

### FATHER CHARLES LOUIS BUSS. SDB.

Father Charles died at St. Joseph's hospital in Paterson, New Jersey, USA. on the 18th August 1938.

He was born in London on April 3rd 1873. He entered the novitiate at Foglizzo on October 23rd 1890 where he had the good fortune to receive the religious habit from the hands of Blessed Michael Rua, whose secretary he became for a time afterwards. All his life he showed his esteem for Don Rua and, whenever his name was mentioned, he spoke of him with enthusiasm. He made his perpetual profession in 1891 and, having completed his philosophical studies at Foglizzo and Valsalice, he was at once admitted to theology and he was ordained a priest by Mgr. Bertagna in 1897.

After working for some years on the Salesian Bulletin at the Oratory, he was sent in 1901 to help in the parish of Corpus Christi in San Francisco, California. After a brief stay in the parish of SS Peter and Paul, he returned to Corpus Christi as the Parish Priest. Fr. Buss belonged to that group of Salesian pioneers who initiated the work of Don Bosco in the United States. Indeed with his hidden and devoted work, his skill as an administrator and his courteous way of acting, he accomplished much, especially with the Italian emigrants.

During the First World War he returned to London, where he distinguished himself as a military chaplain. After the war he became the Rector of Battersea from 1919-22. The following year he returned to America. He became the Parish Priest in several of the Salesian parishes in California, perhaps the most fruitful years of his Salesian life, from 1923 to 1937. But then the years began to weigh heavily upon him, especially as his sight began to fail and became so weak that he was dispensed from saying the breviary. For some time he struggled to say Mass but eventually, exhausted by other ailments he asked to be freed to prepare himself, as he put it, for the final voyage. He was to go to the Villa Don Bosco at Halesdon, N. J. but on August 12th he suffered a heart attack. He was at once taken to the hospital of St. Joseph where the doctors and nurses did all they could for him - but to no avail. Unable to speak, he showed himself grateful to the visiting confreres, with tears of joy. Calmly accepting the stresses of his final hours, he died peacefully on August 18th a worthy echo of a life spent entirely in the service of the Lord.

Many of the local clergy joined our Salesians and parishoners at his funeral. His simple life and strong attachment to the Congregation must surely have won for him a speedy entrance into the happiness of Heaven. Nevertheless, I beg you to remember him in your prayers and suffrages.

Fr. Modesto Valenti. S. D. B.