



Fr. Pierangelo Quaranta, sdb
Born : Rivalta Torinese, Italy, Nov. 9, 1916
Died : Manila, Philippines, April 12, 1992
A Salesian for 59 years
A priest of the Lord for 49 years

Dearest Confreres, relatives and friends of Fr. Quaranta,

On April 12, 1992, Palm Sunday, any time between 1:30 and 3:30 pm, Fr. Pierangelo Quaranta sdb left us. In the name of his Salesian community of Don Bosco Quezon City, I would like to express to all of you our deepest sympathy. Each one of you lost a father, a guide, and a friend ...He has been a Salesian for 59 years and a priest of the Lord for 49.

He had two very taxing weeks following the big fire in Don Bosco Makati in which he was forced to transfer the alumni office first to Don Bosco Quezon City and then to Don Bosco Mandaluyong.

At the same time his last week with us saw him busy in three full day retreats in various chaplaincies in preparation for the holy week and one busy day with the confreres retreat in Batulao.

On the evening of Saturday, April 11, we had a long talk about his future projects, including his coming trip to Italy with three alumni and his golden Jubilee of priesthood this coming 1993.

Early morning on Sunday he went as usual to "his" sisters in Better Living but he was forced to come home immediately accusing fatigue and weakness. He rested from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. I checked on him twice and he seemed to be resting peacefully.

At 12:00 he joined the community for his last meal. He took little food, enjoyed his 'espresso', asked for the newspaper and retired to his room. I volunteered to substitute him in his one week retreat for the FMA sisters which would start that same afternoon. He simply and jokingly said: "I am not as old as you think; I will be down at 3:30 pm, evviva". At 3:30 pm he failed to come down; I went up and found him on the floor. We rushed him to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital but it was too late.

Don Bosco once said: "Should it happen that a Salesian dies while working, that will be a great day for the Congregation".

Indeed April 12 was a great day for the congregation, a day in which the Lord found Fr. Pierangelo Quaranta ready and worthy of entering with Him into the new and eternal Jerusalem right on Palm Sunday.

Fr. Quaranta was born at Rivalta Torinese on Nov. 9, 1916, in the province of Turin, in the Piemonte Region near the Alps in the north-west of Italy.

He was the 16th and last of the children of Giuseppe and Massa Teresa.

On October 1, 1928, at the young age of 12, he entered the Oratory of Saint Francis de Sales founded by Don Bosco in Valdocco, Turin. There he stayed until he completed his high school in 1932.

He had his Novitiate in Monte Oliveto, Pinerolo, Turin from 1932 to 1933 and made his first profession on September. 17, 1933.

He renewed his profession the same day in 1936 and made his final commitment to God as a Salesian on August 29, 1936.

He completed his Philosophical studies at Foglizzo Canavese from 1933 to 1935 and his Theological studies in Crocetta, Turin from 1939 to 1943.

He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1943 at Bagnolo Piemonte by the hands of Bishop Salvatore Rotolo, sdb.

His assignments saw him first as a cleric in practical training at the very heart of the salesian congregation, as a teacher and assistant at Valdocco, Turin. He was also the assistant of the novices in Monte Oliveto for one year.

From 1943 to 1948 he was a teacher in Saluzzo.

From 1948 to 1950 he was the dean of Theology in Shanghai, China and Aberdeen Hong Kong.

From 1950 to 1952 he was assigned catechist at Shaukiwan, Hong Kong.

From 1952 to 1955 he was assigned as DBYC director in Don Bosco Mandaluyong where he became rector from 1956 till 1964.

From 1964 to 1972 he was the Dean of men and chaplain of the Pious XII Catholic Center in Manila.

From 1972 to 1975 he helped Fr. Rizzato in San Ildefonso parish, Makati, until he became the first Parish Priest of the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Better Living, Paranaque, from 1975 to 1986.

From 1986 to present he has been the National Delegate of the Federation of the Alumni of Don Bosco in the Philippines, holding office at the Salesiana compound in Don Bosco Makati, Pasay road. He was a member of the Salesiana Community until these past two years when he was assigned to the Don Bosco Hostel Community, Araneta Ave. Quezon City, as confessor and chaplain. It is in this community which he loved so much, among the young, where he passed away.

Besides doing his regular duties in his office and community he was busy in many chaplaincies beginning with SMC and all its branches, extending to Provident, Gilarmi Apartments, Salesian and Franciscan sisters, Abenson, Firestone, Glorietta and many others.

He was the regular confessor of the Salesian communities of the students of Theology and Mandaluyong and extraordinary confessor to the communities of Pampanga, Tarlac, Sta Cruz Laguna, Canlubang and Batulao.

He was recently very busy in raising funds for the "Fr. Quaranta Foundation" which a group of the first batches of alumni established in order to continue his many projects.

HIS LOOK

- his splendid soul was pictured in his open, welcoming and paternal face
- his eyes were fixed on the listener
- his head slightly turned to the left and forward in an attitude of attentive listening and cordial interchange
- he always wore an affirming, welcoming and expressive smile, the exterior sign of his inner joy of being with God and with you
- He would often burst into a healthy laughter, blush and stamp his feet, rub his crossed hands on his chest and exclaim:
"Hi po...." " Oh my gooshie..."

HIS HUMAN SIDE

- For every encounter, even the most ordinary one he would make you feel you belonged and you counted, whatever he was doing could wait
- his favorite expression while calling your attention to something important would be: "mira mira ..." or "Attention..." and he would bring in some very convincing and strong statements drawn directly from his long experience and sound tradition
- he did not leave us any written diary. His diary was written in the daily fidelity to his duty.
We do have countless little notes of affirmation he used to send to all his friends in many special occasions
- He was truly Filipino. He knew how to strike the sensitive cord of each one's heart and bring out the best from them — spiritually, emotionally, or...in cash or kind.
- He nurtured deep personal friendships with his benefactors, sincerely caring for them with his priestly zeal and concern... so much so that in many cases he did not even have to ask for donations because they came as a sign of gratitude before he could even ask for them.
- He loved in detail all that was beautiful. Every detail counted for him, everything was important when it came to maintain and deepen a relationship, nothing was to be taken for granted.
- He was very sensitive to any little attention shown to him and very generous in responding even to the smallest favor.

HIS BETTER SIDE: HIS CHRISTIAN SIDE

- He was not a teacher who would simply tell you what to do. He was a master of human as well as spiritual life inspiring you how to live.

He often confided "You cannot imagine the tremendous inner joy and peace that the grace of the Lord showers abundantly in my life...how wonderful are these boys, how nice to be here"

- He was a man of God, with his eyes in heaven, his heart in what he was doing and his feet on earth.

To keep his focus on God he had this ascetical style:

Attachment to his ordinary daily duty; detachment from things.

- His mystical experience had these basic elements:
 - strong and personal devotion to the crucified Jesus in imitation of St. John of the Cross.
 - a daily kiss to the five wounds of Christ
 - a strong and personal tenderness and love for Mary the Help of Christians
- His virtues exceeded his talents. His availability exceeded his ability, his non verbal communication skills exceeded his verbal communication

HIS BEST SIDE: HIS SALESIAN SIDE:

- A true salesian is an expert of the most difficult journey: From heart to heart. He lived the pedagogical and spiritual formula of the sanctity of Don Bosco to the full:

"Make yourself loved..."

It is not enough to love the young, they must feel loved by us so that they will love in return what we want them to love and which they may naturally dislike...

Familiarity breeds affection which brings confidence, which opens the heart...

Education is a matter of the heart...without the heart no education is possible...."

This was his favorite quote from Don Bosco :

"You may find people who are more intelligent and talented than I am... But you will not find anybody who loves you as much as I do"

What characterized Fr. Quaranta is not a single trait of his personality but rather the harmonious blending of his traits.

In Him nature and grace were blended so harmoniously that it is rare to see in such a wonderful way that grace does not destroy nature but energizes it instead.

He was totally alive until the end, deeply interested in living things: on his knees in front of God and on his feet in front of men, solidly human, unassuming, personal, warm, and deeply divine.

His motto painted on the door of his room, below the crucifix expresses the reality of this glorious blending between grace and nature:

"FEDELE NEL SERVIZIO, ARDENTE NELLA LODE"

"FAITHFUL IN SERVICE, FERVENT IN WORSHIP"

"TAPAT SA PAGLILINGKOD SA KAPWA, TAIMTIM SA PANALANGIN"

May He assist us and protect us all from Heaven, may his death unite us in a love that will never pass away.

"The memory of our departed confreres unites in a love that will not pass away those who are still pilgrims with those who are already resting in Christ". (Salesian constitutions article 54)

Yours in the Lord and in the friendship of Fr. Quaranta

Fr. Luciano Capelli sdb
Don Bosco Hall, Rector

What they said of him:

Rev. Fr. Egidio Viganò, sdb, the Superior General of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Rome: January 23, 1992.

"Best wishes for the preparation for your 50th anniversary of priesthood. Congratulations, you are incomparable in your daily commitments, apostolic zeal and efforts and in the enthusiasm and joy of living".

Rev. Fr. Francesco Panfilo, sdb, Provincial Superior of the Salesian Philippine Province.(April 21, 1992)

"Our constitutions tell us that " The salesian is open and cordial, ready to make the first approach and to welcome others with unfailing kindness, respect and patience: (C.15)

I sincerely believe that this sentence applies very well to Fr. Quaranta. He had the gift of approaching people and making them feel welcome, important, cared for.

Many people consider him a father, others a brother, and others still, a friend.

So many believed they were his favorites yet Fr. Quaranta did not play favorites.

Many of us Salesians were seeking his advice and had him as a confessor.

The Philippine Salesian province has lost a confessor and a spiritual father and director.

It was gratifying to see him at 75 so eager to work, so zealous to preach and teach and celebrate the sacraments. It was a joy to see him so enthusiastic about the alumni of Don Bosco.

Even in things that were not in accordance with the books of religious canons he was always gracious.

How much money did Fr. Quaranta collect in a month? How much money did he give out in charity? Only God knows. What we know is that he did not have money for himself and that he lived his poverty "in detachment of heart and generous service of others: his manner was marked by austerity, hard work and much initiative"(C.73)

What we know are only some of those who were helped by him on a regular basis through scholarships, medicines, emergencies of any kind.

After Msgr. Piani no one did as much as Fr. Quaranta in the Philippines in spreading the devotion to Mary Help of Christians and in disseminating her statues all over the country".

Bro. Lopes Marcal, sdb, member of his last community

"Fr. Quaranta is a man of God. He was in continuous communication with God. This is manifested by his external expression of happiness, joy, calmness, serenity and peace.

Fr. Quaranta never complained about the food. He was happy with whatever was served at table.

He was always ready to give a word of encouragement. At times there was no need to speak out, by looking at you he understands that you are down and in a fatherly way he encourages you and gives you hope.

When it comes to confession he was always available. I see in this great salesian the zeal to work for the kingdom. Fr. Quaranta was working for both soul and body, for the total development of so many people.

I am sure he died because of fatigue. He was consumed by work.

At times I complained about assisting the boys and Fr. Quaranta recalling his 12 years experience in Pious XII boarding house used to tell me: "Courage. Be humble and patient. Don Bosco and the blessed Mother are with you". These words give me a lot of strength to continue my journey.

Fr. Quaranta for me is a father and another Don Bosco".
(April 19, 1992)

Bro. Noel Jerome Noel, sdb

He expresses with a sentence from his diary (May 1, 1991) the marvelous effect of God's grace in him after the retreat preached by Fr. Quaranta and after making his confession to him:

"My God and My All, I do not know how to express my love to you. My heart is full of the joy you have given me in this retreat and confession with Fr. Quaranta. Lord I feel I am renewed by your grace. Lord Jesus I love you so dearly, help me to be faithful to your love even at the cost of dying. Your loving son Jerome".

Fr. Francis De Meulenaere, sdb, Rector Don Bosco Pasil, Cebu.

"Rico was a runaway boy from a broken family in Samar. At the age of 12 a poor family took care of him but could not feed him.

Because of the environment he got lost with barkadas and drugs.

When I found the address of his father in Manila I sent Rico to him. Rico could take one year vocational training in Don Bosco Makati. Fr Jimmy Carmona took care of him and when he transferred I asked Fr. Quaranta to be a father to him. He was a true father to Rico who

used to serve his Holy Mass. After graduation he introduced him to Provident where Rico is still working now. I know Fr. Quaranta has done a lot for Rico, both for his spiritual and material life".

"Jun"

From his files we picked this revealing letter dated November 12, 1988, addressed to Makati Medical Center.

"Gentlemen:

In connection with the present confinement of "Jun" in your hospital, may I request that this unpaid hospitalization bill be charged to our account.

Very truly yours,

Fr. Pierangelo Quaranta sdb"

We also found the note of Fr. Quaranta to Jun (which Jun gave us for our files).

"My son Jun,

Thank you... I am happy to be back and with you! Have more faith in God who loves us both immensely.

Our sufferings are meant to purify us from our sins. Renewal in the Spirit is the only remedy. It is a must if you want to survive! As soon as you can stand, please come to our midst. It will help! Loneliness is not good!

Be humble enough to accept yourself and please remember that you are most useful to me, my son.

Here is a prayer to mama Mary of Lourdes. Pray it everyday and she will bring you back to your good health. Lourdes is for that. (He included a Stampita with a prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes) Father".

From: Faithful Friends at Glorietta April 24,1992

(Glorietta is one of the Chaplaincies of Fr. Quaranta situated at the heart of the Ayala Center. He used to celebrate there the anticipated Sunday Mass every week-end)

"Lord God heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us Fr. Pierangelo Quaranta, who inspired us to come together at Glorietta every Saturday constantly to honor and glorify You.

We return him to you with full faith and prayer through the intercession of the blessed Mother that he be allowed to enter the place reserved for your saints in heaven.

We humbly pray that one day, together with our loved ones, we shall see each other again in the radiance of your eternal joy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

(Signed by 120 'faithful friends')

Should you decide to help in any of his ongoing projects you can join in the efforts of:

a) The Fr. Quaranta Foundation (Contact Val — 721-06-27)

b) The Salesian Community of Don Bosco Hall, Araneta Ave., Quezon City has decided to put up a project that would serve as a legacy for the holy man's special love for the poor and abandoned youth: **"Papa Q" Drop-in Center for Street Children.**
(Contact Fr. Capelli, sdb — 60-66-40)

