life was rich in good deeds, strong manly faith and powerful good example. He has left his earthly home and his Salesian family with beautiful memories. We should continue to pray for him. We should pray to him that he might intercede with

Mary Help of Christians that our province might experience an increase of new brother vocations.

Pray also for Brother Roxie's family, his confreres at Bluegates and at the Marian Shrine.

Cordially in Don Bosco,

Richard J. McCormick, S.D.B.

Richard J. McCormick
Director

Data for necrology: Brother Roxie (Rocco) Marotta, S.D.B.
Born: Cleveland, Ohio,
December 24, 1914
Professed: Newton, New Jersey
September 8, 1950
Died: West Haverstraw, New York
February 19, 1985