

SALESIANS OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO



THORNLEIGH SALESIAN HOUSE
ASTLEY BRIDGE,
BOLTON BL1 6PQ.

July, 1985.

Dear Confreres and Friends,

It was on the morning of Monday, 3rd June 1985, just as the day's work was really beginning, that, once again, God's call came suddenly and unexpectedly to our Salesian House in Bolton. In the course of a very few years our Community has all too frequently been called upon to carry the Cross and shock of sudden death; and one finds consolation in the title of that celebrated book of Cardinal Newman, LOSS AND GAIN. The Cross brings sorrow, but its blessings are richer still; and faith brings hope . . . that those who have gone will find eternal happiness in Heaven, and the Lord will send, through them, enriching blessings and graces to us all. 'Quod faxit Deus!'

FATHER MICHAEL TUBERET SDB

was born of a splendid Catholic family in Bolton, Lancashire. His parents were Richard and Mary Tuberet (nee Ginty). He was baptised in the parish church of St. Peter and Paul on the 21st December 1919, just a couple of weeks after his birth, and was confirmed there on December 15th 1929. When death overtook him, he was 65 years of age.

He entered our school at Thornleigh in September 1931, and remained there until June 1937. His record and credentials were such that he was admitted to the Salesian Novitiate, then at Beckford, Glos. in August of that year, and made his first Profession there on the 31st August 1938. His final Profession took place in Farnborough, Hants. on the 29th July 1944. The goal of the Sacred Priesthood was happily attained at Blaisdon, Glos. on the 20th July 1947.

The story of his Salesian life is one of devoted service and exemplary observance all the way. It records unfailing cheerful and energetic work as student, teacher, and apostle. Apart from Battersea and Farnborough, he served in every House in England, from 1938 until his death this year, holding various posts of responsibility. The last 30 years of his life were spent with us at Thornleigh, combining the duties of teacher of chemistry and, for part of the time, Deputy Headmaster and Catechist. When he finally retired from teaching in 1982 he succeeded Fr. P. Erskine as Bursar of the House. It was in the Bursar's office that he died.

Not only were Fr. Michael's years as a Salesian characterised by outstanding dedication, efficiency, and success, but he was also held in great esteem by those he served. Since his death, tributes have been pouring in from those who knew him as colleague, teacher, or apostle. A fellow teacher, and member of the parish Fr. Michael loved to serve, writes:

To me he was a teaching colleague always ready for a chat about our subject, chemistry; a priest with whom I had contact through the OLD BOYS and the CATENIAN Association. He was ever courteous, helpful, kind and pleasant. To all of us, as parishioners of St. Thomas of Canterbury, he was a devoted priest, always thorough in his priestly duties, well-liked in the parish, and a wonderful ambassador for the Salesians.

The President of a local Praesidium of the LEGION OF MARY, of which Fr. Michael was Spiritual Director, expressed the feelings of all the members when she wrote:

It is so difficult to put into words just what he did mean to us and how deep our feelings are. How we shall miss him as our Spiritual Director . . . His devotion to Our Lady was to be seen in everything he did. We had never any difficulty in communicating with him: we were able to ask his opinion on any subject, religious or otherwise, and he was always there when we needed him most.

One of his students, now at ORIEL College, Oxford, pays this moving tribute:

Fr. Tuberet was an extraordinary man, enormously gifted, almost wicked in his sense of humour, quite an example to me and to many of my contemporaries. I can say without detriment to the many fine academics through whose hands I have passed that, as a teacher, he was without parallel.

Outside our Community, Fr. Michael Tuberet's death is most deeply felt by the OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION, of which he was secretary, chaplain, and National Delegate. To them his loss is inestimable, and they would like to perpetuate his memory by donating a trophy, to be competed for within the College.

The funeral services, presided over by Bishop Patrick Kelly and our Provincial, Fr. Cyril Kennedy SDB, were a great source of comfort to Fr. Michael's six sisters, and their families, and all those who mourned his death. The homilies illustrated just how 'enormously gifted' Fr. Michael was, not only as a pastor and teacher, but also as a musician and sportsman. Some 80 priests, Salesian and Diocesan, concelebrated the funeral Masses, and the coffin was carried by members of the OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION. The burial was in Wardley Catholic Cemetery.

Many times, especially in the last year, Fr. Michael would say to me, with a smile which partly concealed the seriousness of the sentiment, "If anything happens to me, my books are all in order". And indeed, his books were always in order. And viewing the circumstances of his death, coming as it did just after he had finished the 'best retreat of my whole Salesian life', and so soon after he had said his daily Mass, I have no doubt that the recording angel also found all his books in order. May he soon enjoy the full reward of all his Salesian labours.

Yours fraternally in Don Bosco,
James Conway, SDB
(Rector)

DATA FOR THE NECROLOGY:

Born in Bolton (England) 7/12/1919

Died in Bolton (England) 3/6/1985

Aged 65, in the 46th year of his Profession, and the 38th of his priesthood.