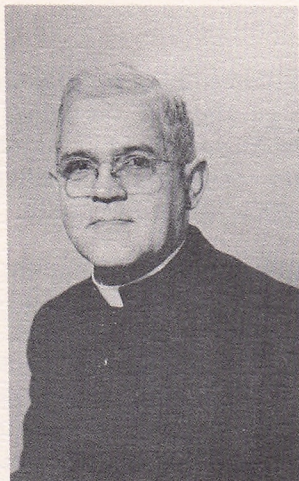


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MARY HELP OF
CHRISTIANS CHURCH
440 E. 12th STREET



NEW YORK, N.Y. 10009
April 24, 1969

My Dear Confreres,

On Low Sunday, April 13th, 1969 the parish of Mary Help of Christians, in New York City, was plunged into deep sorrow. That afternoon

Rev. Father Paul Sappino S.D.B.

took a stroll through the streets of the metropolis. As he was trying to cross the East River Drive, he was struck by an automobile and killed instantly. He was 62 years of age. Suddenly and unexpectedly the Risen Lord called his faithful minister to participate in the glorious liturgy of heaven.

Father Paul was born in Turin, Italy, July 6, 1906. As a high school student at the Don Bosco minor seminary in Penango, young Paul was attracted to the religious life by the youthful cheerfulness and enthusiasm of his Salesian teachers.

In 1925 Father Paul came to the United States to make his novitiate under the guidance of the revered master of novices, Father Francis Binelli. On August 15, 1932, he made his perpetual profession at Goshen, N. Y. After completing his theology courses, he was ordained in Tampa, Florida, on Christmas Eve, 1933.

For five years Father Paul was teacher and assistant at the Salesian School, Goshen, N. Y.; then he was transferred to Tampa, Florida, where he taught for four years. From 1938 to 1943, he was engaged in pastoral work in our Salesian parishes in New York City. After a four-year period of teaching at Goshen, N.Y., Marrero, La., and New Rochelle, N. Y., Father Paul served for ten years as assistant pastor at the Holy Rosary Parish, Port Chester, N. Y. This period was followed by another ten years of pastoral apostolate at Mary Help of Christians Parish, New York City.

Father Paul enjoyed the simple pleasures of life: a ball game, a game of chess, a chat with the street urchins, a visit to the museum or to the zoo, a stroll through the crowded eastside streets of the city. One of his hobbies was the study of the stars. When the Director at Goshen bought a telescope, his enthusiasm became contagious; with his help many of his young students made their acquaintance with the principal stars and constellations in the heavens. Many a night Father Paul appropriately repeated with Dante, his favorite poet: "*ed uscimmo a riveder le stelle*" ("And we walked once more beneath the stars").

With great joy he used to prepare and direct stage plays when he was assistant pastor at the Holy Rosary in Port Chester and later as catechist in Goshen. With keen delight he would crowd the sanctuary with altar boys, dressed in neat surplice and cassock, well prepared and coached for the liturgical services.

Throughout the forty-three years of his Salesian life, Father Paul loved his confreres sincerely. There was no one who could ever say: "Father Paul holds a grudge against me." How truly he deserves the eulogy which Christ made of Nathanael: "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" (John 1.47).

As we pray for the eternal repose of his soul, we beg him to pray for us that we may grow in the love of the apostolic spirit and ideals of our founder, St. John Bosco.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

REV. ANTHONY BREGOLATO, *S.D.B.*

Director

Data for the Necrology: Father Paul Sappino, born at Turin, July 6, 1906, died at New York, N. Y. on April 13, 1969, at 62 years old, 42 of religious profession, and 35 of priesthood.

