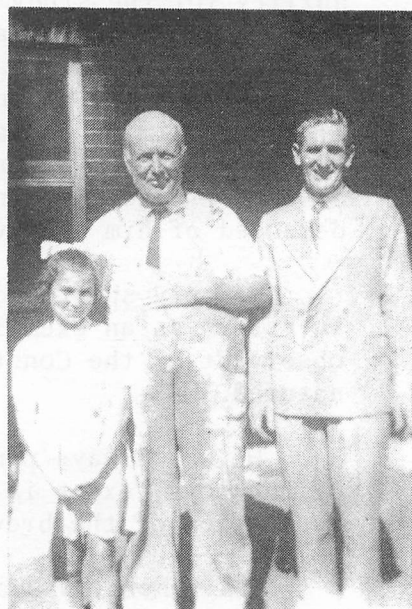


BR THOMAS SUPPLE (1888-1964)

Dear Confreres,



For the third time within the last twelve months God has called to Himself a Salesian from the Australian Province in the person of BROTHER THOMAS PATRICK SUPPLE who died on 22nd November, 1964, at the Caritas Christi Hospice for the Dying, Kew, Victoria.



Thomas Supple was born in the Adelaide suburb of Norwood, 25 January, 1888. After leaving school he joined the P.M.G. as a letter sorter; but soon wished to be more generous with Almighty God, so sought and gained admission to enter the institute of the Brothers of St. John the Baptist, a local congregation founded by Monsignor Healy to

help needy men and boys. Thus it was among the boys of the Catholic Reformatory that Brother Ignatius (he had taken this name in Religion because of his great admiration for the soldier-saint) worked for many years. Here by word and example he helped many youngsters to become better and more useful members of society.

In 1942 the Brothers were asked by the Archbishop of Adelaide to open a senior orphanage at Brooklyn Park, to be known as Boys' Town. This work was transferred to the Salesians a year or two later, and Brother Ignatius with two other Brothers sought permission to enter the Salesian Congregation. He remained at Brooklyn Park for a little over a year under the expert guidance of Father John Biloni, Rector, and impressed all his humility, cheerfulness and obedience.

In 1945 Thomas was accepted as a Salesian novice at Sunbury, Victoria, and made his first vows into the hands of Father Ciantar, 31 January, 1946. He remained a year at "Rupertswood", then went to Glenorchy, Tasmania, as cook, and later to Adelaide in the same capacity. From 1952 to 1957 he helped at the Don Bosco Boys' Club and Hostel, Brunswick, Vic, and in 1958 returned again to Glenorchy. By this time illness and advancing years made it difficult for him to work strenuously, so, after two more years at Engadine, he returned to Sunbury to rest. Eventually, his need of specialised attention made it necessary for him to be transferred to the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House, Melbourne. As his health further declined, Brother Thomas was sent to St. Vincent's Hospital, and then to the Caritas Christi Hospice for the Dying, where he was privileged to spend his last days on earth so wonderfully cared for by the Sisters of Charity.

We can learn something from the life of every man; and all who knew "Brother Tom" and worked with him will agree that one of his outstanding characteristics was his spirit of cheerfulness and friendliness. His booming voice and infectious laugh greeted young and old, friend and stranger, alike. He was interested in others right to the final few weeks of his life. Many a visitor to Nazareth House was closely cross-examined regarding the latest

happenings of the Province and its individual members.

We can well imagine the difficulties an elderly man must have to undergo to adapt himself to a life in a new Religious Family. Yet Thomas Supple became a true son of Don Bosco in a very short time, and it was hard to realize that he had not been a Salesian all his life. His devotion to Our Lady and Don Bosco was solid and sincere. A niece who journeyed from Adelaide to Sunbury for the funeral, attests that she learned devotion to Our Lady from her "Uncle Tom" when still a tiny tot.

Brother Thomas Supple now rests in the "Rupertswood" cemetery among our pioneer Salesians. May his and their example ever incite us to be Salesians worthy of them.

Please remember our departed confrere in your prayers, and please also spare a prayer for the members and needs of this Salesian House.

Sincerely yours in Don Bosco,

A.C. McDONALD,
Rector.



*Br. J. Ledda, Br. T. Supple, Fr. D. O'Sullivan, Fr. B. Fedrigotti,
Fr. J. Rutkowski, Br. L. Sweeney - Sunbury - Late 1950s.*