

My dear Confrères,

It is with deep sorrow we announce the sad news of the death of

Father FRANCIS CURRY, S.D.B.

who died, comforted by the last rites of Holy Mother Church, on Wednesday, March 17th, 1954, in the fiftieth year of his age, the twentieth of his priesthood, and the thirty-third year of his Religious Profession.

Father Curry was born in Glasgow, Scotland, being the only son of excellent Catholic parents, Patrick and Margaret Curry (née Gerety), who resided in the parish of St. Patrick, where they were in business. After some years in the Salesian College, Battersea, London, Father Curry felt the call to the Salesian life, and on 11th September, 1920, he commenced his novitiate at Burwash, Sussex. He was professed on 17th September, 1921, and until 1923 he was a student of philosophy at Cowley, Oxford. In September 1923 he joined the teaching staff at the Salesian College, Chertsey, and there he made his second triennial profession on 17th September, 1924. In September 1926 he began the study of theology at the Salesian College, Bolton. In 1927 he went to La Crocetta, Turin, to continue his studies, and there he received Minor Orders and Subdiaconate. He returned to Battersea, London, in 1929, where he received the Diaconate and was ordained Priest on 21st July, 1930.

Most of his priestly life was spent on the teaching staffs of the Salesian Colleges of Battersea, Bolton, and Chertsey. In September 1951, because of failing health, the superiors sent him to St. Teresa's, Aberdour, Scotland, in the hope that his native air might help towards his recovery. During the two-and-a-half years he was here, in spite of the best medical attention, his condition deteriorated, and on 17th March, at 5 p.m., God called him to his reward.

Father Curry was a simple, good and holy priest. He endeared himself to all by his pleasant manners, and especially to the boys, to whom he was confessor and friend. He was a most zealous preacher, and the good he did among these poor boys will remain with them all their lives. All who knew Father Curry well had a sincere affection for him; his ready sympathy, his unfailing good humour, even when unwell, his kindly concern for the small things which can go wrong in a schoolboy's life, his willingness to serve others and to find work to do for the good of the House in which he was, all go to build the warm-hearted, lovable character he was.

His last years at Aberdour showed another quality: his unassuming courage. He knew the seriousness of his condition, and he knew he could not expect to live much longer. This did not deter him: the house at Aberdour needed help and, unfit though he was, he underlook the market garden and the hens; many times he could be seen taking the sugar from his pocket to counteract the insulin to give him strength to get up the hill from the garden to the House. He had no complaint, only praise and gratitude for whatever was done for him.

May God in His mercy accept the simple, open virtues of this son of St. John Bosco, and reward him with eternal life. His illness was a long purgatory of suffering, may he now rest in peace.

In your charity may we also ask the prayers of our confrères for this Salesian House and work at Aberdour, and for

Yours very sincerely in J.C.,

THOMAS DALY, S.D.B.,

Rector.

Data for Necrology: 17th March.

Father FRANCIS CURRY, born Glasgow, died in Edinburgh in the 50th year of his age, 33rd of his Religious Profession, and 20th of his Priesthood.

FATHER JOHN SEXTON. S. D. B.

who died at the Salesian House, Cowley, Oxford, was 44 years old. He had contracted a serious illness early in his priestly life.

Fr. John was a pupil at the Salesian College, Battersea when he asked to join the Salesian Congregation. He began his novitiate year at the Salesian House, Cowley, Oxford in 1927. He made his first religious profession in September 1928.

He remained at Cowley during the next two years in order to complete his study of Philosophy. He then returned to Battersea for two years practical training. He was then asked to go to the International Theologate in Turin for his course of theology and he was ordained in Turin in 1940.

For several years he edited the English edition of the Salesian Bulletin in Turin.

He then at various times helped in different capacities at Bolton, Farnborough, Shrigley and Oxford. During this time he also wrote two lives of St. Dominic Savio, one of which he had just completed for the Catholic Truth Society a few weeks before his death. Fr. Sexton was a man full of natural dignity as a novice and as a student yet free from any form of affectation. He was charitable not merely in his judgments but also in his appreciation of other peoples' qualities. He was a religious of strict observance and living faith. He had the art of companionship and he enriched the studentate with his quick gift of humorous vision, his tricks of personality and his jokes. Later in life, despite his long and protracted suffering from a long illness he had no love of ease.

Just before his death he was heard to say.. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have redeemed my pledge". This is what Fr. Sexton would want us to say about him, and there are few of whom it could be said more truly. In the last few months of his life he suffered great pain. He bore his sufferings with courage and as a man of faith.

He will be remembered for his obvious loyalty to the Salesian Congregation and to the communities in which he lived.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Fr. W. Walsh and the panegyric was delivered by Fr. Ainsworth.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians and St. John Bosco guide him safely to heaven.