

DON BOSCO COLLEGE
NEWTON, NEW JERSEY
U. S. A.

O'Leary Pati

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Dear Confreres:

On November 8, at 11:45, Father Patrick O'Leary's soul left this earthly abode to return to its Creator. He was then seventy-nine years old.

A few days before, the Sisters of Seton Institute, Baltimore, where the good father had been hospitalized for the last five years, had telephoned Fr. Provincial and told him that Fr. O'Leary's health was failing fast. Fr. Provincial immediately paid him a visit. He found him weak and suffering. The good Father took hold of Fr. Provincial's hand and held fast to it for over half an hour. It seems that he was able to understand and follow the main trend of the conversation. His lungs, however, were badly congested, and it was clear that the approaching end was not too far off. He knew it and was prepared for the great step.

Patrick O'Leary was born on April 20, 1880, in Castle Gregory on O'Leary Island, off County Kerry, Ireland. At the age of thirteen he journeyed to Ivrea, Italy, for his high school studies, and on October 4, 1895, he began his novitiate under the fatherly care of Fr. Eugene Bianchi. His love for and loyalty to his Father Master lived with him for the rest of his life. Time and again he would bring Fr. Bianchi's name into his sermons, and when doing so, he was often moved to tears. After his novitiate, he went to Valsalice to pursue his philosophical studies. Don Bosco's holy remains had just been buried there a few years before, and this was an inspiration and a source of consolation for the young clerics. It was there at Valsalice that Salesian giants of the calibre of Fr. Rua, Fr. Piscetta, and Fr. Rinaldi became very familiar to him. How many times have we heard him speak of the "wonderful family spirit" at Valsalice!

In 1898, after completing his studies, he went for his *tirocinium* to Battersea, London, England. There also he studied theology, and on September 24, 1904, he was ordained to the priesthood at St. George's Cathedral, Southark, London. Then Fr. O'Leary began his long service as a teacher and preacher of renown. He spent the next five years as a teacher of Sacred Scripture to the clerics in England, dividing the rest of his time between studies and preaching. In 1909 the Superiors sent him to Chile, where for twelve years he devoted all his time to teaching and preaching, respectively in Punta Arenas, Iquique, Valparaiso, and Santiago.

In 1922, he came to the United States and taught theology to our students for the priesthood in New Rochelle, New York. While at New Rochelle, he also engaged in teaching for the Fordham University Extension then located in that city. After obtaining his Doctorate in Philosophy, he continued on at the main section of the University as a professor in St. Augustin's philosophy and in English Literature. In 1934 he came to Newton, and for twenty years he dedicated all his energies and his outstanding intellectual and moral qualities for the training of the clerics.

He taught philosophy and English with great competence and clearness of presentation. In 1938, when the College was approved by the

State, he became the first Dean of Don Bosco College. There is hardly a priest now in the two provinces of the United States who has not been taught by him at one time or another.

Towards the end of the year 1953 he began to suffer from arteriosclerosis, and in February, 1954 he had to be hospitalized. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the good Sisters of Charity at Seton Institute, Baltimore, for their patience and dedicated services towards the good father.

The funeral services were held at the Seminary in Newton, where Fr. O'Leary spent many of the latter years of his life. One of his sisters and several other relatives joined the large crowd of confreres to pay the last tribute to this sincere and enthusiastic son of Don Bosco. Fr. Provincial sang the Solemn High Mass, and Fr. Francis Klauder, Fr. O'Leary's successor as Dean of the College, delivered a very devout eulogy. His main thought, "*quotidie morior*," which ran through the sermon, serves as a reminder to us all. "Time and again," the preacher said, "Fr. O'Leary repeated these words for us from this very place. Today he is laid down to rest, and in his eloquent silence once more he teaches the truth that—as Don Bosco puts it—at the end of our life we shall receive the reward of our good deeds."

Dear Confreres, let us remember in our prayers the soul of Fr. O'Leary, and please also pray for the Confreres, Novices, and Sons of Mary of this house, that we all may prove worthy of the vocation to which we have been called.

Sincerely yours in Don Bosco,
FATHER JOSEPH M. STELLA, S. D. B.
Director

Dati per il Necrologio: Sac. PATRIZIO O'LEARY, nato a Castle Gregory, Irlanda, il 20 aprile 1880, morto a Baltimore, Stati Uniti, l'8 novembre 1959 a 79 anni di età, 64 di professione e 55 di sacerdozio.

