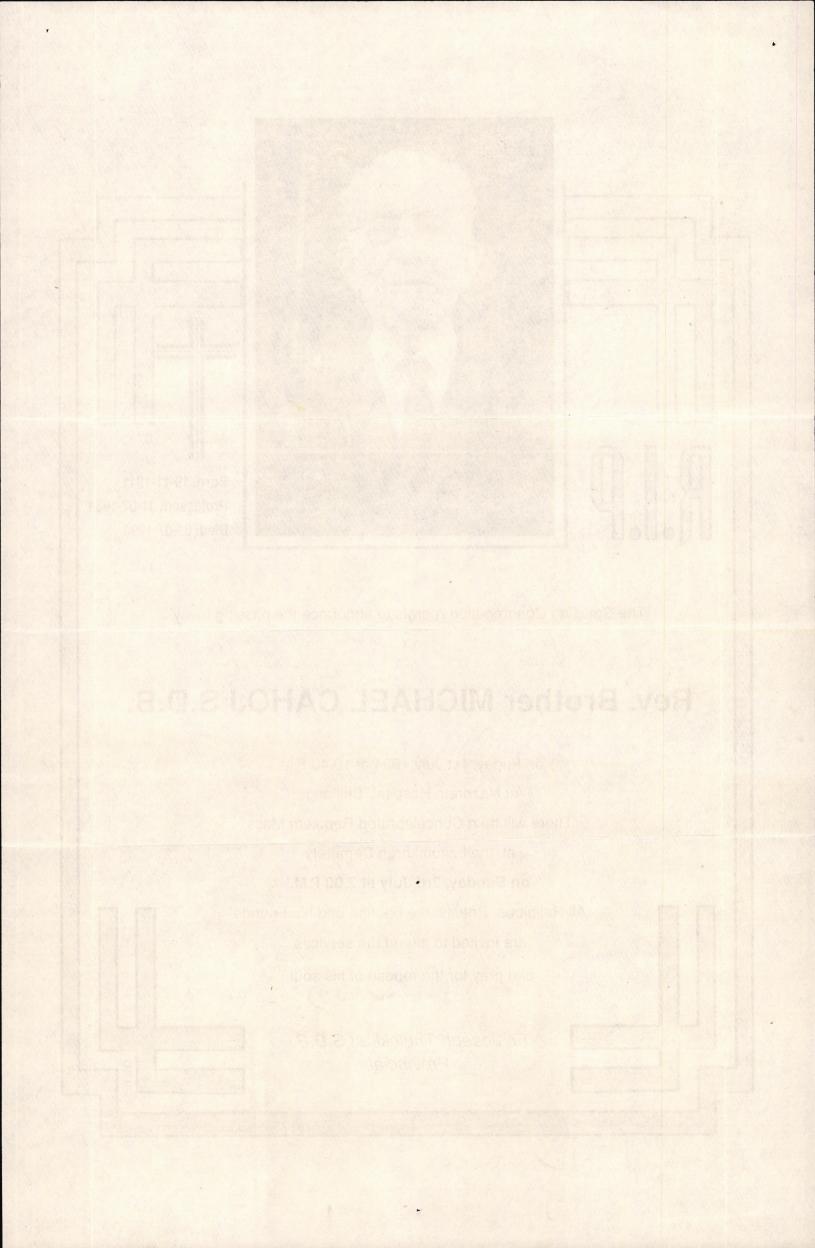


on Sunday, 3rd July at 2.00 P.M.

All Religious, Priests, the Faithful and his Friends
are invited to attend the services
and pray for the repose of his soul.

Fr. Joseph Thelekkatt S.D.B. Provincial



CAHOT MICHAEL



ADIEU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

t was the end of a long road from Ruskovce in Czechoslovakia to the final resting place of Laitumkhrah, Shillong. Br. Michael Cahoj Sdb, joined the great company of Don Bosco's illustrious sons who gave their life, to their last breath for God and his kingdom. His spiritual mentor Bishop Orestes Marengo, his Salesian confreres, the boys of Savio Juniorate and a large assembly



of friends and well wishers who knew and loved Bro. Michael were there to wish him a tearful adieu.

The community of Savio Juniorate

and the Province were looking forward to celebrating the diamond jubilee of Bro Michael's first profession on 31 July,

94. But the Lord called him away on the first Friday of the month of July. For him life is not ended but changed and we trust that the diamond jubilee celebrations aren't cancelled, only the venue is changed. On 31 July, the community of Savio Juniorate together with Bro. Michael's friends had a Jinglaseng (prayer meeting) to remember and pray for him.

Fr. Attard who knew Bro. Michael and lived with him in Savio Juniorate for years described him as a convincing witness to Christ. He loved

work, and kept working till the evening of his life. He always made the sign of the cross with great devotion. He made good use of the Holy Water not only in the church, but also in his room. He loved the boys and they loved him in re-

turn. Hilarius
Lamare, one of
the boys says:
Bro. Michael
was a man who
kept his promises even when
it cost him
great difficulties and sufferings.

Simplicity is the word that best describes Bro. Michael. Fr. Provincial echoed the feelings of many other

Salesians when at the funeral he said:

" Br. Michael was an amazing person whose life was simple, uneventful and



very ordinary. It was wonderful to discover such simplicity in a world which is far from simple - no big positions, no big money, no large possessions. For him the simple things of life assumed immense importance."

Says Sylvester Sangma, one of the aspirants of Savio Juniorate: Bro. Michael had a special devotion to Mary that really came from his heart. He used to sing hymns to Our Lady even when he worked. "Bro. Michael was indeed a well-disciplined Salesian", added Fr. Thomas Edamattath, Dean of Studies, Savio Juniorate, " a perfect blending of work and prayer, living it with a child-like simplicity all his life."

Bro. Michael has left us. But as Fr. Provincial said at his funeral, we are richer for having known him. Our final tribute to this saintly Salesian would be to imitate him in his fidelity, poverty and prayer.



MINORITY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS UNDER REVIEW

mportant issues related to minority educational institutions are currently under discussion. Newsline presents highlights of a national conference on minority rights held in Bangalore, May 27-30, and the seven points relating to minority rights the Su-preme Court is scheduled to take up for consideration soon.

The AIACHE (All India Association for Christian Higher Education) conference called for an awareness drive on minority rights, formation of an ecumenical forum on minority concerns and networking with concerned bodies

on minority issues.

The conference saw minority rights as an enrichment of the secular nature of the nation as much as were the other rights in a free democracy. Hence it stressed the need for safeguarding

minority values and culture.

The conference expressed concern on the use of grant-in-aid to impose control and restrictions on minority institutions, and on the court ruling allowing only 50% admission to students of the community to which the institution belongs. The right to admission to students of the community is an integral and inalienable part of the right to administer educational institution by the community, it asserted

The criteria for establishing the minority status of an institution should be that the objectives of promoting culture, heritage and developmental interest of the community owning and administering the school are being catered to, said the conference. Certification to this effect should be from the head of the community or its official organisation, it stipulated.

The conference exhorted the churches to consider setting up Christian Universities in India. Minority institutions were asked to promote national integration and human development as service to the national community and for creation of good will.

The 7 points to be considered by the Supreme Court from July 20, 1994.

(a) Where a religious or linguistic minority in State A establishes an educational institution in the said State, members of that religious/linguistic group in State B claim rights flowing from Article 30(1) of

the Constitution of India in respect of the above said educational institution established in State A?

(b) Whether it would be correct to say that only the members of that minority residing in State A will be treated as the members of the minority vis-a-vis such institution?

2. What are the indicia for treating an educational institution as a minority educational institution? Would an institution be regarded as a minority educational institution only because it was established by a person(s) belonging to a religious or linguistic minority or it is being administered by a person(s) belonging to a religious or linguistic minority?

3. Whether the minority's right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice will include the procedure and method of admission

and selection of students?

4. Whether the admission of students to minority educational institution, whether aided or unaided. can be regulated by the State Govt. or by the University to which the institution is affiliated?

5. Whether the decision of this Court in St. Stephen's is right in saying that article 30 clothes a minority educational institution with the power to admit students by adopting its own method of selection and the State or the affiliating University has no power to regulate admission of students to such minority, educational institution even while permitting the minority educational institution to admit students belonging to the relevant minority to the extent of 50% intake capacity. We make it clear that the percentage decided in St. Stephen's case will equally be open for re-consideration.

6. What is meant by the expression "religion" in Article 30(1)? Can the followers of a sect or denomination of a particular religion claim protection under article 30(1) on the basis that they constitute a minority in the State even though the followers of that religion are in majority in that State?

7. What is meant by the expression "language" in Article 30(1)? Does it include a language that is not included in the Eighth Schedule to the

Constitution?

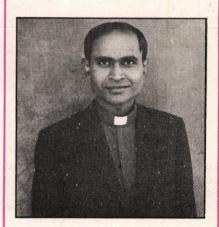
Minority groups, churches and educationalists are awaiting the

outcome of the grave situation arising out of the proposed consideration of the above 7 points by the Supreme Court of India. The answers to the above are bound to radically affect the identity of minority educational institutions, the right to admission and administration, and the nature and extent of government control on them.

EVANGELISATION RETREAT

An evangelistion retreat for priests and religious directed by Fr. Mathew Naickomparambil and team will be held at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna from November 3-8. Confreres who wish to participate in this retreat may contact Fr. Vice-Provincial before 15 September.

Welcome FR. EDMUND GOMES



Fr. Edmund has returned to the province after successfully completing his doctoral studies in Rome. Fr. Gomes received his Ph.D from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, for his thesis on The Eucharist as Enacting the Real Symbol of the Unity of Christ and the Church according to Karl Rahner. Fr. Edmund has joined the Sacred Heart College as Vice-Rector of the Community and Professor of Dogmatic Theology.