



**November 25**

## **Fr. GIORGIO TOMATIS**

**1865-1925**

Birthday:	30-10-1865	Italy
First Profession:	&	
Perpetual Profession:	1886	San Benigno (Italy)
Ordination:	31-05-1890	Italy
Died:	25-11-1925	Bangalore

### **EARLY LIFE**

George Tomatis was born at Beinette, Italy, on 30 October 1865. He became a pupil of the Oratory of Valdocco in 1880, where he had the great fortune of knowing Don Bosco personally. He did his novitiate at San Benigno Canavese and received the clerical habit from the hands of our Father and Founder, Don Bosco, Bro. George made his perpetual profession on completing his novitiate in 1886, as was the practice at the time. He was sent to Sicily and was ordained a priest there in 1890. Fr. Tomatis was immediately made rector first in Algeria and then in France where he remained till Fr. Rua appointed him in 1905, leader of the first expedition to India. He reached Thanjavur in January 1906 and took charge of St. Francis Xavier's Orphanage and the technical school attached to it. Later on when the Bishop of Mylapore entrusted another orphanage, this time in Mylapore (Madras), to the Salesians, Fr. Tomatis took charge of it and remained there till his death in 1925.

He was a great administrator and was able to enlarge the orphanage and increase the number of orphans within a short time of his arrival at Thanjavur. He looked after the confreres and the orphans with paternal love. In 1925 he was sick and was being treated in a hospital in Madras. Later he was taken to St. Martha's Hospital, Bangalore, for better care, in November 1925. There apparently he improved, but on 23rd his condition became serious once again and he was given the anointing of the sick and papal blessing. He passed away at about 6.00 a.m. on 25 November 1925. While preparations were on for the funeral at Bangalore, a telegram from the diocese of Mylapore requested the body to be brought to Madras. The body reached Madras on the following morning. The funeral was very solemn with the participation of many priests, religious and faithful.

## CHARACTERISTICS

1. **Indefatigable worker:** He was one of the greatest workers among the Salesians. When he reached Thanjavur there were 40 orphans and when he left the place, there were 180 and plans were afoot for further expansion.

2. **Great love for the boys:** He had the love of a father for his orphans. He knew the temperament and character of each one and how to win their confidence and love. One of the newspapers published from Madras, wrote, "For Fr. George Tomatis it was a joy to be present with his orphans in the study, in the chapel, refectory, recreation and everywhere else".

3. **Generous:** In times of need he helped generously friends, confreres, boys and the people. He contributed generously for the works at Thanjavur and Shillong. Besides, he was planning to build a Chapel and holiday house for the Salesians in the South.