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# SALESIANS OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO

EASTERN PROVINCE. U.S.A.

148 MAIN STREET

NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK



August 13, 1962

+ 8-8-62

*Dear Confreres,*

We have just laid to rest our beloved confrere,

706 REV. ALOYSIUS RONCHI

Age 53

who was stricken with a heart attack in St. Louis, Mo., on August 8, while traveling on a preaching assignment for the Salesian Missions.

The death of this young and active Salesian, coming indeed like a thief in the night, was a shock to all of us. Father Ronchi seemed to be the picture of health. On the evening of his death he had been visiting good friends in St. Louis between trains, and they brought him to the railroad station to continue his trip to Cincinnati. However, on the station platform, as he was about to board the train, he suddenly toppled over backwards. A railroad porter immediately summoned aid and Father was rushed to the hospital. The chaplain administered the last Sacraments. Despite all the efforts of the doctors to revive him, Father Ronchi did not respond. He had set out for eternity.

Father Ronchi was born on February 23, 1909, in the little town of Alzano Lombardo, not far from Bergamo, Italy. Attracted to the Salesian Missionary Apostolate, he became an Aspirant at Chiari, Brescia, in 1927, and in 1929 entered the Novitiate there, making his first Profession on September 11, 1930. After his ordination to the priesthood at Turin in 1939, he was assigned to our Province, arriving here in November of that year. He immediately went to Newton where he applied himself diligently to acquiring the language and making himself useful with the Aspirants. When the theologians were unable to go to Europe because of the conflagration raging there, Father Ronchi was appointed to teach them dogma, a task to which he set himself with great enthusiasm. In 1945, we find him as Catechist of the Aspirants at Suffern in their pioneer days. After three years as Catechist in Goshen, Father Ronchi was appointed assistant to the Pastor at St. Anthony Parish in Paterson. In the two years he was there, he enrolled in Fordham University and obtained his M.S. degree in Education. In 1951, he was appointed Catechist at our Salesian High School in New Rochelle. Then followed a period in which he travelled from one post to another in quick succession — Marrero, Tampa, Huttonsville, New Rochelle, Port Chester — filling in where he was most needed with all humility, full of



optimism, enthusiastic, striving to make Don Bosco better known and so better loved. During the summer months, he graciously responded to the invitation of the Salesian Missions Procurator to make the appeals in the parishes assigned under the Missionary Cooperation Plans of the various Dioceses. It was while carrying out this assignment that death came upon him so quietly, so grimly, so unexpectedly.

A Solemn Funeral Mass took place at Holy Rosary Church in Port Chester, N. Y. The Very Rev. Ernest Giovannini, member of the Superior Chapter, was the Celebrant of the Mass and gave the absolution. Fr. Edward Cappellitti Mission Procurator gave the eulogy. A large number of Confreres and friends filled the church to capacity, reflecting the esteem and love in which the departed was held. Interment was in the Salesian Cemetery at Goshen, N. Y.

Dear Confreres, Father Ronchi has left us a legacy of work, enthusiasm, optimism. As the one in charge of the Salesian Cooperators, he sought always to spread this wonderful organization which Don Bosco founded and increase its influence. This is the age of the laity, someone has said. Don Bosco, seer, that he was, also foresaw this age. He prepared for it. He set up his lay organization to stand side by side with his Fathers, Coadjutors and Sisters. Let some of our best efforts be to push along this great lay-organization in our own country, as Don Bosco would wish.

As we have loved Father Ronchi in life, let us remember him also in death. Because of the suddenness of his summons, let us be most generous in our prayers and suffrages. Pray also for

Yours fraternally in Don Bosco,

(Very Rev.) AUGUST P. BOSIO

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