

Salesian House,
47 Surrey Lane,
Battersea,
London SW11 3PB

Reporting the death of **Bro. Joseph McCarthy SDB** the national Catholic paper, *The Universe*, ran the heading "**A sad loss for UK Salesians**", and

continued by saying "*his death marks the end of an era for Salesians in Britain*".

Bro. Joseph spent his life in the service of the Lord and when he collapsed in our Community chapel on the feast of St. Michael, 29th September, 1992, he was preparing the altar for our Community Mass. This was the beginning of the end and his last act of service. After spending that morning in hospital he returned home but next morning a stroke prevented him leaving his room. A week later the Little Sisters of the Poor at Vauxhall kindly admitted him to their beautiful Nursing Home, where following two more strokes he died on Wednesday 28th October, 1992, aged 85.

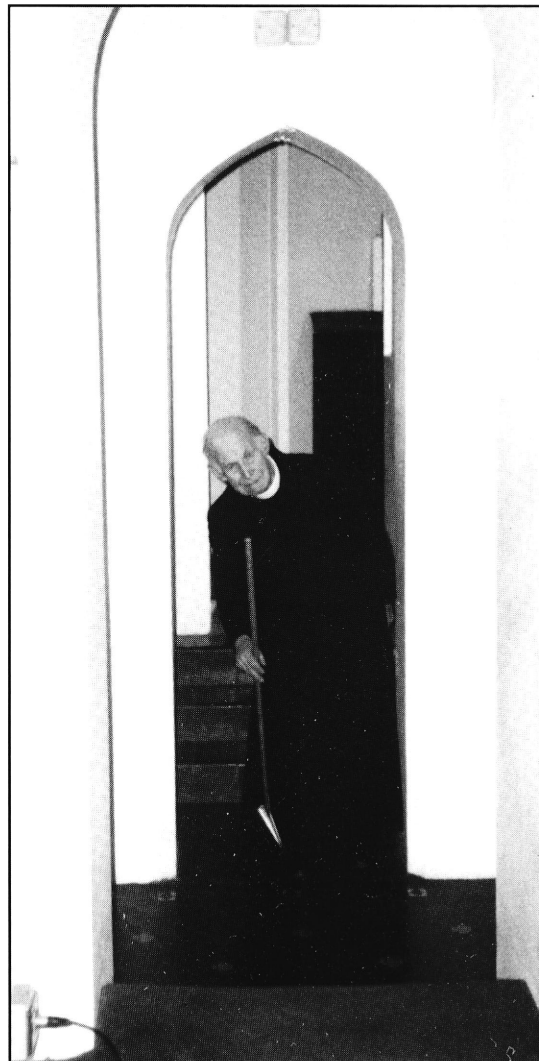
Bro. Joseph was born in Plumstead in South-East London on August 13th 1907. He attended St. Joseph's Academy in Blackheath for two years before transferring to the Salesian College, Battersea, in

1923. After spending two years at Battersea he decided that he would like to become a Salesian and he entered the Salesian Novitiate in Cowley, Oxford.

After successfully completing his Novitiate year he took his first vows as a Salesian in September 1927. He then began his active apostolate in the Salesian school for boys in Burwash, Sussex and he stayed there until 1937.

He then moved to Battersea and spent the remaining fifty-five years of his life with the school. When the school was evacuated to Cowley, Oxford during the war, Bro. Joseph was asked to take on the job of secretary to the headmaster and he continued in that post until Fr. Chadwick's retirement in 1965. During the time at Oxford Bro. Joseph was a great help to the young boys who were

billeted with local families and also those who were boarding in the school. During the war many of the boys stayed at Oxford during the holidays and Bro. Joseph always seemed to be on hand and ready to deal with any emergency.



When the school returned to Battersea in 1945 Bro. Joseph carried on his work as headmaster's secretary until Fr. Chadwick retired in 1965. However, Bro. Joseph still continued his good work in the school, making every effort to get to know every boy in the school and every member of the staff. He spent his time with them, giving out dinner tickets or in recreation or especially in the chapel, which he looked after with his special care.

The story of Bro. Joseph's life is the story of a sincere and humble man who for 65 years lived a life of service for others and complete fidelity to his Salesian profession. Those who lived with him took his sanctity for granted, a self-evident truth. Even towards the end of his life he was most regular in his practices of piety and always a great source of edification to the community. Even when another person might have excused himself from jobs on account of age and sickness, Bro. Joseph was always on the lookout and ready to do little jobs to be of service to the community.

Bro. Joseph's life was a lesson of extraordinary witness - it was the most natural thing in the world for Bro. Joseph to share with others the familiarity and easy friendship he had with Christ. He

always greeted everyone with a smile and spoke in a kindly way to them. He was never known to be impatient. A true model of that Christian politeness which makes a gentleman. He will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Bro. Joseph belonged to a generation who like to have their preparations well made, whether for a short journey in this life or an even longer journey to God in the next. They have a sense of the all-pervading presence of God in good times and in bad. They are able to relate the events and happenings of their lives to the presence of God among them in the most natural of ways - and for that reason they had about them a great sense of reverence, a dignity and respect, not just from the wisdom of long years lived well but from a sense of what was right and true and good, a sense that nothing could come between them and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus, a sense that the souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God. So, let us not so much mourn the death of Bro. Joseph as celebrate his homecoming with thanks to God for his long life, for the example his faith gave us, for the lessons we learned from him about living well and dying well.

May his good soul rest contentedly in the happiness of God's home.

Please pray for Bro. Joseph and also for this community.
Sincerely in Don Bosco.

John Docherty SDB (Rector)

**Information for Necrology:
Bro. Joseph McCarthy SDB**

***Born: Plumstead, London, 13th August 1907
Died: Vauxhall, London, 28th October 1992 aged 85,
after 65 years of profession***