

Salesian College,
Battersea,
London.

July 2nd 1933.

Dear Confreres,

Our Agricultural College at Warrenstown has been visited by the Lord to take to Himself our perpetually professed cleric

BROTHER JOHN McCARTHY. S. C.

It was the vigil of the day when he would have received his degree in Agriculture from the University of Dublin.

Born of a good Catholic farming family at Fedamore, Co. Limerick, he was one of a group of youngsters to whom the wise and venerated Canon O'Kennedy gave Latin lessons, since they showed signs of a priestly vocation. In 1920, both John's parents died of influenza. In writing to the Rector of the Salesian House at Pallaskenry, the Canon recommended John to him with the words, "I have here a boy of excellent character, quite the best I have ever had, and equal to the best in ability" He adapted himself at once to the school, a willing worker and cheerful companion to the boys who jokingly used to call him "Sugar"

He entered the Novitiate the following year, made his profession, worked through his philosophy, his tirocinium, and the first two years of theology at Farnborough, where he took his Minor Orders. But now he was asked to make a sacrifice. There was need for a second qualified teacher from Dublin University for our Agricultural Colleges. John had already graduated at London University, but he willingly made the sacrifice of putting off his ordination date. He started the Agricultural course at Dublin and with a Salesian companion, lived with a Religious community for the first two years of the course and a further two years with a good Catholic family. He left behind him the memory of a faithful religious, every present at morning Mass, Holy Communion and Meditation. He would return to Warrenstown every week-end to help with the general work of the House and School, as he also did at the times when he was not attending lectures.

Sadly he was suddenly struck down with pneumonia and pleurisy. He was taken to the Mater Misericordiae hospital in Dublin where at first he seemed to respond to treatment and to the prayers of all our communities. We were confidently expecting his speedy return to us. On the Friday, the ninth of June, he said to his Salesian companion, who had visited him daily, that he had not felt so well for ages; he had made his confession and received Holy Communion that morning.

Later that same day his condition seemed to deteriorate. He said he felt cold and he asked for an extra blanket. A short time afterwards he said to one of the Sisters, "I think I am going to die to-night". When the Sister suggested sending for the doctor he readily agreed and he also asked that she send for a priest. He began to pray to the Sacred Heart and to Our Lady, continuing to do so until about 2. p. m. on the Saturday morning when he quietly died, as if in the arms of His Blessed Mother, for whom he had always a tender affection. Many of his confreres and friends later called to see his remains, remarking how, even in death, he had preserved the serenity which had marked him in life

He has now departed to his true heavenly home. He has left behind him the memory of a kind and helpful confrere, and of a happy relationship with his Superiors, for whom he had every affection and confidence.

"O gentle Soul, may the Lord grant you that crown which he has woven for all his faithful servants, for that deferential obedience that was all yours. Commend us and the Salesian Society to our Divine Master and to Blessed John Bosco."

Dear Confreres, let us pray for his soul, let us imitate him in his good example.

Yours affectionately in C. J.

E. M. Tozzi. (Provincial)

Necrology: Cleric John McCarthy, born in Fedamore, Limerick, on the 4th August 1903, died Dublin on the 10th June 1933, in the tenth year of religious profession.