



**Fr. Aloysius S. Trifari, SDB**

Born in Naples, Italy

December 3, 1897

Died June 22, 1968

Father Aloysius Trifari, shortly after commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of his priestly ordination, was suddenly called to his Maker on June 22. As he was not present for his regular Sunday Mass, his assistant went to call him and found him dead of a heart attack.

Father Trifari, a veteran Salesian of this province, had served in various schools and parishes throughout his long Salesian life. He had also spent a short time in the San Francisco Province. His nationwide friendships were the prime support of Father Trifari's apostolate for the last 13 years of his life, when obedience found him working in Birmingham, Alabama, one of the great industrial cities of the south.

"Loyalty summed up his life," said Father John Kugler, who preached the eulogy at the funeral Mass, "his loyalty to God; his loyalty to the Church; his loyalty to his religious superior; his loyalty to his bishop; his loyalty to his fellow priests and to his people."



Archbishop Thomas Toolen made a special trip from distant Mobile to attend the funeral Mass. He administered the final absolution, after he delivered a brief address in which he spoke of Father Trifari as "a very close friend." His Excellency stressed the kindness of the deceased priest. "He had a kind word for everyone. Always cheerful, though often very sick, he went about doing good. Just going about. We will miss him just being with us, with the priests and with the people." The Archbishop spoke of "his great love for the Negro people and of the high respect in which all the priests held him." He was in fact the spiritual guide of many priests of the Diocese.

In the absence of the Provincial, who was in Turin with an American Pilgrimage commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Very Rev. Joseph Perozzi, Vice-Provincial, was the principal celebrant at the concelebrated funeral Mass. With Father Provincial was Brother Adelard Labonte, Father Trifari's faithful assistant for the 13 years that the Salesians had been in Birmingham.

Father Trifari was born in Naples, Italy, on December 3, 1897. At the age of nine, he came to the United States with his family. In 1919, he joined the Society in New Rochelle. After his graduation from Fordham University in New York, and the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Hayes in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

In 1955 Father Trifari arrived in Birmingham to open a Salesian mission at Holy Rosary Church. After a few years he began a mission for Negroes and by 1959 had built St. Bernadette's Church.

He began this mission by house to house visitations among the Negro families. In the beginning he offered Mass in the homes of some of his converts to Catholicism. At his death he had instructed over 120 Negroes,

all converts to the faith, no mean feat in a city with less than three per cent Catholics and many deep seated prejudices against Catholic teaching.

Following the funeral in Birmingham, Father Trifari's body was flown to Paterson, New Jersey, for the final burial rites, which were attended by his surviving relatives — a brother, Edmund, and a sister, Mrs. Joseph Desmond, as well as many Salesians and friends in the area.

Father Trifari's body now rests with the many Salesian Pioneers of the St. Philip Province awaiting the final resurrection in the Salesian Cemetery at Goshen, New York. Please, have a prayerful remembrance for this good Salesian and the province in which he labored so hard and so well for almost fifty years.

Sincerely yours in Don Bosco,

Very Rev. John J. Malloy, S.D.B.

Provincial



