



Corpus Christi Church
136 South Regent Street
Port Chester, New York

Father Ubaldo Bordin

At 9:05 p.m. Sunday, November 25, 1985, FATHER UBALDO BORDIN entered into eternity. After visiting and saying Mass for a home-bound friend, Father Ubaldo suffered a heart attack. His car dragged along the divider for 80 feet and finally turned over. Father was rescued by police and brought to Englewood Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

That very Sunday morning Father Ubaldo had sung a beautiful Mass, as though it were his last, while a Salesian Missionary from Africa preached enthusiastically about his mission.

Father had been in good health, but recently seemed to be slowing down. However, he would not complain. He kept active in his priestly duties and in his contacts with many of his Burmese and Indian friends whom he had served in the missions. He recently expressed his desire to keep working till the end.

Many of his friends described him as a delightful, warm, deeply spiritual man who charmed the poor and worked wonders among the wayward.

Father Bordin was born on August 28, 1909 in Cogollo, Padua, Italy, the son of Joseph and Emilia (Rossi) Bordin. As a young student, he prepared for the foreign missions by studying at the Cardinal Cagliero Missionary Institute in Ivrea, Italy, while his brother Fernando studied for the diocesan clergy. He made his first profession in 1927, then studied in Shillong, Assam, India, where he made his second profession. In 1934, he made his final vows and was ordained in Mallai, India. Father spent time working in Calcutta, Assam, Mallai, and Shillong and W. Bengal.

From 1939 to 1963 he served as Rector in Burma and became Provincial delegate in Mandalay in 1963. He established a parish church in Rangoon in 1952. Following a coup in 1966, the Burmese government ordered all citizens who were not working for the nationalized school system or government agencies to leave the country. It was then that Father Ubaldo came to the U.S. and served as associate pastor in Corpus Christi Church in Port Chester until 1969. He was assigned as Chaplain to the Salesian Sisters in North Haledon, New Jersey in 1969, and then in 1971 was asked to be associate pastor at St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey until 1981. Father then came back to Corpus Christi Church in 1981 and served as associate pastor until his sudden death on November 25, 1984. Father is survived by a brother, Oreste and sister Josephine, and several nephews and nieces. His brother, Father Fernando died in December of 1984. Father felt his loss very greatly since they were very close.

Father Ubaldo, a very deeply spiritual man, preached wonderful, moving sermons. A priest for 46 years and a missionary for 36 years in Burma and India, Father won many friends with whom he kept close contact by mail or visits. He was zealous in his efforts to help the missionaries in every way he could. A prayerful man, Father was often seen praying before the Blessed Sacrament or reciting his Rosary before our Lady's Altar or while pacing up and down the playground. We may call Father Ubaldo an "Apostle of the Pen" for he spent many hours corresponding with past parishioners, especially the Burmese and Indians, offering them spiritual advice and consolation in their difficulties.

At Corpus Christi he showed himself to be the humble, true priest always gentle, kind and zealous, always ready to hear confessions or to administer the sacraments to the elderly, the sick and the dying.

Weekly he gave Baptismal Instructions to parents and godparents and was moderator of the Salesian Cooperators.

Many parishioners and out-of-town Burmese friends attended his wake and our church was packed as we said the Mass of the Resurrection for him on November 28 at 8 p.m. Thirty fellow priests concelebrated the Mass said by Father Dominic DeBlase, our provincial. Sisters, brothers and friends filled the church. His body was interred at Salesian Seminary in Goshen, New York on Thursday, November 29.

In his homily at the funeral Mass, Father August Bosio pointed out:

"Father Bordin's last Gospel passage read at his last Mass on Sunday, refers to the judgment that all of us will undergo on the last day: 'I was hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, old and shut-in and what you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to Me'

. . . Father Bordin with his kind of service to the sick and the elderly, a work he did with outstanding devotion, his continual service to the missions from this country by gathering, packaging, and shipping books and used clothing year round . . . by collecting donations and Mass intentions for the missionaries remained a missionary to the end."

Sincerely in Mary Help of Christians,
Fr. John Masiello, S.D.B.
Director

Data for the Necrology:

FR. UBALDO BORDIN, born in Padua, Italy, on August 28, 1909; died at Englewood, New Jersey, November 25, 1984; at 75 years of age, after 57 years of religious profession and 46 years of priesthood and 36 years in missions of Burma and India.

