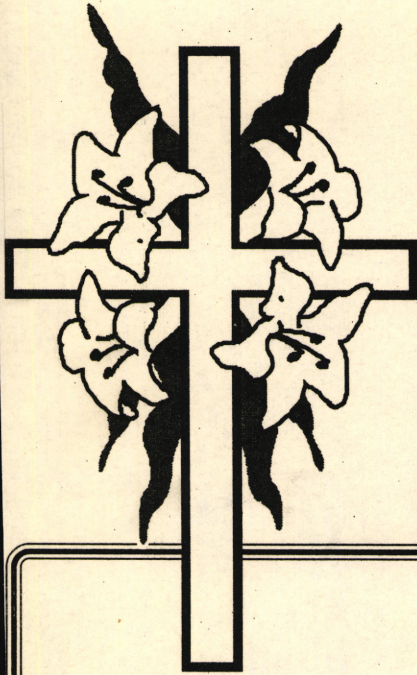


Rev. Fr. Antony Buccieri SDB



Born : 12-06-1913
Professed : 25-10-1930
Ordained : 05-11-1938
Died : 03-11-1998



R

THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

Regrets to announce the passing away of

Rev. Fr. Antony Buccieri SDB

on Tuesday, 3rd November 1998 at Shillong

I

Thursday 5th November 1998:

7:30 a.m. : Arrival of the mortal remains of Rev. Fr. Antony Buccieri SDB at BSF Helipad, Dobasipara, Tura.

8:00 a.m. : The mortal remains of Rev. Fr. Buccieri lie in state at Sacred Heart Church, Tura for the public to pay their last respects.

1:00 p.m. : The funeral cortege proceeds to Holy Cross Church, Rongkhon.

1:30 p.m. : Funeral Mass.

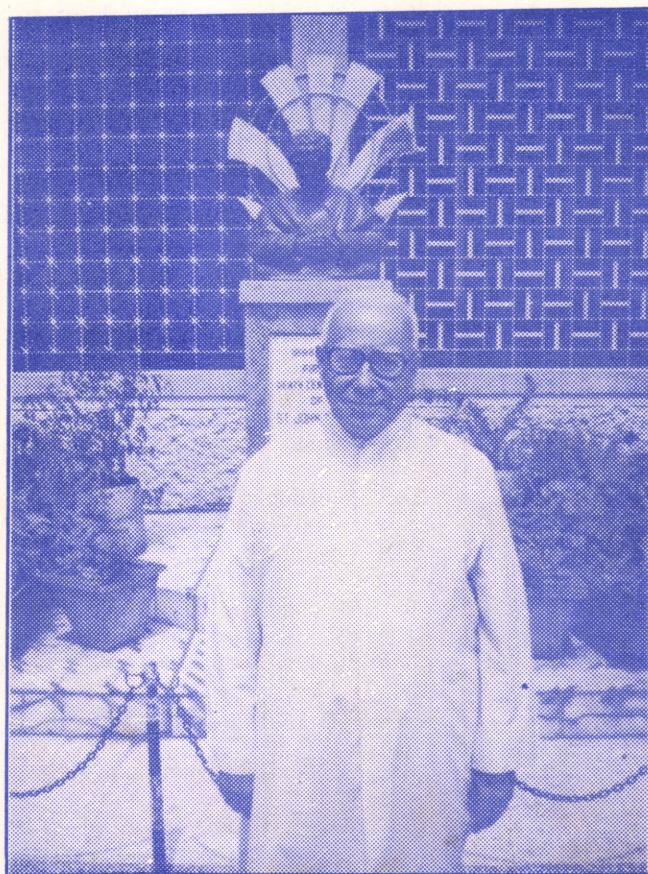
: Funeral rites and internment at Salesian Cemetery, Bosco Mount, Rongkhon.

P

Rev. Fr. Dominic Jala SDB
Salesian Provincial

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some faint smudges and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. The left edge of the page shows the binding, with visible stitching or stitching holes. There is no text or other markings on the page.

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Christians Observe December 4 as National Protest Day

The Christian Community in India observed December 4 as a National Protest Day to focus attention of the government and the people of India on the spate of atrocities against the Christian community. The call for the National Protest Day was issued by the United Christian Forum for Human Rights.

Several religious organisations, human rights groups and citizens' forums joined the protest. The United Christian Forum for Human Rights has compiled data on atrocities against Christians and religious minorities. Archbishop Alan de Lastic of Delhi said the Christian institutions are being targeted because they are serving the marginalised and are empowering the people, especially those who have been exploited and subjugated. Those involved in this task are today being subject to physical assaults and a vicious propaganda campaign, he noted.

The Protest Day was marked throughout the country by prayer, processions, fast, wearing of black flags, closure of institutions. In Delhi a relay prayer and fast at Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, and a rally at the Parliament House were held. Memorandums to the Prime Minister and both houses of parliament were submitted urging the representatives to take urgent action to stop assault on India's traditions of democracy, pluralism and religious tolerance.

In an open letter to all Indians from the Christian community, the Forum noted that

since January 1998, there has been more violence against the Christian community than in the fifty years of India's independence. Nuns have been raped, priests executed, Bibles burnt, Churches demolished, educational institutions destroyed and religious personnel harassed. Even the dead body of a Christian was not allowed to rest in peace. A corpse was dug from a graveyard in Gujarat. This state alone has counted more than forty cases of violent atrocities in less than six months of 1998.

In Northeast India the Church is particularly concerned at the kidnapping of Fr. Thomas D'Silva, the head of the Bashbari mission in Dhubri Dist. Assam, on November 16. Reacting to the episode Archbishop Thomas Menampampil said the kidnapping has come as a rude shock to the Christian community in the region. "Nothing like this had ever been heard of in Assam, known for communal amity and respect for various religious traditions." □

EVANGELISATION RETREAT

Fr. Robert Wild and his team from Madona House, Canada, conducted two retreats for priests, religious and seminarians in Northeast India. The retreats were held at St. Joseph's Church, Guwahati, and at Sacred Heart College, Shillong, October, 1-11. The retreats were organised as part of the preparation for the Jubilee 2000.

RIP

Fr. Andreas Panna's father passed away on November 21. We offer him and his dear ones condolences, and pray that the Lord may grant eternal rest to the soul of the departed.

Teacher training course

A two year undergraduate teacher training course is being offered at St. Paul Institute of Education, Phesama, Nagaland. The course commencing from February 1999 is offered to Candidates who have passed class XII with 40% or more marks are eligible for admission in the course. Application for the course commencing in February may be obtained from: *The Principal, St. Paul Institute of Education, Phesama, P.B. 9, Kohima, Nagaland - 797 001, Phone (0370) 24739.*

National Delegate for Salesian Missionary Animation

In a letter dated October 11, Fr. Joachim D'Souza, Regional for Australasia, appointed Fr. Joseph Puthenpurakal sdb as the National Delegate for Salesian Missionary Animation. His tasks include planning and coordinating missionary animation at national level for the Salesians of Don Bosco. He has been asked to draw up a programme for missionary animation for the three year period, 1999-2001. Author of several books and editor of the Indian Missiological Review (IMR), Fr. Puthenpurakal has attended several international missionary conferences, and is a member of the International Association of Missiologists. □

Bible Stories in Pictures Released

Don Bosco Publications, Guwahati, has brought out four books of a 50-volume series of Bible stories in pictures. The four books are Cain and Abel, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph. These have been simultaneously translated into Assamese, Garo and Khasi. The Garo books were released during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Tura diocese by Bishop George Mamalassery. The Khasi books were released in Shillong during the annual procession and the Bible convention for youth.

Bible Chitra Katha, children's illustrated stories from the Bible was released by, noted litterateur and President, Assam Sahitya Sabha, Chandra Prabha Saikia at the North East Book Fair, Guwahati here on November 6. The four books on Cain and Abel, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph printed in multi-colour, are

published by Don Bosco Publications, Guwahati.

Releasing the books, Shri Saikia said the message of the Bible is perennial and cuts across all cultures and languages, time and space. The values of love and peace, brotherhood and harmony as taught by the Bible are very relevant in today's society. Young people in particular will find the simple stories of the Bible useful to shape their values. He lauded the efforts of Don Bosco Publications for promoting value based literature in Assamese. Shri Saikia recalled the rich contribution of the Christian missionaries to the promotion and development of the Assamese language.

The books are available at the *Don Bosco Book Centre, Guwahati, Don Bosco Book Depot, Shillong and Don Bosco Book Centre, Tura.*

Salesian Sisters in Northeast Celebrate Platinum Jubilee

The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, (FMA) celebrated the platinum jubilee of their presence and work in Northeast India at St. Mary's School, Guwahati. The three day programme was attended by delegates from India and abroad.

A group of six pioneers under the leadership of Sr. Innocenza Vallino, arrived from Italy to the Northeast in 1923. They established the St. Mary's School, Guwahati, and pioneered education of the girls. During the past 75 years, they established several schools for formal and non-formal education of the girls in various parts of the region. The sisters rendered medical services in the Guwahati civil hospital, and was involved in training medical personnel at Ganesh Das

Hospital, and Rapsbun Nursing School, Shillong.

Today 257 Salesian sisters work in 33 centres in Northeast India. They are involved in educating girls, providing teachers' training, rural health care and skills training, creating awareness among women and other developmental services.

The three day platinum jubilee celebrations included unveiling of the jubilee plaque, a symposium called "Projeto Mornese", exhibition, a concelebrated Eucharist presided over by Archbishop Thomas Menampampil. The programme was attended by Mother Marinella Castagno, former Superior General of the Salesian Sisters, Assam Governor S.K.Sinha, FMA provincials and delegates from Asia, sisters and pupils from the Northeast. □

Youth Fest

The annual Youth Fest of the Sacred Heart College, Shillong, was held on October 25. About 750 youth from the various youth centres and oratories where the students of theology do pastoral ministry, attended the programme. The theme of the Youth Fest was, "You - the Hope." Welcoming the youth, Fr. Philip Barjo, Rector and coordinator of youth activities in Sacred Heart College, called upon the youth to create a more peaceful community where the hopes and dreams of youth may be realized.

Fr. Dominic Jala, the Provincial, who presided over the Eucharist, reminded the youth that they are the hope of the Church - the hope that will build the 21st century into a better and more peaceful place for all.

The programme included entertainment, community meal, chance games, and a cultural programme presented by youth from the seven states of Northeast India studying in Shillong. The students of theology presented a skit on the theme of the youth Fest.

Nicodim Aind

Bishop Ferrando's Pig for Christmas

The catechist of Tyrna Bah Idon, was a good and capable man loved by the people. He prepared the children well for receiving holy communion and arranged for the sacrament of matrimony etc. The bishop was very pleased and promised to send them a pig for the 'Jingkhawai' (community meal) but he forgot all about it. But the parish priest Father Foglia reminded the bishop of his promise.

An Australian pigling was given to Father Tonello from the Regional Agricultural Farm in Upper Shillong when he visited it. This pigling grew very fat and big. When the bishop saw the pig, he asked Father Tonello, "*Don Tonello, cosa farai con quella maiale la?*" "*Tengo cosi*" replied Fr. Tonello. "You will do me a great favour, if you give that pig to me. I will give it to Father Foglia, for the people of Tyrna." "You can take it Monsignor: for you I am ready to do any favour." said Fr. Tonello.

The bishop was happy and told Fr. Foglia to take the pig from Mawlai for the people of Tyrna. But how could Fr. Foglia ever carry such a big beast to Tyrna? He approached Fr. Igino Ricaldone, then Rector of Don Bosco, Shillong, and told him. "You take the

pig for the boys here, and give me some money and I will buy a pig from the local market and send it to Tyrna." It was settled. The pig was kept and fed in Mawlai.

On Holy Saturday in 1943, a man came with a pony cart with a chit of paper sent from Don Bosco. Fr. Igino had written, "Brother Paul, kindly kill the pig and send it by the pony cart for our Easter celebrations. Thank You"

I was the busiest man on Holy Saturday. There were preparations to be done for the church service. In spite of that I ran to Phudmawri to look for a man who could kill the pig. Some people came to kill it, but when they saw the mighty pig, got frightened and began to make excuses. "We have to prepare a big ruh, it cannot be done today", some said. The man with the pony cart was still waiting. So I requested a friend of mine, an American soldier called Abel, to kill the pig. He went to his room, brought a pistol and came with me. One shot on the forehead and the pig was dead. It took six men to carry the pig to the cart and thus the problem of the big pig was settled.

*(As told to Newslines by
Bro. Paul Sebastian sdb)*

First Convention of Savio Juniorate Past Pupils

A convention was organised for all the past pupils of Savio Juniorate, October 25. The convention was attended by 25 past pupils. The day long programme started with the reception, followed by the solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Provincial.

It was followed by a short inauguration

ceremony presided over by Fr. Provincial. Mr. Loniak Marbaniang, the President of Provincial Federation of Don Bosco Past Pupils and Mr. J.T. Lyngdoh, Secretary, spoke on the occasion. The past pupils shared a common meal with the community of Savio Juniorate.

Christopher Horo

Tura Diocese Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The Catholic diocese of Tura, Meghalaya, celebrated the silver jubilee of the establishment of the diocese, November 1. The Eucharistic celebrations to mark the occasion was presided over by Archbishop Tarcisius Resto Phanrang of Shillong and was attended by the bishops of Tura, Kohima, Diphu and Dibrugarh. About 20,000 people from various parts of Garo Hills and Assam participated in the jubilee celebrations.

On the eve of the jubilee about 12,000 people took out a colourful candle lit Eucharistic procession in the Tura town. The procession was attended by people from the Garo, Rabha, Assamese and Bodo communities. They marched along the town dressed in traditional attires, singing hymns and chanting prayers in their own languages.

To mark the silver jubilee celebrations, Bishop George Mamalassery released a jubilee souvenir, an audio cassette and four Bible picture books in Garo published by Don Bosco Publications, Guwahati.

Bishop George Mamalassery recalled with gratitude the pioneer missionaries who brought the gift of faith to Garo Hills. Though Garo Hills was part of the Prefecture of Assam established in 1890, Catholic missionaries were forbidden entry in Garo Hills for a long time. However the work of evangelisation among the Garos went on through contacts and visits. In 1933, the first missionaries, Fr. A. Pianazzi sdb and L. Rocca sdb, were allowed to reside and work in the area. The European missionary pioneers were joined in 1957 by two Indian diocesan priests - Fr. Mathew Elanjipuram and Fr. M.P. Alexander.

In 1973, the diocese of Tura was erected with Bishop Orestes Marengo as the Apostolic Administrator. Six years later, Bishop George Mamalassery was appointed bishop of Tura.

Notorious for killer diseases like malaria and other tropical sicknesses, the diocese of Tura with an area of 8167 sq.kms. is one of the fastest growing local churches in Northeast India. During the Indo-Pak war in 1971, thousands of Garo tribals migrated from Bangladesh to Garo Hills. The church joined the government authorities in mounting massive relief and rehabilitation operations.

The diocese today has over 165,000 Catholics, most of whom belonging to the Garo tribe. Efforts to evangelize the other tribes and ethnic groups like Assamese, Rabhas, Bodos have borne fruit. Today there are 63 priests and 150 nuns working in the diocese in over 28 parishes, 31 convents, 13 High schools, numerous primary and middle schools, one college and a hospital, numerous dispensaries, a school for the blind and deaf, a leper colony and several other social service activities. The young local church has a commendable record of native vocations with 15 priests and 50 nuns. The church has been instrumental in the education and rise of numerous men and women in the political and public life. Prominent among them is P.A. Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker.

The people of Garo Hills have made great strides in the field of education, health care and economic and social development. Mr. Kulert Ch. Momin, MLA, Meghalaya, expressed appreciation for the work of the church for its efforts to bring about overall development to the people of Garo Hills.

Fr. Jose Chirackal

Regional Conference on Education

A three day conference on education for the Catholic educators of the Northeast India on the theme: "Preparing young people for life in the third millennium" was organised by the North Eastern Education Commission at Guwahati, November 3-5. The programme was conducted by a three member team consisting of. Sr. Mary Jo Martin, Fr. Gerry Devlin and Mr. Andy Phillips from St. Mary's University College, London. 103 participants who attended the programme represented 10 dioceses, 18 religious congregations.

Presenting a conference overview, Fr. V.M. Thomas, Secretary, North Eastern Education Commission referred to education as the key to development. He quoted Pope John Paul II and said that the human person is the centre of all educational endeavours.

Sr. Mary Jo Martin highlighted the 'distinctive nature of a Catholic school'. She referred to the process of education, teaching and learning as a holy act since all teaching and learning are related to God in some way. The curriculum

RELIGIOUS IN THE WORLD	
Christians	1,976,519,000 of whom 995,128,000 are Catholics
Muslims	1,076,600,000
No Religion	980,250,000
Hindus	790,500,000
Buddhists	390,600,000
Atheists	240,900,000
New religions	150,800,000
Tribal religions	93,700,000
Sikhs	20,900,000
Jews	19,920,000

which aims at the integral development of the person is an area of distinction of a catholic school. The close link between home, school and parish is another distinctive feature of a catholic school.

Education in a catholic school is related to evangelisation and catechesis which in a way measure the school's faithfulness to the Catholic vision as a community. She said one of the foundation stones on which catholic education is built is a shared vision of life which reflects the fact that Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a catholic school. Stressing the importance of having a vision that leads to action she quoted:

A vision without action is a dream.

An action without vision is drudgery

A vision in action gives HOPE for the world.

Speaking on the theme Perspectives on leadership in Catholic Education, Sr. Mary Jo said the role of leadership is to inspire trust, to provide structure, to articulate vision and to walk with others.

Fr. Gerry Devlin, presented the theme "Spiritual and Moral development in the Catholic School." The essence of all moral and religious education is "that you may have life and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10) He highlighted the various aspects of moral and spiritual development and pointed out love, truth and freedom as the core values of moral and spiritual development. Morality refers to a growing awareness of what is right and wrong. Teachers often have to make moral decisions and give the young people reason to act with justice, he said.

The workshops which followed every input session were designed to allow the choice of groups to the participants as per their topics of interest. Andy Phillips guided the workshop on Mission Statement in schools.

Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, the chairman of the North Eastern Education Commission spoke of his concern over the culture of violence that seem to be rocking the one time peaceful region. He called upon the participants who are in a privileged position to initiate a new style of education that will help promote a culture of responsibility at all levels, thus contributing to the creation of a violence

free nation and a corruption free society.

Fr. Dominic Jala, the Provincial urged educators to assume responsibility for the present and future generations. We are responsible for the cultures of generations of people. We are responsible for the families and for the quality of life they live, he said.

Sr.Elizabeth George FMA

NITSC - An Ecumenical Encounter

The 37th North India Theology Students Conference (NITSC) was held in Serampore College, in the suburbs of Calcutta, Oct-28-Nov.1. NITSC is an ecumenical body of theology students from North India, including North-east and North-west India, for the promotion of Christian unity and a contextual approach to theologizing. Sacred Heart Th. College, Shillong, was represented by Bro. Shilanand Kerketta and Bro. Siby Karuka.

At its inception in 1955, NITSC had only three Protestant colleges as members. The first Catholic college to join was Vidya Jyoti, Delhi, in 1967. This year 20 colleges participated. Eight of them were Catholic colleges. The financial burden of the programme is borne by the participating colleges collectively.

The NITSC theme for this year was *The Church in Dialogue - rethinking the past for the third millennium*. Six papers on the theme were presented by six different colleges. Each paper was critically studied and commented by two colleges each and finally by the entire assembly. The

conference discussed sub-themes like the church in dialogue with other faiths, with secular ideologies, with Dalits, tribals and women, youth, with science and mass media.

The discussions were lively and often progressive and conservative ideologies clashed. But the most impressive thing about the NITSC was its ecumenical flavour. There was no inter-denominational rivalry. There was a strong feeling of Christians coming together. In fact the delegates exercised great diplomatic skills in avoiding anything that was controversial and projecting the 'Christ element', our unifying factor. If not anything else, this certainly was a pointer towards the third millennium when we have to learn to put aside unnecessary details of our Christian identity and concentrate on the fundamentals.

There were lighter moments too when the participants took time aside for cultural programmes, matches and outings.

Bro. Siby Karuka sdb

– Fr. Anthony Buccieri – Educator, Missionary, Author

Fr. Anthony Buccieri passed away in Shillong, November 3. He was admitted in Nazareth Hospital in Shillong even as the confreres had gathered together to celebrate 60 years of his priesthood along with other jubilarians of the Province. But the Lord called him away to his eternal rest. Fr. Buccieri's mortal remains were taken to Tura and was laid to rest at the Salesian Cemetery at Bosco Mount.

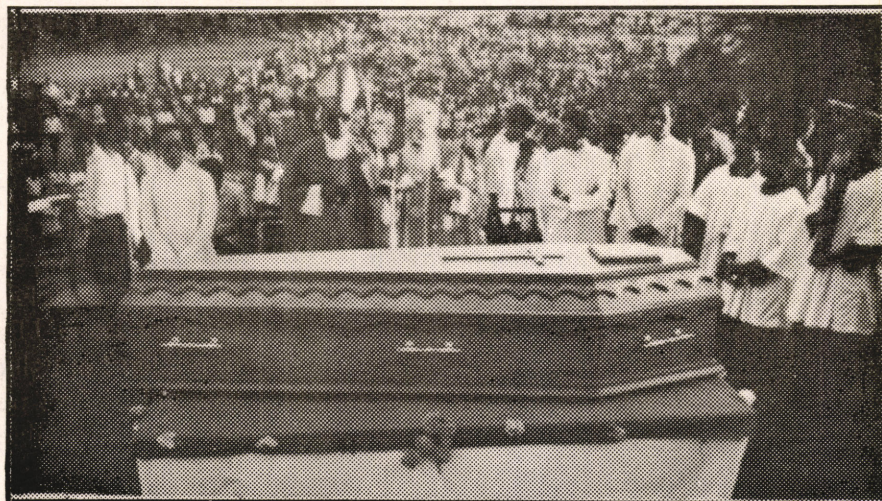
Born in 1913 at Mineo, Catania in Sicily, Fr. Buccieri joined the Salesian school at Pedara. He

recovered from a sickness after praying to St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Buccieri wondered whether his missionary vocation was also part of that prayer to the patron of the Missions. A year later Antonio joined the Salesian aspirantate at San Gregorio. He made his profession in 1929.

Cleric Anthony Buccieri proceeded with his ecclesiastical studies at San Gregorio. After his philosophical studies, he continued to remain in the same house as assistant of the

novices and teacher for the novices and philosophy students. He taught Latin, Greek, history and Italian.

Towards the end of his practical training, Mgr. Mathias preached a retreat to the novices. Bro. Buccieri was enthused with the idea of becoming a missionary and applied



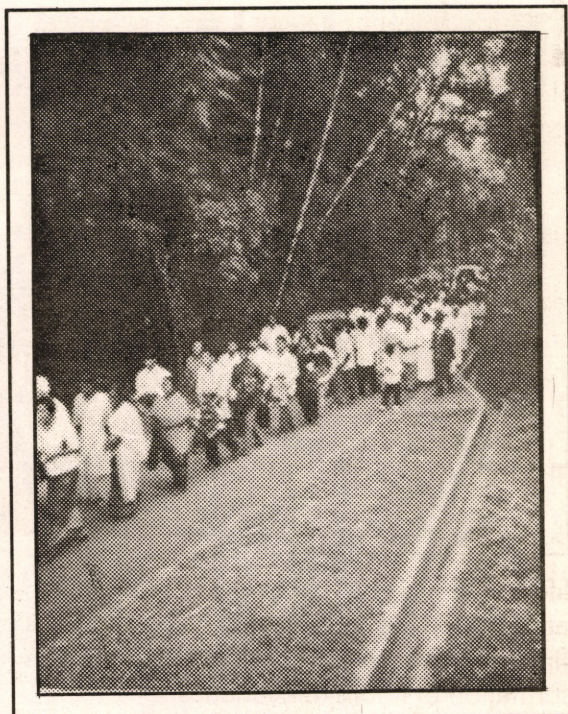
for the Assam missions. His wish was not granted then. Only in 1934, he was able to join a group of 16 missionaries who left for India. They reached Shillong on December 6th, 1934. Bro. Buccieri was appointed assistant of the novices in the Our Lady's House, Shillong. The following year he started the theology course while continuing to teach and assist the novices. But on Good Friday, 1936, the Our Lady's House was reduced to ashes.

Fr. Buccieri was ordained on November 5, 1938 by Mgr. Perier. Soon after ordination, Fr. Buccieri continued as prefect of studies in Sonada for a year. In 1939, he came to Tura. At that time there were only 800 Garo Catholics, mainly in Damra and Baghmara. In 1941 he succeeded Fr. Costa as parish priest in Tura. During the war years, Fr. Buccieri was interned with others in the concentration camps at Mawlai, Deoli and Dehra Dun. In the camp, Fr. Buccieri functioned as professor of scripture for the theology students.

Fr. Buccieri taught in Tirupattur, Yercaud, Poonamallee and Mawlai for a number of years. In 1952, he was appointed Rector of Don Bosco, Liluah. After three years he returned to Garo Hills, as Parish Priest. In Garo Hills he built the Church of Mary Help of Christians, the present Cathedral Church of Tura, started a primary school, which grew to become the present day Don Bosco School. He developed the Dalu mission. In 1966, after 11 years in Garo Hills, Fr. Buccieri was called to Shillong to open the Upper Shillong Parish. He was later transferred to Mawkhar. In 1976, he returned to Garo Hills and worked as parish priest of Chandmari, Tura. After a short stint in Nongstoin, he returned to Tura and spent his last years at Bosco Mount.

During the 64 years Fr. Buccieri spent in India, he carried out various types of apostolates. He was a teacher of candidates to the priesthood. He was an active and frontline missionary in the Khasi and Garo Hills. Fr. Buccieri has made a distinctive contribution to the Garo literature. He edited for several years the Garo monthly, *Sengbaa*, wrote a Garo primer, translated

classical works like *the Imitation of Christ*, *Pinocchio* into Garo. He wrote catechism books and several scripture commentaries. He continued to use his talents as a writer even during his years of retirement from active pastoral ministry.



Fr. Buccieri once said the greatest miracle he has seen is the growth of the Church in Garo Hills. From a tiny community of 800 faithful in 1939, he has not only witnessed the Catholic community grow to over 150,000, but has been very much part of this missionary enterprise.

Fr. Buccieri founded several schools: the Don Bosco School, Tura, Sacred Heart English School, Chandmari, which was later amalgamated with the former, St. Dominic Savio School, Araimile, which became the present day St. Mary's High

School, the high school in Nongkseh, and a printing press in Tura.

A few weeks before his death Fr. Buccieri was conferred an award by his home town of Mineo, the L. Buglio Award, under the title, A

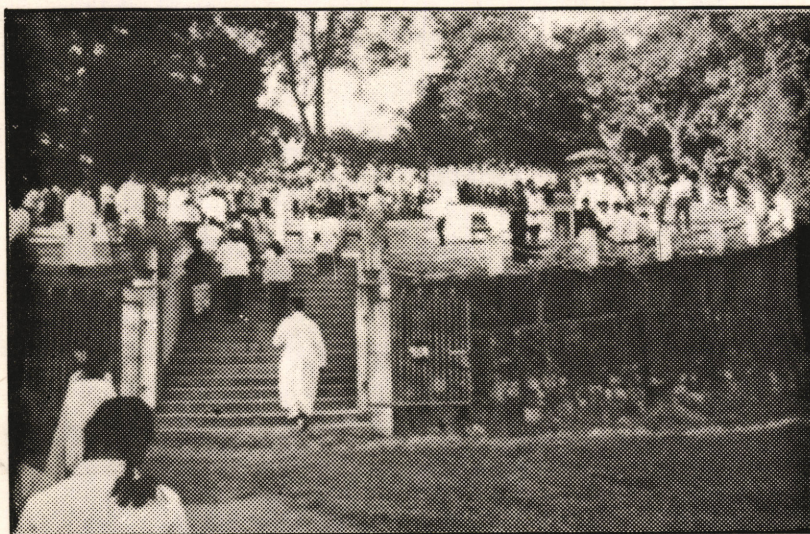
Fr. Provincial in a letter thanked all those who had shaped Fr. Buccieri's missionary life: the people, confrères and fellow missionaries. he thanked all those who cared for him in his last years and during his illness. Fr. Provincial expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lotsing

A. Sangma, Minister of Meghalaya, who made the all arrangements to shift the mortal remains of Fr. Buccieri to Tura for burial. He also thanked Bishop George Mamalassery and the community of Bosco Mount.

"As we witness the going of another mission pioneer we feel called to rededicate ourselves

life for others. He decided to set aside the amount for the formation of an aspirant, a final gesture to show his love for the formation of future missionaries.

more intensely to the call for evangelisation in the region to which God had called our Society to spread his Kingdom and to plant the Church among the various cultures of this land." □



Jubilee at Salesian College, Sonada

1998 was indeed a jubilee year for Salesian College Sonada. First it was the Diamond Jubilee of the College. Next came the Golden Jubilee of the priestly ordination and Diamond Jubilee of the religious profession of Fr. Lo Groi. The highlight of the celebration was a concert held on 25-27 September.

On 27th September Fr. Lo Groi presided over the Eucharist in which Bishop Stephen Lepcha of Darjeeling, 28 priests, several confreres and people participated. It was

followed by felicitations. Fr. Rector presented a brief history of SCS. On this occasion we honoured those fathers and brothers who had served SCS for more than ten years as its staff. Three members of the domestic staff were also honoured for rendering more than 20 years of service to the college. The Jubilarian gave the following message to the young Salesians: "Admire, Study, and imitate Don Bosco. He will fulfill his promise of Work, Bread and Heaven."

M. A. Vincent SDB

Apostolic Team Visits Kristu Jyoti College

The Apostolic Visitation in Kristu Jyoti College (KJC) was held from 5 - 9 October. The aim of the visitation is to assess the priestly formation of the seminarians, through a process of dialogue, said Major Archbishop Varkey Vithayathil, of the diocese of Ernakulam, the president of the team. The other members of the team were Archbishop Daniel Acharuparambil of Verapoly, Bishop John Baptist Sequeira of Chikmagalore and Bishop Devadass Ambrose of Thanjur.

Archbishop Vidayathil in his inaugural address emphasized the need for candidates to the priesthood to imbibe human, intellectual, emotional and spiritual qualities. He called upon the students to prepare themselves to become priest with a 'fire within' to build up a Christian community of love. Archbishop Acharuparambil urged the students to bring in more interiorisation, inner harmony and a sense of vocation into their lives and to make every activity a result of their 'deep love for Jesus'.

The team met superiors of the different religious communities in Bangalore, whose members study in the College. They also interviewed the staff, past pupils, neighbouring religious communities, student leaders and members of the laity.

"KJC is one of the best seminaries where the seminarians are encouraged to grow in freedom and spontaneity, cultivate human, intellectual and spiritual values, and thus bloom into a priest after the heart of Christ

and a loyal son of the Holy See", said the Major Archbishop during the concluding session. He appreciated the efforts of the staff and the students in sustaining a good cordial 'Gospel Friendship' between them. He added that the presence of so many different religious, both men and women, in the campus, would bring about affective maturity in the students to priesthood.

KJC has a total strength of 285 students of which 60 are Salesians belonging to the eight Indian provinces. The college has a good set of Staff with 16 resident professors and 48 visiting professors. The institution offers degree courses on B.Ph, B.Th, M.Th., and Diploma courses on Youth Catechesis and Youth Ministry. It also offers many short term courses on Liturgy and other subjects to both the religious and the laity.

Josy Thomas

CHRIST IN THE VILLAGES

Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil has authored a handbook containing practical tips for those engaged in village ministry of sharing the gift of faith. The book reflects the wisdom, experience and zeal of the archbishop who has been a frontline missionary in the Northeast for several decades. *Christ in the Villages* is a useful companion for the touring priests, sisters and catechists.

Scouting in Saiha

Scouting came to Saiha with the investiture of the first batch of recruits at Don Bosco School, Saiha, August 7, this year. It was the combined efforts of Fr. Joy, the Headmaster, Bro. Nelson and Mr. Roy K.K. that enable the commencement of scouting in Don Bosco, Saiha. The District Education Officer was the chief guest at the function in which 15 scouts and 25 guides joined the worldwide movement of the Scouts and Guides. In his speech the DEO exhorted the newly invested scouts and guides to remain true to the spirit of scouting. He expressed the hope that such movements would help improve the condition of the youth in Mizoram.

Scout sessions started in Don Bosco School, Saiha, from April with regular sessions on Fridays and Saturdays. An overnight camp was held on 24- 25 August. The efforts of the scoutmasters and the students were well

rewarded when the troop was awarded first prize for the march past on the independence day parade in which over 15 contingents participated. It is worth mentioning here that



Don Bosco School is the first of school to introduce scouting in the whole district. The events of the year came to a close with a camp held at Tuitlawk, November 14-17.

Bro. Binoy K.J.

The Fence

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to control his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us."

PSALM 23

Recently I spent some time reflecting on Psalm 23 and sharing my thoughts with several groups of students. It contains too many lessons on shepherding to be exhausted in just one session. However, when I thought I had done justice to it, I came across something new in the Ka iing Khristan, the news magazine in Khasi, of Shillong Archdiocese. Mr. Christopher Nongtdu reflecting on how to keep Sunday holy, speaks of a temptation of the electronic age in the words of Psalm 23. Here's a free translation:

The T.V. is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
It makes me sit down on a comfortable sofa,
It misleads me and weakens my faith,
It also hurts my soul,
It shows me the way to evil,
Of every sort in my life,
Even though I walk through
the darkest valley

In my Christian life,
I fear no danger.

With the remote control in my hand,
The T.V. brings me true peace and comfort,
My life is enriched with every pleasure,
It anoints my head with oil,
Ideologies without number crowd my mind,
Yes, T.V. is my life,
Laziness and passivity,
shall follow me all the days of my life,
as I watch T.V.
my whole life long.

There are two reasons for sitting in front of the T.V. To use it or be used by it. It is marvellous to use it. It is dangerous to be used by it. Those who use it profit from it. Those who are used by it merely get chewing gum for the eyes. To which group do you belong?

Paul Vadakumpadan

Jubilee Celebrations 1998

The felicitation of the jubilarians of the year started at Savio Juniorate with an excellent club display by the Savios as the sound of a hundred crackers echoed all around. After a short gathering to congratulate the jubilarians for the many years they have

served in the vineyard of the Lord, the Holy Eucharist was offered at Sacred Heart College Mawlai. It was presided over by Fr. Silvanus Sngi who kept the diamond jubilee of his profession. The celebrations concluded with the dinner at Sacred Heart.

PAN AND SERVICE TAX

- Jose Kadaprayil sdb

And thus we have come to the last issue of the newslines for the calendar year 1998... And with it the last word in the C.A.Column for the year that was... Looking back over the past year and the responses to the column that were received from various readers, I must say that I feel a sense of achievement (there does not seem to be any attack of humility around!) at having elicited such positive responses, on issues that are so proverbially prosaic as finance and laws. The feed-back has been uniformly encouraging and suggestions for discussion topics have not been lacking at all. My sincere thanks to all the readers who have been kind enough to offer ideas and suggestions. But the funny aspect of the matter is that I have also been congratulated for my journalistic talents! (Editor of the Newslines, be warned!!).

Two notifications that have been issued by the Government of India during the past two months deserve our attention... The notification issued in relation to quoting the PAN for certain specified financial transactions and the notification as regards the extension of Service Tax on Chartered Accountants, as well as Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries.

Notification No. SO 889 (E) dated 9th October 1998, and effective from 1st November 1998, requires the PAN (Permanent Account Number) to be quoted in all documents pertaining to certain specified financial transactions. (Readers are advised to refer to earlier issues of the Newslines to get further details of matters relating to PAN, application for the same etc... the matter had been discussed in earlier C.A.Columns..)

Without going into the details of the above notification, an abstract of the same is offered

below for the necessary information of all concerned in the matter, as and when such specified transactions arise. The notification requires the GIR (General Index Register) Number to be quoted where the PAN has not yet been allotted. For our practical purposes, the common transactions which would come under the purview of the above notification would be the following:

1. Sale or purchase of Immovable Property (land or buildings) costing rupees five lakhs or more;
2. Sale or purchase of a motor vehicle which requires registration by a registering authority, two-wheelers being exempted by a later notification;
3. A time deposit (fixed deposit) exceeding fifty thousand rupees with any banking company or post office savings bank;
4. Opening a new bank account with any bank;
5. Making an application for a new telephone connection, including cellular phones.

A proviso to the notification provides that a person who has not been allotted a PAN or who does not have a GIR number and who makes payment in cash or otherwise than by a crossed cheque drawn on a banker by a crossed bank draft in respect of any of the above transactions, shall make a declaration in Form No.60, giving therein the details of the concerned transaction.

The following comments and clarifications are offered in relation to the above notification:

- a) As religious and institutional people, we do not have an individual tax status and hence the question of quoting individual PAN does

not arise; we have only an institutional status and hence the PAN/GIR to be quoted in relevant documents should be that of the concerned institution.

- b) Arising from the above, it is evident that the question of individual bank accounts should not arise; all our bank accounts have to be in the name of the concerned institution and the PAN to be quoted when the opening of a new bank account becomes necessary, should be that of the institution. Should someone decide to flout the religious rule of not having personal bank accounts, he would simply have to face the logical tax implications of having an individual income... This matter is too involved to be discussed here within the constraints of limited space; hopefully it can be discussed in the future.
- c) Those who undertake procure tasks for others, like buying vehicles and other high value transactions, need to be aware of the implications of the notification... Correct PAN needs to be quoted and care has to be taken in relation to the payments done. What is to be kept in mind is that the transaction belongs to another institution and hence the details furnished will have to be of that institution.
- d) Please note that the exception provided, of using Form No.60, will not be applicable to institutions, since all institutions as registered societies are bound to have a PAN, or at least have applied for it; in the absence of PAN, the GIR number, that is, the reference number given at the time of registration under section 12A, is to be quoted.
- e) As a rule of thumb, it can be said to be a safe procedure to make all payments above rupees ten thousand by means of crossed cheques; making larger cash payments could lead to unnecessary and avoidable hassle.
- f) Please note that the notification goes on to require bank managers, registering officers,

telephone authorities and anyone involved in the purchase or selling of immovable property or motor vehicles, to forward to the Director of Income Tax (Investigations), all details of the relevant transactions; the implications are obviously ominous, since the tax authorities may ultimately come knocking at your door, asking questions which may be difficult to answer... or more probably it being a case of posterity paying for the sins of ancestors!

The next notification has got to do with the extension of the Service Tax to certain of the professional services rendered by a chartered accountant, cost accountant and a company secretary; with this notification No. 59/98-Service Tax, dated 16th October 1998 the number of taxable services have been raised to twelve.

The operative part of the notification stipulates that the professional services of auditing and accounting, rendered by a practising chartered accountant, will come under the purview of service tax. The rate of tax has been fixed at five per cent of the gross value of the taxable services rendered in India, rounded off to the nearest rupee. After strong protests from the professional accounting fraternity, the tax has been made payable on the receipt of consideration for services rendered, whereas earlier it was sought to be imposed on the value of the bill raised for the professional services.

In practical terms, the new tax is tantamount to an increase in the professional fees charged for such services. The tax has its earlier application

Fr.Sngi Awarded

Fr.Sylvanus Sngi Lyngdoh was awarded the *Ka Dienjat Award 1997-98* for his contribution to the Khasi culture.

in the service tax paid on telephone services, where the tax is collected from the telephone subscriber at the rate of five per cent on the gross amount of his telephone bill. The administration of the tax has been entrusted to the Central Excise Department and obviously the entire exercise is going to be cumbersome and irksome as well. Modalities will have to be worked out to reduce the hassles associated with the administration of this new piece of tax legislation. As a practising chartered accountant, yours truly will be getting in touch with his concerned clients

in a professional capacity, to mitigate the rigours of its application through ways and means that are legal and legitimate.

Before signing off for the last time in 1998, C.A. Column extends to all its readers and well wishers its sincerest good wishes and greetings, for a wonderful Christmas, with all the joy and peace associated with the Christmas Season, as well as for a prosperous New Year 1999. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.... □

“BONUM DIFFUSIVUM SUI”

Sohblei Sngi Lyngdoh

The above quoted Latin Proverb means, “whatever is genuinely good spreads itself.” Whatever is truly good appeals and attracts. All agree that it is so and has to be so. And I can affirm this from my own experience during my pilgrimage to Fr. Constantine Vendrame’s native village.

In one of the Parishes of those sub alpine towns I came across a piece of news, which informs us that sooner or later, on the occasion of the 2000 jubilee, the Vatican City itself will make use of the so called internet for audio-visual catechesis. As soon as I read this piece of news, my mind flew to the seventies, when in a humble way our Fr. Harold Shrieves, SDB., began in earnest the use of the audio visual method to effectively teach catechism in

villages. One of the pioneers who recognized the value of the audio visual method of teaching catechism was our late Archbishop Hubert D’ Rosario, SDB., DD. in one of his pastoral letters. From then on, this laudable enterprise began to be widely known in this Northeast. With Vatican introducing audio-visual catechesis via internet, there is no doubt that soon this highly effective method of teaching catechism will be followed by the whole world to the great advantage of our Christians and their children. And so we cannot but congratulate Fr. Harold for his single minded noble work during these past twenty years or so. As the internet becomes popular, others will certainly follow this good example given by one of our elderly Salesians.

Vocation Camp

Fr. Mark Lakra

A Vocation camp was held at Don Bosco, Boko, September 28- October 2. Fr. Jose Valiaveetil, the parish priest, inaugurated the camp by lighting the lamp. The camp was mainly for boys from the plains of Assam who are studying in Class VI. Thirty four boys from nine

parishes participated in the camp. The camp was conducted under the leadership of the Vocation Promoter with the assistance of Bros. Binod, Victor, Ranjan, Rajendra, Shaji and Philip. The vocation camp concluded on October 2, with a solemn Eucharistic celebration. □

The Angel's Greeting

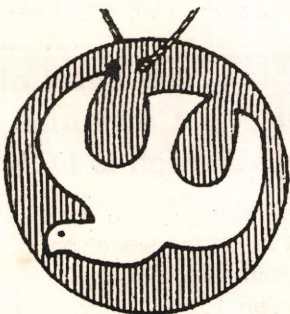
M.A. Vincent sdb

*Pallor still she stands in awe
At the angel's greeting in the morn
Expect virgin a child divine
Who frees us all from sin and pain.*

*Oh no! could I, a virgin maid
Known or wedded none before?
Will I be sent far by him, my love?
Or be cruelly stoned to death?*

*Oh no! my maid, never should fear,
On you will descend the Spirit of God.
Jesus, you will name the son you bear
Who comes to save us, you and me.*

*Then comes a cold and chilly night
When it pained as though death were at hand
Soon brightens her face at sight,
Of a new born babe at her side.*



*His whole face bathed in light serene
A happy smile of innocence
He lies in simple serenity
A human babe in divinity.*

*Christmas, named this day by all
God incarnate in human form
Born as poor in a stable small
Will die on a cross in poverty.*

*Thus does He save us sinners
With the price of his own blood
The stock of mercy for us all
Who live in this world of strife.*

*His death was but a passing through
To life and endless victory
He will come to judge on ages end
The day that we will sure face.*

*Lovely God's wish for all on earth
Who sent his only beloved son
For this He came as truly planned
Due to the "Yes" that Mary said.*



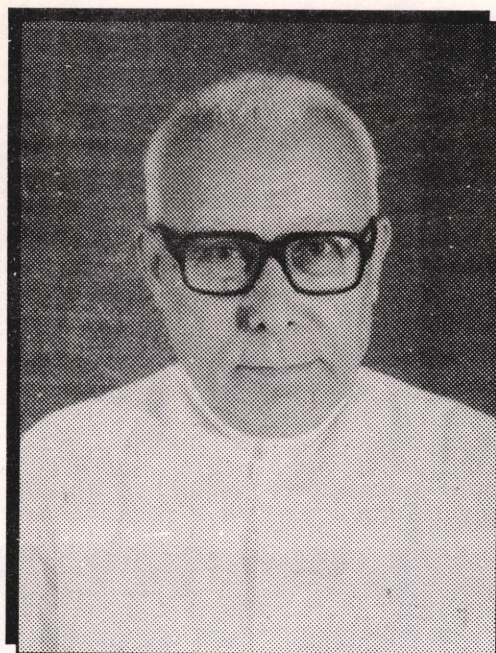
Mary gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Lk.2:7)

**Let us embrace
All those who are
Poor throughout the
world
This Christmas
season.**

**Newsline wishes you
the Peace and
Blessings of
Christmas.
May JESUS grant you
and all your dear
ones
the spirit of
Christmas
which is PEACE**

**The gladness of
Christmas
which is HOPE**

**The heart of
Christmas
which is LOVE.**



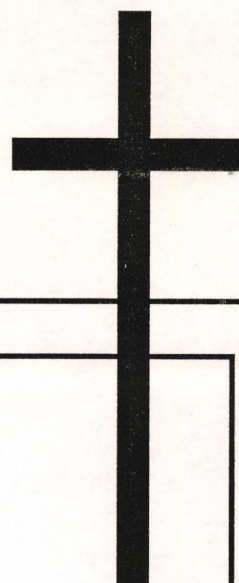
REV. FR.

30B141

ANTHONY BUCCIERI

S.D.B.

Born	:	12.06.1913
Professed	:	25.10.1930
Ordained	:	05.11.1938
Died	:	03.11.1998



THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

Regrets to announce the passing away of

R

Rev. Fr. **ANTHONY BUCCIERI S.D.B.**

on Tuesday, 3rd November 1998 at 10.45 p.m.

at Nazareth Hospital, Shillong.

I

There will be a Concelebrated Requiem Mass

at the Catholic Cathedral, Tura.

on Thursday 5th November 1998 at 2.00 p.m.

followed by the burial.

P

All Religious, Priests, the Faithful and his Friends

are invited to attend the Services

and pray for the repose of his Soul.

Fr. DOMINIC JALA, S.D.B.
Provincial

1900
ANTHONY BUCCHIERI

THE FIRST OF THE SERIES OF THE
THE SECOND OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE THIRD OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE FOURTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE FIFTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE SIXTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE SEVENTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

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THE NINTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

ANTHONY BUCCHIERI

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THE TWELFTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

THE THIRTEENTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

ANTHONY BUCCHIERI

THE FOURTEENTH OF THE SERIES OF THE

Salesian Provincial

Don Bosco, Guwahati 781 001

Circular 37

9 November, 1998

Rev. Fr. Anthony Buccieri

Fr. Anthony Buccieri was admitted to the hospital in Shillong on the day the Salesians of Guwahati Province gathered to felicitate the jubilarians. He was to be among them, with his 60 years of priesthood. Instead he was to spend 13 days in hospital before being called to the Lord on 3rd November 1998, at 11.15 p.m. We laid him to rest at Bosco Mount, Rongkhon on 5th November, exactly 60 years from the day he was ordained a priest in Shillong by Mgr. Perier. Fr. Buccieri knew he was going and we are therefore not surprised that God chose to call him at this time.

He was born on 12th June 1913 at Mineo, Catania in Sicily of Carmelo Buccieri and Rosa Manduca. He lost his mother when still a boy at school.

Anthony studied at the local schools till he was allowed to join the middle and high school at the Salesian school at Pedara. When Anthony was in his 3rd year in school, he took ill and became so serious that he was almost on the point of death. He recovered, he believes, at the intercession of St. Francis Xavier to whom he was exhorted to pray. The next year he was able to join the Salesian Aspirantate at San Gregorio. Since he had not attained the legal age for joining the novitiate, he completed his school studies before novitiate, unlike his classmates who went on to the novitiate and completed their schooling after their profession.

Fr. Scuderi, a pioneer missionary in India, had requested the major superiors to send Buccieri to Ivrea a missionary aspirantate, in view of going to the missions. But the request was not granted. During the novitiate he was suspected of having contracted tuberculosis and hence could not make his profession at the end of the novitiate year. But his confessor made him make a private profession. It was only on 25th October 1929 that Anthony Buccieri was finally allowed to make the regular profession as a Salesian.

Cleric Anthony Buccieri proceeded with his ecclesiastical studies at San Gregorio. After philosophy he continued to stay on at San Gregorio for his practical training as assistant of the novices and teacher for both novices and philosophers. He taught Latin, Greek, history and Italian. It was towards the end of his practical training that Mgr. Mathias, leader of the first missionary band to Assam preached a retreat to the novices. Br. Buccieri was enthused with the idea of the missions and he made his application to come to the mission of Assam. His petition was not granted and instead Carmel Attard was sent. It was only in 1934 that Cleric Buccieri in a group of 16 missionaries was allowed to leave for India.

After they reached Shillong on 6th December 1934, Br. Buccieri was appointed assistant of the novices in the Our Lady's house, Shillong.

The following year, in 1935 he started his study of theology while still continuing as assistant of novices. On Good Friday 1936, the novitiate was reduced to ashes and the novices were temporarily housed at Wood Cot near Kurseong. On 5th November, 1938 Deacon Buccieri was ordained priest at Shillong by Mgr. Perier, Archbishop of Calcutta. After ordination, he continued as prefect of studies in Sonada for a year. At the end of 1939, the young priest, Fr. Buccieri came to Tura. At that time there were 800 Garo Catholics, mainly in Damra and Baghmara. In 1941 Fr Buccieri took the place of Fr. Costa as parish priest in Tura.

During the world war, Buccieri was interned with others in the concentration camps, at Mawlai, Deoli and Dehra Dun. In the camp, Fr. Buccieri functioned as professor of scripture for the students of theology.

In 1945 the war came to an end and in 1946 the first batch of Italians, which included Fr. Buccieri were allowed to come out. However he could not come to Assam and so he went to Tirupattur and then to Yercaud and Poonamallee. After a year he was allowed to come back to Assam and we find him again in Tura. Persistent malaria attacks made his superiors send him again to Poonamallee to teach theology. After one year, in 1950, he was transferred to the theologate in Shillong where he taught theology for 5 years. He was then appointed Rector of Liluah in 1952. After three years there he returned to Tura Garo Hills, as parish priest. He was able to build the Church which now functions as the Cathedral of Tura. He also started a primary school which in later years would grow to the present Don Bosco school in Tura. He also developed the Dalu Mission centre. In 1966, after 11 years of work in the Garo Hills, Mgr. Ferrando requested that Fr. Buccieri be sent to Upper Shillong to start a new parish there. After five years of pioneering work, he went home and returned as parish priest of Mawkhar in Shillong. He was reluctant to go because he felt that his knowledge of Khasi was inadequate for the intelligentsia of Mawkhar.

While at home in Sicily for home leave, in 1976, he received a letter from Mgr. Marrengo calling to Garo Hills because Fr. George Stadler had taken ill and was unable to do any work. This time, he was appointed Parish priest of the newly erected, Sacred Heart Parish at Chandmari. After some years there, he was transferred to Nongstoin, where in a short period of time he got 22 village chapels built in some of the remote areas of the parish.

His health gradually failed him and he was fitted with a pace maker. He was no more in a position to go back to Nongstoin. Hence he was sent to Cherrapunjee to help out for 3 months since the parish priest was away on home visit. After this he was asked to go to Bosco Mount, Tura where he spent the last years of his life.

In the 64 years that Fr. Buccieri spent in India, he carried out various types of apostolates. He was a teacher of candidates to the priesthood; he was an active frontline missionary in the Khasi Hills and in the Garo Hills. He wrote religious books for the Garo people; he served as confessor for the people and the candidates to Salesian life in Rongkhon.

He had started his religious life as one involved in the formation of candidates. He ended his life in a similar setting. But Fr. Buccieri had not come to India to be only involved in formation houses. He had dreamed of getting to where the people were and evangelising them. He was privileged to start his priestly career in the heart of a fresh missionary venture, in the Garo Hills where he had desired to be finally interred.

While in Italy on a home visit, Fr. Buccieri was asked, "What is the most marvellous thing you have seen?" He spontaneously replied, "The greatest miracle I have seen is the growth of the church in Garo Hills." From a small group of about 800 Catholics that Fr. Buccieri saw when he arrived in Tura in 1939, in a comparatively short span of time the Church has grown to a flourishing diocese with about a lakh and a half Catholics. The number of parishes, schools, convents, dispensaries, a college, and a hospital. It all is a missionary miracle.

Regarding the work of evangelisation, Fr. Buccieri had this to say "In the early years contact with the people came as a necessity, since there were no roads and no vehicles. But today, we have vehicles and it easy to go, to celebrate mass and return. Still, remaining with the people and contact with them continues to be the most powerful means of evangelisation".

He felt that to do effective work among the Garos the missionary must have a heart that is filled with real love for the Garos.

Fr. Buccieri's contribution to Garo religious literature deserves special mention. While he was parish priest of Tura, Fr. Buccieri edited the Garo monthly, *Seng Baa*. He published the 1st part of the Catechism on the Creed, under the title, *Kristan Bebera'ani*, which formed part of a "Know your religion" series.

Among his other works, is the Garo grammar in English. Other books by him range from introduction to the bible and bible commentaries to translations of spiritual classics like The Imitation of Christ and devotional books of various types. He also introduced the people to the Fathers of the Church through a timely booklet of his.

Fr. Buccieri concretely expressed his love and care for his people. He said that several of the institutions he started came as an answer to situations and needs. For instance, he did not think of opening a School at first. He had 75 boarders and the school became a necessity. He had not thought of opening an English Medium School in the Sacred Heart Parish, Tura, but he felt that it was a necessity for the people. So too the St. Dominic Savio school at Arai Mail which was later shifted to the present Arai Mail parish campus and became the St. Mary's School, did not come as a result of prior planning. It was felt a necessity and Fr. Buccieri saw in it a welcome sign. Similarly the school he started in Upper Shillong at the request of a Mr. Duncan eventually developed into the flourishing Nongkseh High School.

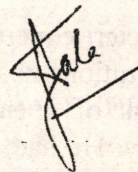
During his earlier years in Tura, when people saw that the primary school he started went on well, the Assam Government asked him to see if he could start a vocational training center, similar to the one in Shillong. A grant of Rs. 25,000 was given. Thus came the Press which came to be housed in the Catholic Mission Compound.

Just prior to his celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of his ordination, Fr. Buccieri was conferred an award by his home town of Mineo, the L. Buglio Award, under the title, *A life for others*. In his letter informing his superiors of this award, he wrote, "Glory to God and to Our Lady. Glory also to the Congregation that has accepted, fed, educated me and has assigned me to work in the missions. I am thinking of fixing a "borsa di studio" for a Salesian aspirant. He will continue with my work". This was a fitting remark for a missionary.

As we bid farewell to Fr. Buccieri, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the many people who have shaped his missionary life. The people of the missions, the confreres, the other missionaries, the boys and girls who have been educated by him. Bosco Mount community has taken care of him during the past seven years. God bless this community. I extend a special word of thanks to all those who cared for him in his illnesses, both in Nazareth Hospital, Shillong, in Holy Cross Hospital, Tura and in other places where he had received care. I thank the confreres of Shillong and particularly the novices of Sunnyside for the sacrifices they made to care for Fr. Buccieri in his last illness. I am grateful to the Nazareth hospital which sought to overcome so many obstacles in order to provide care for him during his last days. I thank each and every one of those who have made it possible to have this funeral in Tura, particularly Mr. Lotsing A Sangma who went out of his way to make all arrangements for it. God bless every one of you. I am particularly grateful to His Lordship, Bishop George Mamalassery of Tura who conducted the funeral rites.

As we witness the going of another mission pioneer we feel even more called to recommit ourselves more intensely to the call for evangelisation in the region to which God had called our Society to spread His Kingdom and to plant the Church among the various cultures of this land.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Dominic Jala, SDB