

Salesian College, Battersea, London.

July 7th 1914.

Dear Confreres,

Yesterday evening, on the feast of the Most Precious Blood of our Divine Redeemer, our dear confrere

FATHER JOHN CONWAY

gave up his soul to God after a long and painful illness endured with admirable patience.

He was born on November 6th 1860 at Leycloughlen in Ireland of splendid parents who gave him an excellent education, after which he entered, at the age of 20, the seminary at Maynooth. To his sorrow, he was only able to stay there for two years, as his health deteriorated.

Returned to secular life, he continued to do as much good as he could and he enrolled as a Salesian Cooperator, whilst hoping one day that he might be able to become a member of the Salesian Congregation. To this end he kept in touch fairly regularly by correspondence with Fr. Rua. To his joy, he was allowed to join the community at Battersea in December 1904 and in the year following he received the clerical habit at the hands of Fr. Macey. He began his novitiate in Burwash on August 28th 1905 and eventually he made his first vows the following year and three years later his perpetual vows as a Salesian.

His Minor Orders were received in December 1909, followed by Subdiaconate and Diaconate the following year. The Superiors noticing that his health was deteriorating, spoke to the Bishop, who agreed to come to Battersea to ordain him in the church of the Sacred Heart.

After ordination, his happiness was complete and indeed his strength seemed to return somewhat. But it was not for long, as his weakness returned again, much though he fought against it and insisted on doing what he could, especially by helping the bursar with bookkeeping. He tried to be as little a burden as possible and his fidelity to the Rule was an example to all. For the final two months he was not able to say Mass but received Holy Communion daily. He died as he had lived and we can surely say of him. . "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord. "

Our loss is great but we hope that from Heaven, where we trust he has already arrived, he will continue to pray for all our needs, spiritual and temporal. While I commend this confrere to your prayers, I beg you not to forget

Your affectionate confrere,

Father C. B. Macey.