

27th January 1928.

Dear Confreres,

BRO. DOMINIC BONETTI. SDB.

I wish to inform you of the death of the perpetually-professed confrere, Dominic Bonetti, aged 22 years. His death occurred this morning about 1 o'clock, after a brief illness and after having received the comforts of our Holy Religion. He was the first confrere to die in this community since the Salesians came here seven years ago.

Dominic was born in London on the 14th August 1905. His parents were people of great faith and generosity. Dominic was a pupil at the Salesian College, Battersea and when he was sixteen he asked to be allowed to join the Salesian Congregation. He joined the novitiate and willingly made his profession of vows at the end of the year. After his profession he was asked, after a year spent at Oxford, to go to Rome to attend the Gregorian University and he obtained his licentiate in Philosophy in June 1926. He always used to speak with enthusiasm about the years passed at Rome. The apostolate of the Festive Oratory in Rome, where he helped as catechist held a great attraction for Dominic. He used to say that he found the best relaxation during his studies with the youngsters of the St. Aloysius sodality. Some of these youngsters he encouraged and helped – obtaining financial help from his parents – to enter a seminary or school in order to further their priestly vocation. How much he succeeded in gaining the good will of the youngsters is proved by the numerous letters he received from them – the last letter reached him just three days before he died.

After returning to Oxford to do his practical training, he prepared for teaching philosophy and also helped in the parish club in the evenings. At that time there was no one available to teach the students Gregorian chant, so Dominic studied and practised the chant, so that he eventually became a competent teacher. He also took on the job of librarian. He had clearly planned a practical programme of Salesian apostolate and was preparing to put it into practice. The loss which we have suffered is very great and in our grief there is but one hope to console us – the thought that Dominic, the zealous apostle of vocations in his life, will continue to be so even after death and that in the company of St. Dominic Savio, with whom he has in common both the name and aspiration, he will pray for the house at Oxford and obtain for it many vocations. Dear confreres, will you, particularly the novices and students, unite with us in suffrage for the soul of this unforgettable cleric.

Yours affectionately in the Lord.

Fr. Angelo Franco. (Rector)