

Salesian Mother House,  
Turin.

Dear Father Williams,

A telegram has just arrived to tell me of the death of our dear

**FATHER KEVIN BYRNE. S. D. B.**

at Tehran, Iran, where he was headmaster in our school. His death was the result of a heart attack. This is a great loss for this house, for our work in Iran, and for the Province of the Middle East.

Fr. Kevin came from the Anglo-Irish Province and, as his Provincial for nine years, I can honestly say that, in Fr. Byrne, you gave us a Salesian, a priest, and a true apostle of the highest quality. In deeply lamenting his death, I think of his friends and confreres in his native Province, and I extend to you all my heartfelt condolences. We were already preparing Fr. Kevin to be the next Rector of our Don Bosco College at Tehran. But the good Lord has called him to Himself and, surely, to his reward in Heaven.

He was indeed an exemplary Salesian priest, a great worker, a man of great human virtues. He was gentle and open in his character, and never spared himself in any task he undertook. At Tehran, our Salesians, the pupils, the people who knew him, will mourn their loss for a very long time. A great characteristic of his was the ability to make himself all things to all people in order to win them to Christ – as St. Paul tells us.

Fr. Kevin was a good and authentic missionary in the true sense of the word. He adapted well to the customs, language and temperament of the country. He was a true pastor to those with whom he worked. We have certainly lost a whole-hearted and great Salesian.

Please convey to all the Salesians of your Province the news of his death, my sincere condolences, all my gratitude (and that of the Middle Eastern Province) to the Province which gave him to us.

While I pray for the repose of his soul, may I make one sincere wish, that for both of our Provinces, the good Lord will send us more confreres and priests of the stature of Fr. Kevin.

Affectionately,

Fr. Francis Laconi. SDB.  
(Provincial of the Middle-East)

–Fr. Kevin Byrne died on April 17th 1969, aged 48. He was at Shrigley from 1934–8, a novice at Beckford 1938–9. He joined the Middle Eastern Province in 1940. Headmaster at Tehran at death. Catacombe San Callisto, Via Appia Antica, Rome.