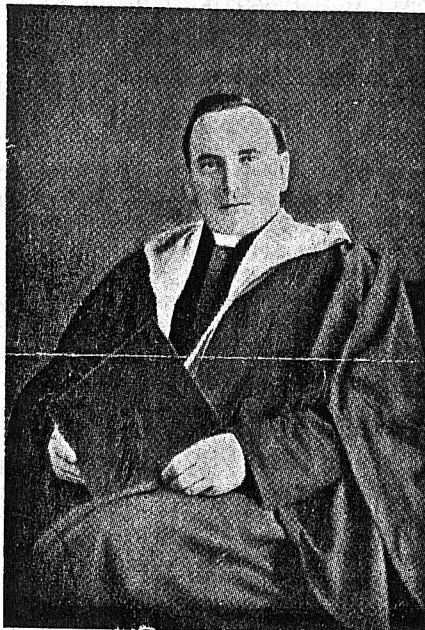


J.M.J.



SALESIAN UNIVERSITY HOSTEL,
ST. TERESA'S RD.,
CRUMLIN,
DUBLIN.



VERY REV. FATHER
ALOYSIUS STANISLAUS BERCHMANS SUTHERLAND, S.D.B.

Dear Confreres,

It is my sad duty to record the holy and peaceful death of The Very Rev. Father Aloysius Stanislaus Berchmans Sutherland. The passing to eternal reward of this widely revered and distinguished member of the Anglo-Irish Province took place on the 26th June, 1958 while in the 78th year of his age, the 56th of his Religious Profession and the 51st of his Sacred Priesthood.

Aloysius Sutherland was born in Ireland on 24th December, 1882, at Rosemount, Shanakiel, Co. Cork. He was the seventh son and the fourteenth and youngest child of William and Sarah Sutherland. Many members of this illustrious family rose to distinction in their callings in life.

Aloysius received his early schooling at the Presentation Convent School in his native city.

At ten years of age he was transferred to the Dominican College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, where to this day there exists the records of his brilliant school course and of his unimpeachable schoolboy conduct. His solid piety, his generosity, his willingness and eagerness to learn were among the qualities that endeared him to his teachers and companions. And it was the fuller and richer flowering of these precious gifts in his maturer years as a Salesian Priest that raised enduring monuments to his memory in Ireland and in England. A few years later Aloysius qualified with distinction for admission to the Royal College of Surgeons in London. About this time he found himself at the great cross-roads of his life. The passionate urge of complete dedication to God had welled up in his heart and he felt it his duty not to resist it. Providentially he had the good fortune of meeting Very Rev. C. B. Macey, the esteemed head of the gallant Salesian pioneers in England. And soon the name of Aloysius Sutherland is found for the first time on the register of the Salesian College, Battersea, London, which was then but in the early days of its foundation. Here the new aspirant manifested his admirable qualities of mind and heart. In 1899 he made his Novitiate under the venerated Fr. Bonavia. He had a brilliant academic career, gaining the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees and the Diploma of Education, and he proved himself to be a teacher of outstanding ability.

Having successfully pursued and completed his ecclesiastical studies his priestly ordination at the hand of the Most Rev. Peter Amigo, D.D., Bishop of Southwark, took place on the Feast of the Seven Dolours of Our Lady, 27th September, 1907. His brother, Right Rev. Mgr. Vincent Sutherland, O.P. Administrator Apostolic of Trinidad, West Indies, preached the Ordination Sermon.

Now it was that his solid manly virtues began to blossom forth — his warm heartedness, his generous loving sympathy for all in distress, his words of wise counsel, his cheerfulness, and his great vision — these were but just some of the qualities that made him a much sought after friend, companion and confidant. Little wonder then that the Venerable Servant of God, Don Michael Rua, St. John Bosco's first successor, perceiving Father Sutherland's abilities appointed him soon after his ordination as Rector and Parish Priest at Burwash. This office of Superior was to be his unrelieved responsibility for almost half a century.

In England following his Rectorship in Burwash he was Rector in Farnborough, Battersea, and Bolton. The part he played in developing these colleges and in securing the recognition of the public Educational Bodies is well known. In Farnborough he was elected to serve the Catholic minority on the Urban Council. That he should have received the support of the non-Catholic voters speaks highly for his standing amongst them. Besides his Council duties he found time, at the request of His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, to serve as Chaplain to H. M. Forces in Aldershot and the many Irish brigades that were stationed there at the time — remember him with reverence and affection.

Fr. Sutherland yearned ardently to see the Salesians established in his

native country. Providentially an opportunity to satisfy this longing was to come in 1918 when the Higher Superiors commissioned him to seek a first Salesian Foundation in Ireland. The news of his searching for a suitable house and property reached the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Hallinan, who as a student in Rome had personally known Don Bosco. The Bishop warmly welcomed the Salesians to his diocese to commence an Agricultural and Technical College at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1919, Father Sutherland celebrated the first Mass in the new College. The unhappy aftermath of the first World War, the prevailing economic distress everywhere, and Ireland herself seething with sorrow and unrest were factors that unfortunately aggravated the formidable task of establishing a new foundation. But if so how eloquently they testify to the ability and courage of this man who succeeded in his undertaking and secured for it the recognition of the Government Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. In addition he succeeded in introducing the Salesian Sisters into the City of Limerick. And their remarkable development owes much to his pioneering efforts. Today the Sisters have flourishing schools and hostels in Fernbach, Kylglass, and Brosna.

Again in Warrenstown he initiated the early proceedings with the Bishop of Meath, Most Rev. Dr. Gaughran, for the establishing of a new College there along the lines laid down in Pallaskenry, but he was called away for other duties before the transactions for the new College were completed.

And now to refer briefly to the more direct priestly activities of Fr. Sutherland. In this sphere he displayed admirably the functions and qualities of an Alter Christus. Through his zeal and charity many lost sheep were returned to the fold of Christ, many rent hearts and broken homes were repaired. Time and again he helped many young religious and clerical students, who were in grave distress and trouble and whose vocations seemed to lie in ruins about their feet, to regain courage and confidence. They persevered and eventually turned out to be zealous and successful workers in the vineyard of the Lord. And these men now hold in the sanctuary of their hearts a grateful and loving remembrance of Fr. Sutherland. Numerous also are his Salesian confreres who love to recall the periods they spent as his subjects in the houses he directed. And they proclaim that those periods were among the happiest of their religious lives — his was never a harsh word, never an irritating correction, never a trace of dissimulation, but ever unbroken gentleness and kindly charity. A man of uplifting and inspiring influence with a happy blending of qualities of mind and heart that meet but rarely in one person. Well did a distinguished member of the English Hierarchy describe him as "a prince among men". Yes indeed God had granted this venerable and beloved Salesian priest great gifts of mind and heart and nobly he answered the call of duty to use these talents for the glory of God and the good of souls.

The final achievement in a life already overflowing with fulfilment was his founding of the Salesian University Hostel at Crumlin, Dublin, in 1952. Here he passed the latter years of his life, and those living closely with him were saddened to note that in their midst there was no longer that great dynamic priest who had played such a notable part in the past in the development of the Anglo-Irish Province but instead a failing saintly old priest whose gentle eyes bespoke the gradual drawing near of the sunset of life.

While in his native Cork on a mission of Charity the fatal illness struck him down. He was taken to hospital where he underwent an emergency operation, but death was not to be denied. Having received with fervent devotion the last

Sacraments and final blessings of the Church he peacefully breathed forth his soul into the hands of his Creator, in the presence of Fr. Provincial and other confreres. By kind permission of the Bishop of Cork the remains were received at the Cathedral and rested therein overnight.

Next day a dignified cortege including members of his family and relatives and representatives of ecclesiastical and civic bodies and his confreres moved slowly through the streets of Cork on its sorrowful way to Pallaskenry bringing the mortal remains to rest quietly within the chapel of the College that he had established 40 years earlier — A flash back to the same chapel only nine months before ablaze with colour and music of the Solemn Liturgical festivity which marked the sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Fr. Sutherland was a moving remembrance indeed. On that joyous and memorable occasion a veritable chorus of praise and appreciation had come to him literally from the ends of the earth to gladden and console him and to acknowledge his merits. But now in this chapel draped in mourning the body of Fr. Sutherland in the loneliness of death is surrounded by a guard of honour drawn fittingly from the boys of the College, while the chant of the solemn dirge fills the hallowed precincts. The large and representative attendance at the funeral was a triumphal farewell to this great Salesian priest and patriot.

In the death of Fr. Sutherland our Province has lost one of its best loved and most respected members, and for many it spells the personal loss of a steadfast friend. He was an inspiring leader undeterred by difficulties who never looked back and whose aim in every sphere was advancement and who had an intense personal devotion to Mary Most Holy.

The eternal recompense which Jesus Christ has promised his chosen and faithful followers is we hope now the crowning glory of Fr. Sutherland's meritorious span of Salesian and priestly life on this earth, but remembering the awful sanctity of God before which he has appeared and before which even the Angels tremble, it could happen that this gentle soul would need our prayers. Let us therefore one and all join in the prayer of the Church *Requiem acternam dona ei Domine et lux perpetua luceat ei.*

Please pray also for the needs of this house, his last legacy to the Anglo-Irish Province.

Yours sincerely in J. C.,

R. McELLIGOTT, S.D.B. (Rector).

Data for Necrology: Father Aloysius Stanislaus Berchmans Sutherland of Cork, Ireland, died at Cork on the 26th June, 1958 in the 78th year of his age, the 56th of his religious profession and the 51st of his priesthood. He was Rector for 45 years.