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**REV. FR.
PATRICK JOSEPH
SHEEHY S.D.B.
1919-1997**

On 19th May 1997, at 10.57 PM, there passed away at Don Bosco Liluah, one of the pillars of Calcutta province, **Rev. Fr. Patrick Joseph Sheehy**. He was 77 years and 5 months old.

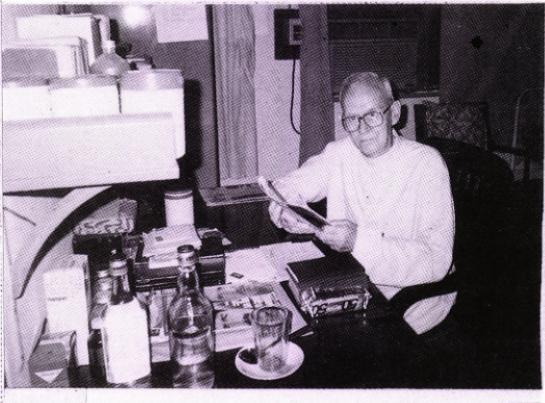
"He was a towering personality in our midst", wrote Fr. Francis Alencherry, the Salesian Provincial, "one who commanded respect and esteem even when we did not agree with his ideas or his approach to reality." From his earliest years he had a dream which gradually unfolded to be *God's representative among young people* in India, like so many other great Irish men and women who'd given up lives of comfort and promising careers for lives of service in far off lands. He was one admired by people of all walks of life, particularly confreres both young and old. He was indeed a special gift to our world, a man who had the rare combination of gentleness and firmness, mingled with varied other qualities, so unique that it was difficult to meet him and not be impressed by his personality. His passing away has left a void. However, he will remain an inspiration to several groups of Salesians he trained and countless scores of young people he taught or directed and people at large who have encountered him during his long journey through life.

Cancer patient

In June 1994, Fr. Pat was told by the eye specialists that he had a badly detached retina. He was taken to *Netralaya* in Madras (one of the best in the country), and on 18th June his left eye was removed since the tumour was cancerous and there was no other way to tackle the situation effectively except through enucleation. Just

before leaving for Madras he wrote a common letter to his dear ones at home : "... They are fully equipped for even the worst cases and hopefully they may be able to rectify

things --unless the suspected cancerous growth may have already found its way partly upwards towards the brain or downwards towards the heart or other organs. This is looking at things from their worst aspect, but God has his own calculations and they are still the best to depend upon!"



A week later, on 26th June '94 he was back at Don Bosco Liluah and back in his office, and to everyone's surprise he was his normal self with one eye. A year later, in August 1995 Fr. Pat began to experience a stiff pain just below the lowest rib on the left side, and he was feeling a general weakness. After the doctors studied the ultra-sonography of the abdomen, on 11.09.95 it was discovered that his liver was affected with malignant melanoma. He was heroic in accepting his situation, as he wrote to his brother Morgan on 12.09.95: *"Personally I feel very calm and at ease over the whole situation. I told the Doctor yesterday that now more than ever I'm snugly in the hands of God and he's a loving Father"*. Chemotherapy was advised and he went through it with great patience inspite of the hiccups and vomiting and all the possible inconveniences. He had 18 injections of Interferon, *doing no good to him* as he wrote to his brother Morgan on 11.12.96.

Last days

The school closed for the summer vacation on 14th May '97. The Boarders went home and the Confreres began to disperse for their home visit or annual retreat. The school was being got ready for the All-India L.T.S. Camp (Leadership Training Service) scheduled for 18-23 May. On Saturday, 17th May, Fr. Pat began to take bad as he had become very weak and his speech was hardly audible. On Sunday, 18th May, he received Holy Communion in the morning and none of us realized that it would be his viaticum. We passed the word around to the confreres in Calcutta and around, about Father's condition. Confreres began to come by to visit Fr. Pat. In the evening, Fr. Sebastian (Provincial Economer) administered the "Anointing of the Sick", and Father seemed to be following the prayers. In the meantime, boys and girls with their Guides from the various parts of India began arriving since morning. They kept a reverential silence on the floor where they were told that Fr. Pat was very sick. On Monday, 19th May, Dr. Probir Kundu (Past Pupil and parent), who was looking after him came to visit him in the morning, and declared that under normal circumstances Father couldn't survive more than 72 hours and his vital organs had failed. He wanted a trained nurse around who could supervise I.V., Oxygen etc. We were lucky to get two Sisters of Mary Immaculate who were trained nurses. Teachers, boys and their parents were around the school keeping a sacred silence. Father's family and all possible persons were informed about his critical condition. The confreres, sisters and all who could fit into his room prayed the Rosary, sang Father's favourite hymns and accompanied him on his last journey. His own booklet "As Death Approaches", a collection of thoughts and prayers meant to help persons assisting those who are dying, was used extensively. He breathed his last at 10.57 PM.

It was decided to have his funeral rites the very next day as we were experiencing the hottest days of summer. Father's body was laid out in his room and the teachers, parents, students and friends came to pay their respects to his mortal remains. The Christian community celebrated the Holy Mass at 10.00 AM in the school chapel. At 1.00 PM the body was removed to Bandel while the young people from all over India, the LTSers, stood guard of honour. It was indeed a symbolic gesture: as his own boys were away, the good Lord found others to represent the thousands and thousands of young people he had served. At 4.00 PM the funeral rites began at Bandel



homily and presided at the grave-side.

Basilica, with Bishop Lucas Sirkar of Krishnagar presiding over the Eucharistic concelebration. Fr. Francis Alencherry preached the

Early Life

Patrick Joseph Sheehy was born on 17th December 1919 at Clonakilty in Cork (Ireland), the 4th of nine children (6 boys and 3 girls). His parents were James Sheehy and Margaret Eady. He was baptized in the Church of the Immaculate Conception and the baptism certificate names his godparents as Eugene John Sheehy and Brigid Eady. He was confirmed on 21 May 1933 by James J. Rocke, Bishop of Ross. He attended the Junior Boys and Senior Boys Schools in Clonakilty, his father being the Principal of the Senior Boys School. As a boy Pat always showed an interest in the Priesthood, which

was nurtured at home and at the "Sunday School". The Sunday School was a gathering of boys in the local Convent of Mercy each Sunday Morning for about an hour. All who attended joined the "Crusaders of the Blessed Sacrament", a loose grouping of boys who gathered weekly to hear a little talk from the Spiritual Director, Sr. Mary Gertrude, and then prayed together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Pat served daily Mass in the Convent of Mercy, where Sr. Mary Gertrude was the Sacristan for a very long period and she had profound influence on all the children in the family, particularly Pat. About his early life, Fr. Peter Hill, the Parish Priest of Clonakilty wrote on 01 August 1934: "The boy has been an exceptionally sensible, steady and pious lad, has shown undoubted signs of a vocation, has good ability and ought to make a very desirable acquisition to the rank of Priesthood". The only illness mentioned about his early life is *enlarged tonsils*. His brothers John, Eady, Maurice and Morgan; his sisters Pidge, Maura and Frances are alive. They and their families were very close to Fr. Pat, particularly during his illness. His sister Maura and niece Deirdre visited him in November 1995.

With the Salesians

Soon after his secondary studies, we find young Pat in the Salesian Aspirantate. Mr. Morgan Sheehy, Fr. Pat's younger brother recalls how Pat went to the Salesian aspirantate at Shrigley. The main reason for his joining the Salesians was his meeting with Fr. Chanter SDB who travelled Ireland regularly, giving information through talks and slides on the work of St. John Bosco and hoping to recruit boys. Another reason was Denis O'Regan, a family friend, who was a student at Shrigley, later became a R.A.F. Pilot and was killed in war. No doubt he made great progress in his spiritual life, which is evident in his application to the Novitiate on 05.06.1938. He wrote

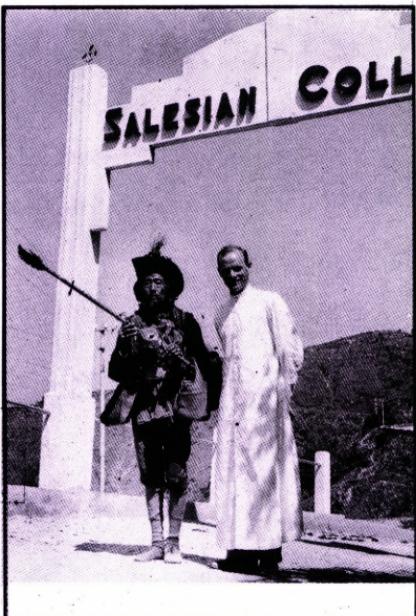
"It is only within the last two years that I have tried to make myself holy with Dominic Savio as my model". His superiors found real good stuff in him as we find in the assessment prior to his admission to the novitiate dated 20.06.38: "a very good average student, has excellent qualities for our salesian life, has made more progress than most in the spirit of his vocation". Earlier his superiors had this to say about him, "Patrick Sheehy is a very good boy, has always shown the right spirit, and when he has made mistakes has always been thoroughly clear, open and manly about them.. He is very eager to learn and anxious to become a good Salesian for the right motive". Pat spent a wonderful year at St. Joseph's novitiate, Beckford, under the direction of Fr. E.M. Jozzi. He made his first Profession on 31.08. 1939.

The Land of his dreams

Br. Pat was fortunate to have his heart's request accepted, and soon after entering the Salesian Society was able to set sail for the land of his dreams, India. We find him at Sonada for his post-novitiate formation. His Salesian zeal and genuine Salesian spirit was evident to one and all. Fr. Nicholas Lo Groi who was his companion at Sonada recalls, "*What impressed me most was his fidelity to his religious convictions, his determination in furthering his human, intellectual and religious-salesian formation, and his great spirit of work, shown in his volunteering for any hard and even dirty work, e.g. cleaning of the sceptic tank. In a synthetic appraisal, he was a great salesian, in love with Don Bosco and his values...*"

Though Br. Pat never questioned authority or the decisions of the superiors in his regard, he never stopped asking his superiors that he be sent to work for the poorest of the poor. He had a great desire to work in Garo Hills since there were many lepers there at that time. He

dreamt of working particularly for the children of the lepers. However, it remained still a dream, and his motto for life seems to have emerged from this dream. When a student of theology, after a dialogue with his Rector, he was allowed to spend one holiday in Garo Hills. He recalls how delighted he was and as he came out of the Rector's office, he jumped up into the air exclaiming, "Est Deus in Israel", which remained his motto for the rest of his life. His spirit of faith convinced him that God had finally heard his prayer.



However, after his Priestly Ordination on 07 August 1949, he was not sent to the Missions or Garo Hills, though he longed for it, but to formation houses to enthuse young trainees with genuine zeal for apostolic work, or to lead various communities. This in fact, was the summary of his many assignments. He spent ten years at Sonada, as Prefect of Studies, Economer, then as Rector. He was Rector at Bandel, Liluah, The Catholic Orphan Press, the newly opened Provincial House at Tengra and Park Circus.

Morgan Sheehy recalls how Pat left for the Missions in 1939 and had no expectation of ever returning. In 1954, 5 years after his Priestly ordination, he returned home and was allowed six months leave, but he stayed for only three. "I must get back" was his refrain. He had come to love

India, the land of his dreams. Morgan recalls how in 1983 Fr. Pat had an operation in Dublin for a new hip. That was very successful but he had stomach and hiccup problems, and for a period had to be transferred to another hospital for special care. He was very weak and one day was in tears, and he told Morgan: "I never thought the Lord would let me die away from my own Indian people, but let His will be done". The Lord did grant his wish for it was here that he wanted to be in life and in death.

On 04.02.93 he wrote to his dear ones "on 7th February I will complete 53 years in India --wonderful years, each day of which with its worries, setbacks, annoyances and so on, as well as delightful joys, has more and more endeared India to me as my real home. I went back to Ireland and received from you all such love, attention and generosity in 1954, 1964, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1989. But years have gone by and from your homes the first generation of wonderful children have gone their several ways ... I hope you will not mind if I say that I would now prefer not to travel back to Ireland any more ... besides we will come together in another land far more beautiful than any Green Isle or even than my beloved India..."



It is to be mentioned that Fr. Pat was one of the first Salesian Missionaries to apply for Indian citizenship which was granted him soon after India's independence. I am reproducing below one of the poems composed by Fr. Pat, possibly in 1964 after his home visit:

Deep down in my memory's bright store
Is the thought of the visit I paid,
Away back in nineteen fifty-four,
To the home where my boy-dreams were laid.

For all you did I thanked you kind
And love you dearly all the more:
Yet through those months my missionary mind
Kept looking back toward's India's shore.

I came from a land I'd taken as mine
As Superiors considered God's call,
Where the scorching sun continues to shine
'Twas India, the best land of them all.

And so on one November night
Abroad my ship I waved farewell:
You saw me sail right out of sight
Back to the land I loved so well.

Three months I spent in Ireland green,
All months of cheer with needed rest:
Mum and Dad knew joy supreme
Seeing their boy in Vestments dressed.

Still once again in sixty-four
You see me back to rest a while:
You even ask me ever more
To stay and share loved Eire's smile

But oh! you loved ones stirred me fair
As everyday I saw you strive,
With never-failing zeal and care
To see me happy, cheerful, bright.

But no, for my poor heart is mad to roam,
In far-off India is my home,:
'Tis thus I follow God's clear call:
From there I'll fly to heaven's bright hall.

All things to Boys

Fr. Pat loved the company of boys. As St. Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, Fr. Pat had become all things to the boys. Many of his boys remember him fondly and have testified to the great influence he had on them. Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati has this to say: *"Fr. Sheehy meant much to me. He is among those whom I owe a very great debt of gratitude. He helped me in my young days and his memories have remained an inspiration all my later life"*. Fr. P.J. Abraham had known Fr. Pat from his boyhood days and spent over four decades close to him. Recalling his aspirant days he wrote: *Fr. Sheehy tried to be always with the aspirants in the break time, games time, work time and in other places like the dormitory, studyhall and church. He took active part in the games with us*". Fr. Abraham recalls the holiday programme in Sonada: "He would get up at 4.30 AM, assist us at 5.00 AM, then Holy Mass after which he made his Meditation. After breakfast, he would work with us the whole morning and then he was with us for lunch. He took active part in the noon day games and then would take 15 minutes of rest with his head on the desk. He was with us in all our activities till we went to bed." Fr. Brian Diamond has this to say: *Fr. Patrick Sheehy stands out in my mind as a Salesian who has given his life completely for the souls of youth. He built up a personal relationship with each and every youngster entrusted to his care. His frequent reference to his youthful charges as 'my boys' drew from fellow confreres derisive remarks ... As a Rector he was always present in the playground, chatting with the boys and encouraging them in their games, but at the same time fully aware of what was happening throughout the whole group. He understood the problems of growing young men and chose the right occasion to talk to them individually or in a group. His 'good-night talks' were thoroughly prepared even to the choice of*

appropriate words to convey his message ... When he was Rector, youngsters flocked to his office to share their problems and seek his advice."

"He loved what the boys loved" testifies Fr. Nicholas Lo Groi, "games, sports, walks, acting, music... He was the soul of the recreation, encouraging his team



with his proverbial: *Never say die, lads!*" Fr. P. J. Abraham recalls how at C.O.P. after a day's hectic work in his office, he would spend one hour with the poor boys who came to play there. At first they were unmanageable and uncouth boys, but slowly he made them alter boys. Even on week days there would be at least 10 boys ready to serve Mass.

When it was discovered that his liver was affected by cancer, he was apprehensive whether he would be asked to go to the Provincial House for easier contacts with doctors and medical services. He shared his fear with me, and requested me not to allow him to be taken away, explaining how he wished to spend his last days in the company of his boys. It was after years of pleading that he was relieved of administrative duty and allowed to be directly involved with the boys.

He worked very hard for Vocations. For a number of years he ws going down to Kerala in January, going from school to school, parish to parish, proposing to youngsters the challenges of Salesian life. These tours must have demanded much sacrifice and patience, as he

was not acquainted with the language. Today many Salesians remember him as the inspiration behind their vocation.

A man of duty - an example of hard work

Fr. Francis Alencherry, the Salesian Provincial of Calcutta calls him *the personification of dedication to duty*. He says that no one could forget the sight of him, sleeves rolled up, and ever ready to put his hand to any work, no matter what. Fr. Rosario Stroscio says: "From the day we first met (in 1940) till the end of his life, I saw him face every task seriously, earnestly, thoroughly, with courage and determination". In similar tones, Fr. John Kalapura of Guwahati province testifies, "Methodic hardworker, enthusiastic in everything and encouraging, always repeating: Never say die".

He was ready for any kind of work - he was there where there was need. Mrs. Una Reeves, one of the senior teachers of Don Bosco Liluah recalls how she and her colleagues were wonder-struck to see Fr. Pat, the Rector, lying under the bus doing some repair work in the absence of the driver and mechanic. She also recalls how he would be the acting driver of the school bus whenever the driver was absent.

Confreres have been used to seeing Fr. Pat punctual as a clock for the call of duty. He would excuse himself after meals, or from recreation reminding himself of the next place he had to be present. A few confreres even thought that he exaggerated to the point of being a workaholic. He was a painstaking and demanding teacher in the classroom and his pupils were very much profiting from his classes. We, at Don Bosco Liluah, would see him staying up late into the night or getting up early, to make sure that the assignments given to the boys were

corrected on time, notwithstanding the fact that he was in his seventies. In fact, he made no exceptions even when sick, challenging us youngsters to put in more work. I am sure that like Don Bosco, he too believed in resting only in heaven since there were too many things to be completed before that. Morgan and Rita (brother & sister-in-law) remember hearing from him: "We work very hard, we work ourselves to the bone doing God's work and are certain that we will go to heaven; otherwise we would be fools to work the way we do".

Fr. Nicholas Lo Groi remembers the amount of hard work he put in as Provincial Economer and Vice Provincial to set up the Salesian Province of Calcutta as a Registered Society of which he was Secretary for many years. He set in order the financial administration of the Province, and by personal effort became well acquainted with the laws concerning school administration.

Sanctity even before eternal bliss

Fr. Pat did not do extraordinary things in order to be holy. As Don Bosco taught little Dominic Savio, for Fr. Pat too, sanctity consisted in doing ones duties well. I am sure that there will be hundreds and thousands who can testify that he did his duties well to its minutest detail. His motto, "Est Deus in Israel" was an acclamation of deep faith. He trusted his Lord and went on doing his duty, to a certain degree of perfection.

Br. Trophy D'Souza, at present Lecturer in a London College for Further Education, had known Fr. Pat for more than twenty years. He thinks of Fr. Pat as one who had reached a degree of human perfection not commonly attained by ordinary Christians, or even by priests and religious. He recalls how it was said of Don Bosco that he had reached sanctity long before he died.

Like St. John Bosco, Fr. Pat too had reached a great degree of perfection and holiness while living out his last years on earth, even before the cancer struck him.

His last meeting with Dr. Rati Vejpeyi (cancer specialist) was remarkable. The doctor wrote a message for Dr. Prabir Kundu who took care of him in school: "Malignant melanoma, stage 4". Fr. Pat was quick to notice and asked her how many stages there were normally. The doctor replied "4 stages". He understood and replied "Then doctor, this is the last time that I am meeting you". The doctor held Fr. Pat's hand tight and they agreed that they would meet in a better world. Fr. Pat never complained all the years of his illness. He obeyed the doctor to the minutest detail, and with faith accepted what medical science could not do.

I am convinced that Fr. Pat was a sort of a mystic seeing the way he could write about his own illness:

** ...So we know where we are heading. In God's lovely ways sooner or later I will be covered with cancer and we leave that entirely to our dear Lord. All I ask of you is a sincere prayer that I may be able to bear the pain and suffering that may result from this, and that as each one of us is called to meet God, we may in our turn wait with the rest of us at heaven's door to lovingly welcome the next one on the list until all of us are gathered around Mum and Dad and Donal for a sweet, happy eternity forever and ever. Looking forward to that joy of joys, I bless you all affectionately and dearly. (Letter dated 11.11.96)*

** My cancer and I continue to carry out God's loving plans (then he describes all the treatment he is going through) ...both Father Provincial and my Rector have told me that I must consider myself excused from saying the Breviary, the Rosary and other non-essential*

Practices of Piety. I will make up for these with my total acceptance of God's will as expressed in the inconveniences, sufferings, discomforts and otherwise attached to the sickness which God in his mercy and holy will has deigned to offer me in expiation of all the infidelities committed by me against his holy will during fifty-seven years of missionary life. May the Holy Spirit give me the courage needed to accept in total detail each single sacrifice expected of me in this regard. (Letter dated 11.12.96)

* Soon after he was diagnosed to be suffering from malignant melanoma, he spoke to the Senior boys at the School Assembly



describing his illness in every detail. He concluded saying: *I know that I am walking with death, but I am not afraid, because I am in God's loving hands.*

Fr. Nicholas Lo Groi finds Fr. Pat outstanding in the practice of the three Salesian Devotions: to the Blessed Sacrament, to Mary Most Holy and to the Church, particularly the Holy Father. Every Sunday, he would go on his scooter, some 16 kms, to St. Mary's Orphanage and School, Dum Dum, to offer Holy Mass. He continued this for many years, whether heat or cold, rain or floods, at the cost of personal sacrifices: the only explanation that I can find is his love for the Eucharistic Lord. His last appointment was to Don Bosco Liluah. He would be regular to give Sunday instruction to the Boarders and conclude it with the Benediction of the Blessed

Sacrament. We could connect his Eucharistic devotion to the Sacrament of reconciliation. His availability at the Confessional had become proverbial. Even during his illness, he was always available to the Parishioners and boys.

Whenever he got an opportunity, he spoke of our Blessed Mother and his great love for her was evident. When he was in Bandel as Rector & Prior, he brought about many changes to make the Shrine of Our Blessed Mother attractive. His love for the virtue of purity was a special gift from Our Blessed Mother. He spoke of this virtue and challenged the youth in his talks, sermons, Moral Science classes, etc. Guy Gonsalves, his student in Bandel writes, *"He taught me and others the devotion to our Blessed Mother. Truly he was blessed with his entry into Paradise during the month of May, a month specially dear to him".*

Fr. Pat was up-to-date with the teachings of the Church. When in Sonada, every Sunday he would acquaint the community about the Church and the Holy Father, from what he carefully gathered from the Catholic papers. This practice he continued throughout the years.

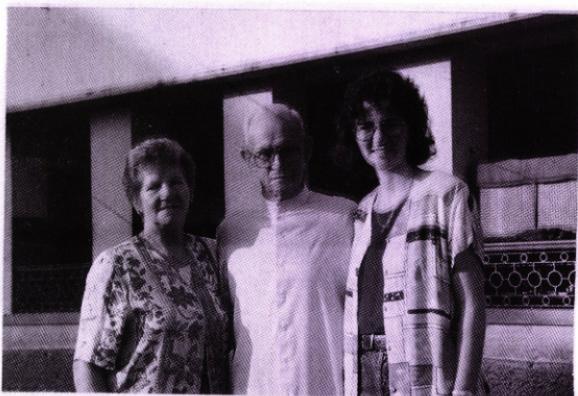
Here I add a few testimonies to take a brief glance at the way others saw him.

Fr. Albert Thottungal remembers Fr. Pat as a man with very delicate feelings. He remembers an incident in Sonada, after a vigorous game of *American war* (a very popular game in Sonada then), Fr. Pat called him to his room only to apologise for shouting at him during the game. Fr. Albert recalls "I stood still with my eyes filled with tears at the nobility of his character. This humble example of Fr. Pat has been an inspiration all through my Salesian life and has persuaded me to apologise to my boys and others."

Fr. Louis Gobetti remembers him as a dedicated Salesian, efficient and helpful especially in matters of administration. He patiently helped everybody, not only by advice but also taking initiative, with great eagerness to be helpful and with a smile of satisfaction.

Mrs. Edith Swaine, one time teacher at Don Bosco Park Cirus, wrote to say that she treasured his words of wisdom and guidance and described him as the "Kindest person to all around him".

Mr. R.N. Jhunjhunwala (Solicitor, Advocate & Notary) was really impressed "by Fr. Sheehy's knowledge and awareness about legal provisions concerning the minority rights of schools in India and his understanding and appreciation of the points and problems faced by minority institutions". He continues, "Fr. Sheehy's death ended the glorious service of a great educationist and administrator and above all a great man of God and it is an immense loss to all concerned. Having known Father Sheehy for close to two decades it is a personal loss to me also".



Mrs. Rena Peters, who was teacher at Don Bosco Liluah for 14 years, and now in London, has written to say how grateful she was to him for all his kindness to her and her family. She recalls her life in school with Fr. Sheehy as the golden years of her life.

Fr. P.J. Abraham, already quoted earlier, wrote thus of Fr. Pat: " I had the privilege of knowing most of the Missionaries of Salesian India as I was an aspirant and novice in the Southern Province. Fr. Sheehy comes up as one of the best and towering personalities and 100% Salesian in all his dealings. He has given 100% of himself for the good of the Province.

In conclusion, I would like to mention what I have heard umpteen times from confreres and others: "Whenever Fr. Sheehy is around, we feel confident". I believe it was the presence of a man who had given his entire self to the service of God and his people, a man of great experience, and above all a man of God. He stood for truth and spoke with courage, and when he realized that he could be on the wrong he was never afraid to accept it, and apologise readily when it was the question of a mistake. He was genuine to the core, and heroic in living his commitments as a religious and priest --the type of him we rarely meet. Here I would like to quote the testimony of Fr. Brian Diamond, *"Having had the privilege of being closely associated with Fr. Sheehy for forty odd years starting from my Sonada days, I consider him an outstanding Salesian in every sense of the word, but above all in the way he dedicated his life cent per cent for youth. In my humble opinion, there are few confreres to equal him in the shining and indelible example he has left behind of what it means to model one's life on Don Bosco."* In our community, in sickness and health, Fr. Pat was always a source of great spiritual and moral support. We were privileged to live close to him, and we believe that

he is closer to us now than ever before, supporting us as he has a better vision of things down here. I conclude with his favourite hymn which to a certain degree describes the depth of his Christ-centred life and ministry.

Christ be beside be, Christ be before me
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand
Christ all around me, shield in the strife
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me
Christ be in all tongues, telling of me
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

Fr. Dominic Kachira, sdb
Rector
Don Bosco, Liluah
Howrah - 711 204.

FOR THE NECROLOGY

<i>Born</i>	:	19 . 12 . 1919.
<i>Professed</i>	:	31 . 08 . 1939.
<i>Ordained</i>	:	07 . 08 . 1949.
<i>Died</i>	:	19 . 05 . 1997.

REV. FR. PATRICK JOSEPH SHEEHY

Born at Clonakilty (Ireland) on 19th December 1919.
Entered the Salesian House at Shrigley Park - Ceshire (England) in September 1934.
Novitiate at Beckford: 30 August 1938 to 31 August 1939.
First Profession at Beckford on 31st August 1939.
Left for India as a newly professed Salesian.
Philosophy at Sonada : 1940 - 1942.
Practical Training at Sonada.
1946: Assistant of Novices in Mawlai (Shillong)
Perpetual vows at Sonada on 27th May 1945.
Subdeacon on 7th January 1949.
Deacon on 28th May 1949.
Priestly Ordination on 7th August 1949.
1950 : Sonada: Prefect of Studies, later
Economer.
1955 : Rector at Salesian College - Sonada.
1958 : Rector at Bandel.
1964 : Rector at Liluah.
1967 : Rector of COP - Provincial Economer.
1970 : Vice Provincial.
1972 : Acting Provincial.
1973 : Rector of the Provincial House, Tengra.
1974 : Rector of Park Circus.
1980 : Reopening of Cossipore.
Working as Secretary of the Registered
Society at Provincial House with his
residence at Park Circus.
Director of Childrens' Aid - Calcutta.
1990 : Liluah as Asst. Principal in charge of XI
& XII - Spiritual Father.
1997 : Returns to the Father on 19.05.97.

