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Fr. Charles M. Ruloph, SDB

Born in Barling Ark., 1938

Ordained Priest
March 18, 1967

Died September 10, 1967

March 24, 1968

Dear Confreres,

Last June our San Francisco Province was greatly encouraged by the ordination of six priests. But our joy was short lived. The Province was saddened by the unexpected loss of one of these newly ordained priests,

FATHER CHARLES MICHAEL RULOPH

who died on September 10, 1967, from complications resulting from an automobile accident.

Father Charles Ruloph was one of fourteen children of Mr. and Mrs. James Ruloph of San Pablo, California. At an early age young Charles confided to his parents his desire of becoming a priest. His parents, who had moved to California shortly after Charles' birth in 1938 in Barling, Arkansas, wisely directed him by encouraging him to attend daily Mass and by inculcating in him a spirit of sacrifice which was to stand him in good stead throughout his formative years.

Charles Ruloph completed his high school studies at Salesian Junior Seminary in Richmond, California. He took his first vows on September 8, 1957, at the Salesian Novitiate in Newton, N. J.,

and graduated from Don Bosco College, Newton, N. J., in 1960. Though success did not come easily, Charles was exemplary in his genuine serious attitude and his desire to succeed. He is still remembered for his dutiful application to studies.

Brother Ruloph did his practical training at St. Mary's Salesian Junior High School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. One of his companions recalls: "He was always constant in his work. At times when the boys were not responsive, Brother Charles would rarely lose his composure. During his last year of practical training the burden of assistance and teaching fell upon him. Since he was the only cleric at the school, Brother was assigned the task of assisting in the dining room, study hall and dormitory. Besides this he had his share of teaching. Despite such a demand on his time and energies, he never complained and managed to maintain a spirit of optimism and cheerfulness that was truly edifying."

In August, 1963, Brother Charles Ruloph entered the Salesian Seminary in Bollengo,, Italy, to continue the final studies for the priesthood. There he struggled with the Italian language, but by constant effort and true humility he successfully completed his theological studies. Father Charles was ordained in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, Italy, on March 18, 1967. To his great joy, his parents were able to make the trip for this memorable occasion. This was made possible through a collection taken up by the parishioners of St. Paul's Church, San Pablo, California, of which Father Ruloph's parents were members for the past twenty-three years.

Upon his return to the United States Father Ruloph was assigned to St. Mary's in Edmonton, Canada. A week before his departure he was involved in an automobile accident that hospitalized him. Despite internal injuries and a successful operation, everyone was, including the doctor, optimistic about his recovery. But early in the morning of September 10, 1967, the Divine Master unexpectedly called him to his reward. The Salesian priest, who had been his director when he was an aspirant and who spoke on the

joyful occasion of his first solemn Mass in St. Paul's Church, San Pablo, California, delivered the eulogy at his funeral in the same church. He now lies buried in the Salesian Cemetery in Richmond, California.

Father Charles Ruloph will be remembered among his confreres for the sincere and edifying religious that he always was. In the charity of your prayer we ask you to recommend the soul of this young priest to the mercy of the Eternal High Priest. Let us also pray that God may give us many vocations of the caliber of Father Charles Ruloph.

Pray also for this community and for

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Charles J. Farina, S.D.B.

Director

