

BRO. WILLIAM TRACEY. S. D. B.

It was on the Tuesday morning of the Battersea retreat that Father Provincial made an unexpected appearance in the front of the chapel at the close of the morning instruction. He told us that he had sad news for us; that he had just received word of the sudden death by drowning on the previous day – Monday the 25th July 1960 – of Bro. William Tracey, one of our most promising students at Rome.

The tragic accident happened when Bro. William was spending some time at a Salesian Summer Camp at St. Genis-Laval(Rhone), France. It seems that he entered the house lake for a swim but got into difficulties. The French confreres who were with him wasted no time in going to his aid, but neither their kindness nor their speed were of any avail. Artificial respiration was tried and all possible medical help summoned, but he was beyond human aid.

Bro. William came to Shrigley as a boy from Kirkintilloch in Scotland in 1946. He made his novitiate at Burwash in 1951-52, studied philosophy at Bollington and afterwards taught for one year at Shrigley and for two at Bolton. He was then sent to Rome for higher studies and these he was successfully pursuing until the time of his death.

Father Provincial asked Father Chauvel to go to France to represent the province at the Requiem Mass and funeral at St. Genis-Laval(Rhone), France, on Thursday, the 28th July. The kindness of the French Provincial and other Salesians to Mrs Tracey, mother of the deceased Brother, and to Fr. Chauvel is deserving of the highest praise and Fr. Provincial has expressed his gratitude in the name of the whole province.

We also offer our very special sympathy to Bro. William's family and friends and offer our prayers for them and for Bro. William, who we miss very much.

Our Lady, Help of Christians and St. John Bosco pray for him.