

**BISHOP EMILIO SIMEON ALLUÉ CARCASÓN, SDB**

*February 18, 1935 - April 26, 2020*

Professed: August 16, 1956

Ordained Priest: December 22, 1966

Ordained Bishop: September 17, 1996

A victim of complications from an infection of COVID-19 (coronavirus), our confrere

***BISHOP EMILIO SIMEON ALLUÉ CARCASONA, SDB***

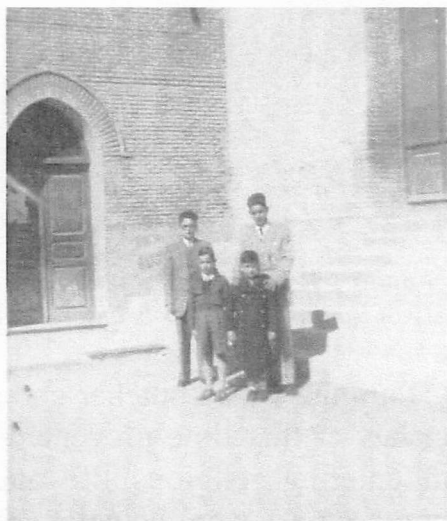
was called home to the Father on Sunday, April 26, 2020, 9:30 am, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boston, MA, where he had been hospitalized for just over a week. Retired as auxiliary bishop of Boston and titular bishop of Croë (Albania) since 2010, Bishop Emilio had been a resident of Regina Cleri Residence for Retired Priests in Boston since 2018. He was 85 years old, a professed Salesian of Don Bosco for almost 64 years, a priest more than 53 years, and a bishop for 23, the first and until now only Salesian bishop serving the Church in the USA.

***EARLY LIFE IN SPAIN***

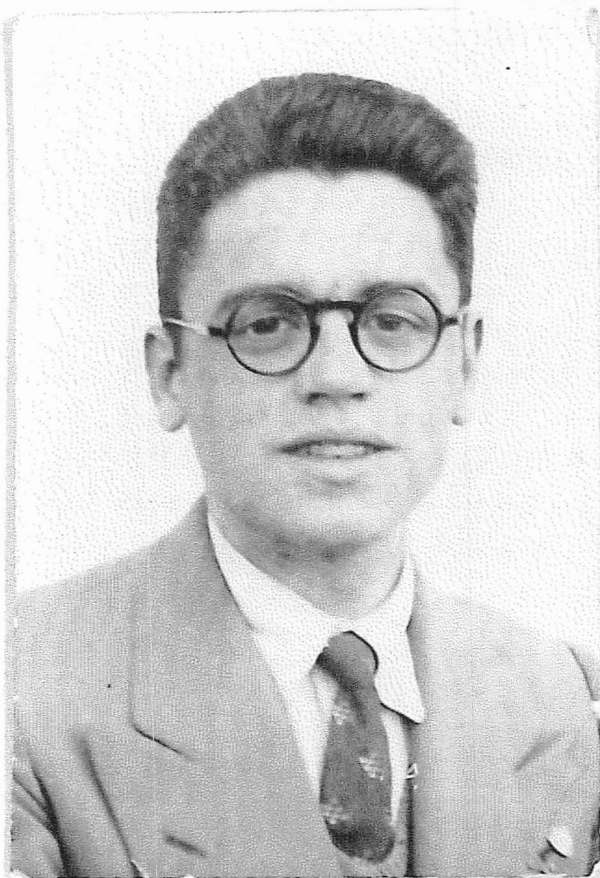


*Earliest known photo of Emilio, 1942, aged 7, most probably in the front rows along with Luis Aineto*

The son of Domingo Allué and Juliana Carcasona, Emilio was born in Huesca, Spain, on February 18, 1935. He had one older brother, Domingo, and one younger brother, Adolfo, who is still alive at this writing and has contributed some photos and details of their family life. Like their father and uncles before them, the three Allué boys attended Colegio Salesiano in their hometown of Huesca. One of Emilio's classmates was a boy named Luís Aineto. When they finished their primary education at age 12 (sixth grade), they both wanted to enter the Salesian formation program. Luis was accepted right away, and five years later made his first religious profession as a Salesian in Arbós de Panedés in the year 1951 at the age of 17. Emilio had wanted to enter at that time, too, but there was an impediment which prevented him.



*From left to right, Emilio, Adolfo, an unidentified youngster, older brother Domingo, in the patio of Colegio Salesiano of Huesca, Spain (Courtesy of Emilio's younger brother Adolfo)*



*Emilio's 1950 school ID photo  
(Courtesy of Emilio's younger brother Adolfo)*

Emilio's father Domingo was a butcher and agriculturist by trade. Canon law at that time prevented butchers or their sons from entering religious life and becoming priests! Domingo senior was actually relieved. He arranged for Emilio to become an apprentice in a neighboring pharmacy and to continue studying, which he did for the next five years, from home. His father reasoned

and hoped that all this work in the real world would make Emilio forget about his plans to become a priest. In the words of his younger brother Adolfo, to “*ver si se le iba la idea de cura*” (“*to see if the idea of becoming a priest would go away*”). Emilio maintained close contact with the Salesians in Huesca, keeping the dream alive. So much so that one day the director of Colegio Salesiano went to see Domingo Allué, asking permission to allow him to bring Emilio to the aspirantate. At the end Emilio’s father had to consent to the director’s request, Salesian alumnus that he was. Younger brother Adolfo says he’s not sure if it was due to Emilio’s stubbornness or if it was a premonition, but their father’s comment was “*Ha salido con la suya, es que tiene una cabeza de obispo*” (“*He got away with it. He has a bishop’s head*”)!)



*Young Emilio (far left) with three unidentified friends  
(Courtesy of Emilio’s younger brother Adolfo)*





*Friends of Dominic Savio Group  
Initiation as official alumni of Colegio Salesiano  
Emilio third from left  
(Courtesy of Emilio's younger brother Adolfo)*

In any case, with or without the head of a bishop, or perhaps because he was so much older than the other aspirants and accomplished in his studies, Emilio was admitted into the final year of the Salesian aspirantate in Gerona in 1954, aged 19. In the meantime, the dispensation from the canonical impediment came in, and Emilio became a Salesian novice in Arbós de Panedés in 1955, at the age of 20, four years after his companion Luís Aineto. There in the novitiate he met another novice also destined to become an “American missionary,” José Santabibiana. They made first profession together with some 40 other young Salesians of the then-Province of Barcelona (Tarragona) on August 16, 1956. Emilio was 21 years old. Only six weeks after their first religious

profession, Emilio and José arrived at the port of New York City on October 1, 1956, the seventh and final group of young newly professed Barcelona Salesians to be sent as missionaries to the United States for the New Rochelle province.

How did all that come about? The first group of newly professed who came to America from Barcelona departed in 1950. The Spanish Civil War, and later World War II, had plunged Spain into considerable financial distress, which lasted well into the 1950s. They were not poor in vocations, however. Novitiate classes typically numbered in the forties and fifties. Because no formal documents were located in the archives of either province, the best guess seems to be that the provincials, Fr. Ernest Giovannini of New Rochelle and Fr. Florencio Sánchez and then later Fr. Thomas Baraut of Tarragona (Barcelona), struck a gentleman's agreement *viva voce*, perhaps when they were together at some general chapter, an agreement which remained in force from 1950 through 1956.

From their many vocations Barcelona would send two or three newly professed Salesians as "missionaries" to work in Puerto Rico, which at that time was part of the New Rochelle Province and where the province had just built a brand-new school which needed Spanish-speaking staff. New Rochelle in turn would send financial support to struggling Spain. Each entering novitiate class knew that three of them would be chosen as USA missionaries to enroll in Don Bosco College for their philosophy studies and then to serve in Puerto Rico. Those with a missionary

inclination wrote application letters, and before the end of the novitiate year the master of novices would choose three. In 1953 the Province of the Antilles was born, comprising the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico and Cuba, with its provincial house located in Cuba. Curiously enough, the first provincial of the ANT province was the former provincial of Barcelona, Fr. Florencio Sánchez! Unfortunately, he died not long after arriving in Cuba in a car accident. From then on the Barcelona missionaries integrated into the life and ordinary ministries of the USA Eastern Province of New Rochelle. This was a providential solution for both provinces. Barcelona was in desperate need of financial help to support their 70 or so young men in all phases of formation, and the cities on the US eastern seaboard were experiencing the first waves of Spanish-speaking immigrants especially from Puerto Rico and Cuba. A win-win situation!

Here is an incomplete list of names of some of those newly professed Salesians who became missionaries to the United States, opening up pathways for us to minister to Spanish-speaking immigrants:

- 1950: Jorge Martí, José Luis Ros, Joaquín Soler
- 1951: Luis Aineto, Miguel Mendive, Antonio Pascual
- 1952: Javier Aracil, Zósimo (José) Berruete
- 1953: Jesús Muzás, Jesús Urtasun
- 1954: Ángel Rodríguez
- 1955: Fernando de Cristobal
- 1956: **Emilio Allué**, José Santabibiana, Julián Lama



In a circular letter to the Province of Barcelona in October of 1956, right as Emilio and “Santa” were departing for the States, Fr. Thomas Baraut, provincial, wrote these words:

*This year too we have been able, thanks be to God, to contribute to the Missions of America . . . How happy Don Bosco must be to see so many young confreres leaving home full of joy and enthusiasm, ready to bring his dreams to fruition! Please cultivate this missionary ideal among all our students; this is a great way to foment vocations.*

### **INITIAL FORMATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

No sooner arrived in bustling New York City on October 1, 1956, Emilio and companions were whisked away to the rolling hills of Sussex County, NJ. Don Bosco College in Newton, NJ, would be their home for the next three years. Today we call this formation phase the post-novitiate, where Brother Emilio completed his basic college studies, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1959. In *Virtus*, the College’s yearbook for that year, Brother Emilio’s senior tribute read:

*Speaking of Brother Emil Allué, someone once said, “I’ve never seen him without a smile.” Cheerfulness combined with faithfulness to whatever work given him seems to be the characteristic of this unassuming Brother who is so easy to get along with. His unlimited patience and obliging manners should be the key to success in his work for the souls of youth. We really don’t have to wish you*

*luck in your coming practical training, Bro. Emil, because we can see that your devotion to your vocation has already assured you of that.*



*Some of the young Spanish Salesians (Españalitos) in Newton, 1957*

*Bottom front: José Santabibiana*

*Second row: Fred de Cristobal (left), Ángel Rodríguez (center)  
and Javier Aracil (right)*

*Third row: Emilio Allué (center)*

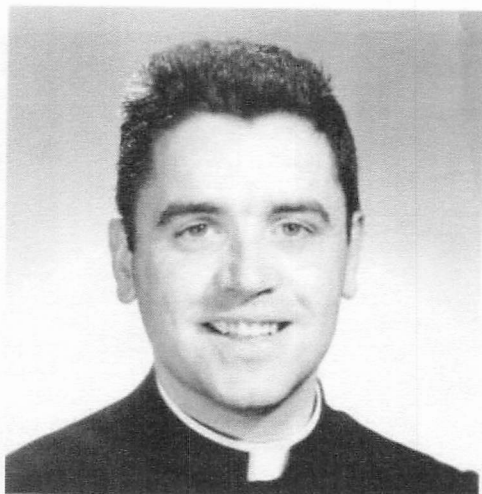


*Don Bosco College Class of '59*

*First row: Tom Juarez (middle), José Santabibiana (2nd from right)*

*Top row: Emilio (2nd from left)*

Brother Emilio proceeded in 1959 to that “coming practical training” of three years at Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson, NJ. There he taught languages (Spanish, of course), mathematics and also religion until the end of the 1961-1962 school year. On August 25 of that year, after six years of temporary profession, he handed his life over to God definitively and forever, making perpetual profession with his companions at Don Bosco College in Newton.



*Brother Emilio about the time of his practical training*

The last five years of his initial formation (1962-1967) were spent back in Europe at the Pontificio Ateneo Salesiano in Rome, today known as the UPS. After four years of theological formation, he was ordained a priest there on December 22, 1966. He remained in Rome for a fifth year and was awarded the Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) in 1967. Surely a highlight of being in Rome those years was the great opportunity to be present in St. Peter's Basilica for the conclusion of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1965. This ecumenical council marked him deeply. His theological studies were completed while it was unfolding. He began his priestly life and ministry as a Salesian imbued with its spirit. Fr. August Bosio, provincial of New Rochelle at the time, had sent Bro. Emilio to Rome with the idea that he might specialize in liturgy and then return to become a professor in the new theologate being planned in Washington, DC.

During his third year of theology, he wrote to Fr. Bosio: *Studies are going well, always trying to absorb the new theological mentality. I myself came to the conclusion that a theological frame of mind (a result of personal meditation on the doctrine) is extremely important and essential in future theological professors . . . Personally I'm very happy with your idea and I'm studying the subject of Liturgy and Theology very hard. I find that my liking and interest increase as I go on studying new things. You know that if it is God's will I'll be very glad to dedicate my future to studies and teaching, and I'll do it as best as I can.*" As it turned out, the future bishop, although available, was not to dedicate his future to studies and teaching. Instead, Providence would have him dedicate his life to the pastoral ministry in schools, communities, parishes, administration and ultimately to the administrative and pastoral duties of an auxiliary bishop.



*Before his ordination Emilio made a trip home to Huesca from Rome to attend his brother Adolfo's wedding.  
Left to right: older brother Domingo, mother Juliana, newlyweds Adolfo and wife, Brother Emilio  
(Courtesy of Emilio's younger brother Adolfo)*



## *PASTORAL MINISTRY IN THE PROVINCE*

Father Emilio's first priestly assignment in the New Rochelle province was to Salesian Junior Seminary in Goshen, NY, one of the province's high school seminaries at the time. There he lay down the roots of his priestly identity as teacher and catechist of the aspirants from 1967-1970. Subsequently he was assigned to the next level of initial formation as catechist and professor in his alma mater, Don Bosco College in Newton (1970-1972). And then back again to Salesian Junior Seminary for three more years (1972-1975), but this time as director. It was then that he became a US citizen in 1974. And then it was back once again to Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson, where he spent the three years of 1975-1978 as teacher, director of religious activities, financial administrator and vice director at various times.



*Newly ordained Fr. Emilio Allué*





*Fr. Emilio in the director's room at Goshen,  
September 13, 1972*

*Don't miss two memorabilia from Spain hanging on the wall:  
a Huesca bull run poster and a typical leather wine "canteen"  
(Courtesy of Emilio's younger brother Adolfo)*

After those first 11 years of priestly life and ministry in academic and formation settings, he took his first parish assignment, introducing him to the kind of priestly life and ministry that would characterize most of the rest of his life. From 1978 to 1980 he lived and worked at the province's first historical presence, Mary Help of Christians Parish on the Lower East Side of New York City. He served there as parochial vicar and also administrator of the nearby St. Ann's Church and National Shrine, which had no priest. Always inclined to studies and intellectual stimulation and growth, he also went back to school himself while there. He began doctoral studies

in theology at Fordham University, ultimately being awarded a PhD in theology with a concentration on Marian studies in 1981. These first two years of parish life and ministry began to form Father Emilio into the zealous and highly respected pastoral minister, which eventually culminated in his call to serve as bishop. These years, along with his doctoral studies, also laid the groundwork for his special interest in the theology of Mary and a strong devotion to Divine Mercy, which became evident and so appreciated in every place he served.

However, he was next called back to an academic and formation setting. Once again Don Bosco College in Newton would be his home, but this time as professor and financial administrator for the years 1980-1982.

When the new diocese of Metuchen, NJ, was born, its first pastor was the then-Bishop Theodore McCarrick. He entered discussions with the province of New Rochelle, asking for Salesians to help the brand-new diocese. Provincial Fr. Dominic DeBlase agreed to the request and offered Fr. Emilio as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in New Brunswick, NJ, in 1982. Fr. Emilio and the other Salesians eventually assigned there would belong canonically to St. Anthony Parish community in Elizabeth, of which Fr. Emilio would serve at intervals as community director. It did not take long for Fr. Emilio's pastoral, administrative, and leadership skills to be recognized. At various junctures while serving in the Metuchen Diocese (1982-1989), Fr. Emilio was appointed a tribunal judge, member of the Metuchen Diocese College of Consultors, director of Hispanic Ministry,

director of the New Brunswick Housing Corporation, and member of the board of the Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics in New York.

Then after 22 years serving in the New York-New Jersey area, Fr. Emilio went south in 1989! The province had accepted a commitment in the Archdiocese of Miami which would offer three major opportunities for Salesian presence and work: St. Kieran Parish, LaSalle High School, and Mercy Hospital. Fr. Emilio was given the role of pastor of St. Kieran Parish. It was fertile territory for his pastoral energy, Salesian creativity, and administrative skill. To this parish set in a sleepy corner of the Coconut Grove section of Miami, Fr. Emilio brought new life, a typical Salesian family spirit, and new vitality to the religious education program, while organizing various prayer and social groups. He anticipated Pope Francis' call for parishes to look beyond their own borders for evangelization opportunities and courageously founded La Purisima Mission, a presence among Latin American immigrants, especially Nicaraguans, setting up a weekly worship space right in the parking lot of a large apartment complex, where he would offer the Sunday Vigil Mass. The family of future Salesian priest Fr. Manny Gallo were very instrumental in animating this special ministry. Families and young people there, often without vehicles, found it impossible to cross the busy highways on foot to get to St. Kieran, the nearest parish for pastoral attention in Spanish. So Fr. Emilio brought the parish to them! Some few years later, on the occasion of Bishop Allué's ordination, a former parishioner of his from St. Kieran Parish, Anne Marie Miller, noted that "There aren't many

people as humble and hardworking as Bishop Emilio. He'll do good work for Boston.”

After only three years in Miami (1989-1992), Fr. Emilio was asked to come north again. The Marian Shrine in Haverstraw, NY, was his next assignment as shrine coordinator. There his reputation consolidated as having a strong devotion to Mary and to Divine Mercy. After only three years there (1992-1995), Fr. Emilio was asked to take on what would turn out to be his last assignment in the province before being ordained bishop, parochial vicar once again at Mary Help of Christians Parish in New York City, but only for one short year (1995-1996).

### ***CALLED TO BE BISHOP***

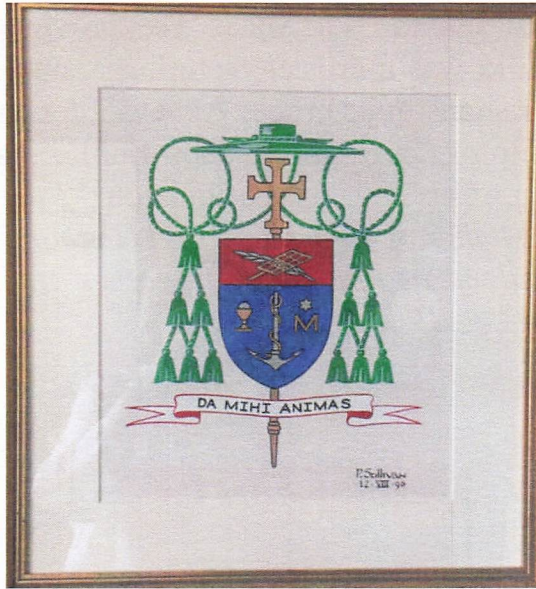
It was on July 24, 1996, that Pope John Paul II appointed our confrere Emilio Allué bishop, titular of the ancient diocese of Croë (which today would be Krujë in Albania) and auxiliary bishop in Boston, the first Salesian called to serve as bishop within the United States. 1996 was also the year of preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming of the Salesians to the United States in 1897. So Emilio's ordination as bishop was part of this great celebration.

Fr. Emilio was determined always to remain a Salesian, even if juridically he was now a diocesan bishop. For the episcopal motto on his coat of arms he chose Don Bosco's own, *Da Mihi Animas*. The Salesian tone of his episcopacy was signaled by the anchor of hope that also appears on the Congregation's coat of arms, and of course

the conspicuous “M” for Mary. The province’s gift to Bishop Emilio was a crosier featuring a statue of Mary Help of Christians in its crook. Always a fervent devotee of Mary Help of Christians, Bishop Emilio remarked on the occasion of his episcopal ordination: *“I am confident that Mary, Mother of the Church and Help of Christians, will walk with me as I proclaim the values of the Gospel of Love and Life.”*



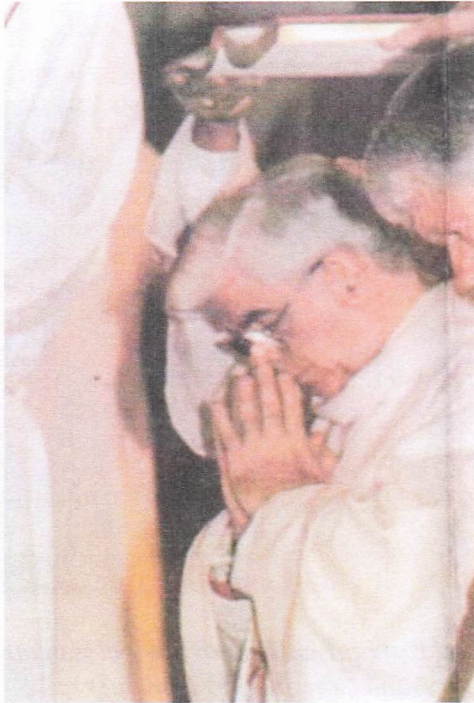
*The Mary Help of Christians Crosier*



*Bishop Emilio's Coat of Arms*

Most Reverend Emilio Simeon Allué, SDB, PhD, DD, was ordained bishop on September 17, 1996, along with another Boston auxiliary, Most Reverend Francis Xavier Irwin, DD, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Holy Cross. It was 13 years to the day since a former archbishop of Boston had passed away, Humberto Medeiros, a fact which Cardinal Law referred to in his homily. The ordaining bishop was Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston. Co-consecrating bishops were Theodore McCarrick of Newark, NJ, and Robert Banks of Green Bay, WI, himself a former auxiliary bishop of Boston. As the two priest attendants to the new bishop, Emilio invited his companion missionary from Spain and lifelong friend, Fr. José Santabibiana, and the provincial at the time, Fr. Timothy Ploch.





*The Book of the Gospels over the head of the new bishop*



*Newly ordained Bishop Emilio greeted by two SUE confreres, Fr. Attilio Klingler and Fr. Vince Zuliani*



*Newly ordained Bishop Emilio with SUO classmates Fr. Harry Danielson and Fr. Tom Juarez*

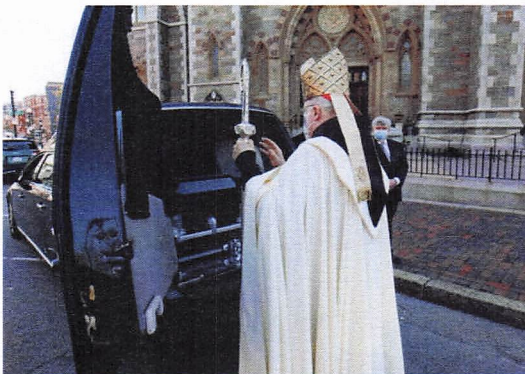
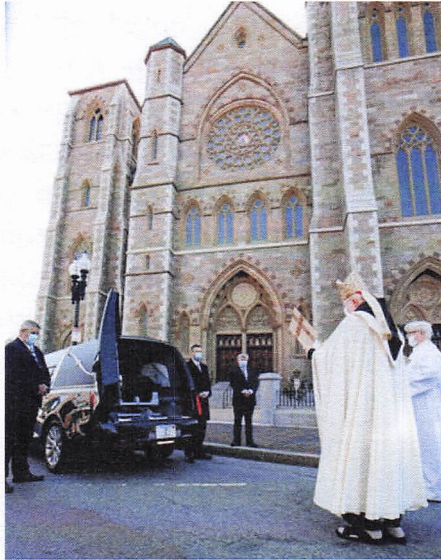
On the Halloween Day following his episcopal ordination, according to both Fr. Dominic Tran and Fr. John Puntino, recounting what the bishop told the Salesian community, he drove from Boston to South Orange to give a day of recollection to the formation community, wearing his new episcopal cassock and pectoral cross. When he stopped to pay a toll somewhere on the highway, the attendant inquired about his outfit: “Is that a costume, or are you really a priest?” The new bishop responded, “I have news for you—I am a bishop!”

For the first four years of his episcopal ministry (1996-2000), Bishop Emilio worked as Auxiliary Bishop in the archdiocese’s West Region. In 2000 he was assigned to

the Merrimack Region, where he stayed for eight years (2000-2008). From 2008 until his retirement in 2010, Bishop Emilio served as director of the archdiocese's ministry to the Spanish-speaking. As required by Church law, Bishop Emilio offered his resignation papers to Rome when he reached the age of 75 in February 2010, which Pope Benedict XVI accepted. But retirement did not mean a vacation for Bishop Emilio. Within the archdiocese he generously shared his episcopal ministry as requested, while residing at St. Theresa's Parish in West Roxbury. He presided at Salesian ordinations in 2002 and 2012. The Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY, which he had previously served as coordinator from 1992 to 1995, had built a new shrine chapel. Bishop Emilio was of course invited to consecrate it in 2008.

Bishop Emilio then moved to Regina Cleri Residence for retired priests in Boston in late 2018, where he spent the remaining months of his life. Just one week before the deadly effects of the COVID-19 virus overcame him, he moved to St. Elizabeth Hospital, passing to eternal life on Sunday, April 26, 2020. Ordinarily there would have been a wake and funeral in Boston and in our province as well. Things were far from ordinary in these early stages of the coronavirus pandemic in the US, so none of that was possible. Instead, Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston blessed Bishop Emilio's body in front of Holy Cross Cathedral on April 29 before it was transported to the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, NY, a very simple yet sad homecoming to where he had twice served. There his remains were buried after a small private rite led by Provincial, Fr. Timothy Zak. And there, side by side with

his missionary companion Fr. José Santabibiana, who had just died a few weeks earlier, they both await the Day of the Resurrection.



*Cardinal O'Malley officiating the Rite of Commendation in front of Holy Cross Cathedral*

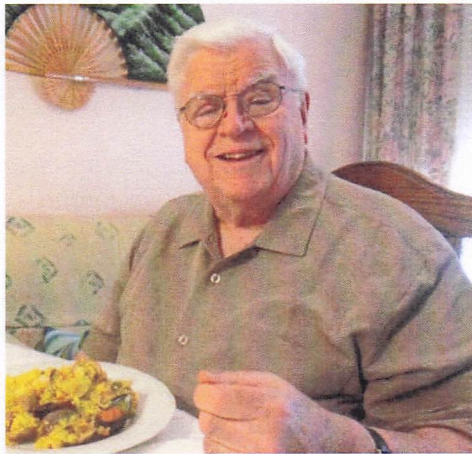




*Anne Kenney, Bishop Emilio's long-time secretary, and husband Brad accompanied Bishop Emilio's hearse from Boston to the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen*

Cardinal Seán O'Malley wrote in his blog: *Bishop Allué had served so well in the diocese for many years and was beloved by the priests and the people of the archdiocese, especially among the Hispanic community where he served with special responsibilities. I first met Bishop Allué when he was a priest working in New York. So, I have known him for many, many years. He was a gentleman and such a kind and pastoral priest. One of his former provincials described Bishop Allué as a man of pleasant character, friendly, a hard worker, persevering, cooperative, with a good sense of responsibility, a good community man and good administrator.*

Beginning in 2013, our confrere Emilio would quietly and discreetly make annual contributions from his salary to the St. Philip the Apostle Foundation, an independent foundation that supports the works of the Salesians in this province. There he created an endowment fund to provide support for the formation of young Salesians. This fund has already generated nearly \$40,000 for this purpose, so dear to our confrere's heart. Since the time he became a bishop, he would also occasionally support the province through contributions to help with the care of our elderly priests and brothers. Thank you, dear confrere!



*Retired Bishop Emilio enjoying a plate of paella*

It would seem appropriate to give the last words to Cardinal Seán O'Malley, archbishop of Boston:

*After my ordination I was sent to work in Hispanic ministry in Washington DC. In those days the majority of priests working in the ministry were from Spain. They made a huge contribution to the Church in the United*



*States. One of these great missionaries was the then Father Emilio Allué, a Salesian priest who came to the United States right out of the novitiate, at age 21. I first met him when he was pastor in New York and later in New Jersey. I never imagined that one day we would work side-by-side in Boston.*

*I am grateful to God for Bishop Allué's vocation and apostolic zeal. His episcopal motto "Da mihi animas" indicates his deep desire to bring the joy of the gospel to the people he was called to serve in his new home. The Bishop's sudden death occasioned by the pandemic left us all shocked and saddened for our loss. The priests, religious, deacons and laity of the Archdiocese held him in the highest regard and recall his most effective ministry with gratitude and affection. Bishop Allué is sorely missed and fondly remembered by the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston.*

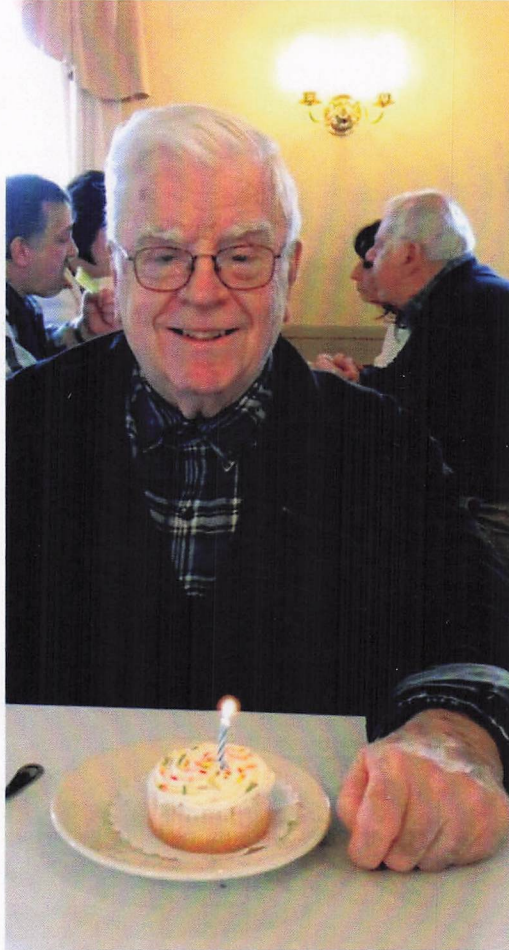
Bishop Allué is also very sorely missed and fondly remembered by his Salesian confreres in the Province of New Rochelle. Rest in peace, dear Emilio. And now from heaven please pray for more and more young men to hear and respond to the Lord's call to follow him in Don Bosco's footsteps, just as you did.

Timothy C. Ploch, SDB  
Salesian Provincial Center  
New Rochelle, NY

*For the Necrology (April 26, 2020)*

*Bishop Emilio Allué*

Boston, aged 85, 63 years of profession, 53 years a priest, 23 years auxiliary bishop of Boston



*Last known photo of Bishop Emilio Allué  
85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, February 18, 2020  
(Courtesy of his Regina Cleri Residence companion,  
Fr. John Nichols)*