

SALANA MISSION

On the 24th. November 1951 I was appointed Parish Priest of Nowgong District. (Area c. 3896 sq. miles). The ORDER to me was to make a START. I was ALONE.

In the SALANA Area there was a number of flourishing Communities in the Tea Gardens and in the villages. My Big Problem now was where to find a place, - suitable and central-, for the Residence. And God came to my rescue. Soon I had 15 acres of land (c. 6 Hectares) in SALANA, -suitable and central-, an ideal place for the Residence. I bought bricks, brought up C.I. Sheets from Calcutta and assembled building materials. Some timber posts and scantlings were already there. Workmen were engaged and soon a Building in brickwork was up - spacious and comfortable. And nearby an Annex as well in brickwork. Meantime Houses in bamboo and thatch were put up by the Christians. The work was now completed. In SALANA we now had the Residence and a School. :- The CATHOLIC MISSION, TANGLA. SALANA

Over against Salana there rises the range of the Nowgong Hills. Beyond the Nowgong Hills there was a number of flourishing Communities in 14 villages. KAORIPAHAR was one such village, on a hillock, in the centre of the area. Some 12 acres of land (c. 4½ Hectares) were acquired. The Christians put up Houses in Bamboo and Thatch for a School. In Kaoripahar we now had a BOARDING SCHOOL, for the boys of the area.

BARPETA ROAD MISSION

It was now the year 1960. A START had been made. The difficulties and privations and sacrifices I had gone through were many and great - immeasurably more so than in Barpeta Road. I was happy, never so happy. The work was now completed. The sands were running out. I left SALANA for Shillong on the 5th. July 1960. In SALANA I had worked for over 8½ years, ALONE.

In the Nowgong District we had a number of flourishing Communities. Don, Advigaia, and others. I acquired some 18

The SALANA MISSION NOW STOOD THUS:-

Salana:- RESIDENCE and ANNEX - in brickwork.
School - bamboo and thatch. boarding School.

Kaoripahar :- BOARDING SCHOOL - Bamboo and Thatch.

made ++++++ by Messrs. Baruck & Co. Calcutta, and building materials collected.

So far ALL The DIRECTORIES read as follows:- BARPETA ROAD, 1936; SALANA, 1952. And this is as it should be. This is History.

THE ONE SINGLE EXCEPTION is the CATHOLIC DIRECTORY. NORTH-EAST INDIA 1979-80. Don Bosco Press Shillong. The CATHOLIC MISSION, The CATHOLIC DIRECTORY reads thus:- BARPETA ROAD, Started in 1947; SALANA, Started in 1959. WHY SO? WHY THIS CHANGE? Will the person or persons responsible for the CATHOLIC DIRECTORY be so good as to offer an explanation? And for this favour ever so many thanks in anticipation.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Affect.ly Yours in O.L.

Rev. Michael Devalle sdb
St. Paul's Seminary, Upper Shillong. P.O.
SHILLONG - 793 005. Meghalaya. India

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" The Work of Justice is Peace and Justice is Truth in Action "

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To ANYONE who loves Truth and Justice.

Dear Friend, (Area c. 3000 sq. miles). The ORDER to me was to make a START. This Note is for Your information and knowledge.

It may be of interest to You, It may concern You. I feel You have a right to Know. Please read it through. And if You decide to cardrop me a line, I shall be obliged for the favour. THANK YOU !

Re:- CATHOLIC DIRECTORY NORTH-EAST INDIA 1979-80
Don Bosco Press Shillong. were already building materials. Some Don Bosco Press Shillong. were already there. Workmen were engaged and soon a Building in brickwork was up. The CATHOLIC DIRECTORY NORTH-EAST INDIA 1979-80 on pages 78 and 87 reads respectively as follows:- BARPETA ROAD Started in 1947; SALANA Started in 1959.

Sure enough here the CATHOLIC DIRECTORY lives on the wrong side of the facts. The following is an account of a few events that marked the beginning of the Missions of BARPETA ROAD and SALANA. In Kariphehar we now had a BOARDING SCHOOL, for the boys of the area.

BARPETA ROAD MISSION

On the 18th. December 1936 I was appointed Parish Priest of Barpeta District including Mangaldai. Thus the Barpeta Parish included the Districts of Mangaldai, Kamrup and Goalpara. Road. The ORDER to me was to make a START. My Assistant was the late Rev. Fr. T. Bonomi sdb. SALANA for Shillong on the 5th. July 1960.

In the Mangaldai District we had a number of flourishing Communities - Boro, Adivasis, and others. I acquired some 18 bighas of land (c. 2½ Hectares) in TANGLA and we put up a two-room House in concrete. Meanwhile the Christians put up Houses in Bamboo and Thatch for a School. The work was soon completed. In TANGLA we now had the Residence and a Boarding School. - The CATHOLIC MISSION, TNGLA.

In Barpeta Road the Mission owned a field. I had bricks made there, had an iron frame for a five-room House prepared by Messrs. Beruck & Comens Calcutta, and building materials collected. Rev. Fr. T. Bonomi had now got a transfer, and my new Assistant was Rev. Fr. T. Lopez sdb. No sooner had Rev. Fr. Lopez arrived than he went heart and soul into the work. Soon a five-room building in brickwork was up - beautiful and comfortable. The iron-frame that had cost me Rs. 2000/- was left there untouched. Rev. Fr. Lopez is well known for his parsimony. ! The work was now completed. In BARPETA ROAD we now had the Residence - The CATHOLIC MISSION, BARPETA ROAD. CTORY reads thus:- BARPETA ROAD, Started in 1947;

It was now the year 1939. A START had been made. The difficulties we had met with, the sacrifices and sufferings we had gone through need not be related here. The sands were running out. Rev. Fr. T. Lopez sdb left for Sonada. I left Barpeta Road for Liluah on the 31st. December 1939. In Barpeta Road I had worked for three years.

The BARPETA ROAD MISSION NOW STOOD THUS:-

Barpeta Road :- a five-room Residence in brickwork.

Tangla :- a two-room Residence in concrete.

a Boarding School - Bamboo & Thatch.

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P.T.O.



ST. PAUL'S SEMINARY

UPPER SHILLONG 793005

MEGHALAYA

26th. September 1987

Rev. and Dear Fr. Kottupallil George,

It gives me great pleasure to hear that YOU are the HISTORIOGRAPHER of the Catholic Missions in North-East India. My congratulations.

The Salesians of Don Bosco arrived in Shillong on January 13, 1922 - Friday. I arrived in India in December 1925.

The clock is ticking away the concluding years of the seventh decade of the Salesian work in North-East India.

The time calls for an honest Historian - a really fine mind in terms of research, hard work, zeal and dedication - to write an adequate History of the Salesian work in India:- to do justice to the Salesian Society and to Don Bosco.

Whatever is done by a Salesian for the Church is Patrimony of the society, of Don Bosco. Everything must be recorded so that all may see the contribution of the Sons of Don Bosco for the Church and glorify God.

Fr. Michael DEVALLE is Missionary in India since 1925. He has been doing Social and Educational Work in several parts of India since his arrival in 1925. Herein enclosed, please find few notes on the work of this Veteran Missionary. The Missionary will be much obliged if your kindly browse through them and give hospitality in your valuable book for a mention of his name and his work for the Church in this Country.

I keep pleasant memories of you and this will be a no less pleasant one. God keep you in high spirits and in good health and shower down on your important ^{work} blessings galore.

I do pray for you. Please remember me to God.

With my best wishes and hearty thanks,

Affect,ly Yours

Fr. Michael DEVALLE s.d.b.

Fr. Michael Devalle sdb

"To grow in His fullness"

ST. PAUL

Fr. Michael DEVALLE sdb - Missionary in India since the year

1925

1908 - November 18 - Wednesday.

Michael was born of John Devalle and Johanna Sciorelli at Clavesana (Cuneo) on November 18, 1908. The Devalles were working a large farm as sharecroppers, depending on the borough and parish of Clavesana. Soon they will own their own farm called Terrapino, - depending on the borough and parish of Murazzano.

Not long after his birth, the child fell dangerously ill. The doctor did all he could do, but to no avail. He gave up all hope. Not his mother, however. She took her child in her arms and standing before the picture of Our Lady, she prayed thus "Mother Mary, Save my child and I offer him to you". The child recovered completely. The Devalles now moved to the farm they had recently bought - Terrapino.

1915 - 1920 . Elementary School.

Michael was now almost 7 years of age and began his Elementary School. For three years he walked daily five km. to make one attendance at the village school at Bruni, depending on the borough and Parish of Murazzano. He then did the fourth year at the village School of Surie, depending on the borough and Parish of Clavesana. To complete his Elementary School, Michael went to Dogliani. To look after him, his parents arranged with an aunt living there. Michael did the fifth year of the Elementary School at the State school of Dogliani.

1921 - 1925. High School or Gymnasium.

In the late summer of the year 1921, Michael went to the Oratorio Salesiano, Torino and lived there as a Boarder for a year - the first year of his High School. There He met Fr. Paul Albera, the Rector Major (who died on the 29th. October '21) and Fr. Philip Rinaldi, his Successor, elected on April 24, 1922. He met so many youths of the four classes of the Gymnasium - The Church of Mary Help of Christians was our House of Prayer. The Michael began to know and love Don Bosco - the beginning of his vocation to remain with Don Bosco. Unforgettable Days!

From Turin Michael went to the Missionary Institute of Penango to do the next two years of Gymnasium (1922-1924). From Penango, he had to go to Ivrea for the fourth year of the Gymnasium. Passing through Turin on his way to Ivrea, Michael went to meet Fr. Rinaldi for a word of advice. The Holy Man,

Penango

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Fr. Michael DEVALLE sdb, Missionary in India since the year 1925

1875 - November 11 - Don Bosco's First Missionary Band departed for Patagonia and Terra del Fuego. Don Bosco accompanied them as far as Genova. The Head of the expedition is Father John Cagliero, later Cardinal.

1925 - November 11 - In Turin solemn celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Salesian Missions.

An extraordinary expedition of Missionaries was organized. The Salesian Missionaries were 172 and the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, 52. In all 224. Of these 224 Missionaries, 74 had already left for their destination. The remaining 150 would take part in the solemn celebration

In the morning of November 11, WE, the group of 17 Missionaries from Ivrea, took our place in the Church of Mary, Help of Christians. At 7.15 a.m. Father Rinaldi, the Rector Major celebrates Mass, gives us Holy Communion and the Cassock. He preaches a touching sermon and invites Parents and Clerics for breakfast.

In the evening of November 11, all the 150 Missionaries were given a special place in the Church of M.H. of C. for the solemn ceremony of the send-off. The Church is packed to capacity. His Em. Cardinal Cagliero goes to the Altar. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed. The Schola Cantorum begins the Te Deum, composed by the Cardinal. Maestro Dogliani is the conductor. Benediction follows. Now the ceremony of the send-off begins. First, the prayers for the pilgrims are recited. Then His Em. Card. Cagliero blesses and gives to each Missionary the Crucifix and delivers a wonderful sermon. We are now sent - the 150 of us - Apostles of Christ.

November 12 - At 6.30 a.m. we go to Valsalice to pray on the tomb of Don Bosco. Fr. Ambrose Rossi, our Rector, celebrates Mass on the tomb, preaches a beautiful sermon, gives us Holy Communion. The Rector of Valsalice offers us breakfast. We return to Turin for the civil commemoration of the Golden Jubilee, held in the evening. Cardinal Maffi delivers an impressive speech.

November 13 - In the morning Fr. Ambrose Rossi, our Rector, celebrates for us Mass in the Camerette of Don Bosco - Sermon - Communion - Breakfast. After breakfast we go to the railway Station. We board the train and go to our home and families to spend the few days that are now left with our Dear Ones.

December 12 - We, the group of Missionaries destined for Assam, leave Ivrea for Turin and Genova. In Mid-December we depart from Genova on the Aquileia and arrive in Bombay. By train we go to Calcutta, and then to Gauhati. By bus we arrive at Shillong, the end and goal of our journey.

Jan. 1926- May II, 1928:- SHILLONG - Novitiate & Philosophy.

- 1926 - January 5th.- We begin our Novitiate at Our Lady's House.
1927- January 7th.- We make our First Religious Profession. The off
to Laitkhynew for the holidays. To & fro on foot (40 m.)
February - Our first year of philosophy begins at O.L.H.
For the Xmas Holidays I go to Raliang. To & from on foot (c.
57 m.)^{second}
1928 - Our first Year of philophy begins at O.L.H.
Michael leaves Shillong for Bombay on May II, for his regene
-cy. Assistant & Teacher - Don Bosco Institute, Bombay.
1931 - January - Michael returns from Bombay (Tardeo) to Shillong
to do his Theology.

1931 - August 1934:- SHILLONG - Theology at O.L.H.

- 1933 - February 24 - Tnsure at O.L.H. - Msgr. L. Mathias.
July 20 - The Four Minor Orders - Parish Church, Mgr. L. M.
December 14 - Subdiaconate - Bandel - His Grace F. Perier SJ
1934- March 4 - Diaconate - Bandel - His Grace Dr. F. Perier. sj.
July 7 - SHILLONG - Priestly Ordination - Dr. F. Perier sj
august July 15 - Fr. Michael arrives at TEZPUR -to begin his missio
-nary life.

1934 - August 15 - to 1936, December 18. TEZPUR

I was ordained Priest in Shillong on the 7th. July 1934
by Dr. F. Perier sj. and TEZPUR was my first Field of work.
1934- I left Gauhati by Steamer on the 14th. August, and reached
Tezpur in the early morning of the 15th. Frs. Alessi & Raval
-lico were waiting for me.
Healthy and strong and Young, full of anthusiasm, I devote
myself to the study of the language -Hindi and after a we
week I go on my first Missionary Tour, accompanied by a
Catechist. The tours become more frequent and the language
more familiar. I am the touring Missionary. I tour the sevr
Districts of the Mission - Darrang & Mangadai, Bishnath,
Behali, East Boroj and Nowgong. The Christians are Boro,
Kharia, Oraon, Oriyas, Munda, Santhali etc. They live in villag
-ges and Tea Gardens. In the Tea Gardens the Managers give
us hospitality: In the villages the Christians look after us
1935- August I - In the village of Amdanga I baptized a 3-year old
child and he was given the name ROBERT. That Child would one
day be the Bishop of Dibrugarh, later transferred to Tezpur.
On the occasion ^{of} his instanllation as Bishop of Tezpur on the
31st. January 1981, Bishop Robert thus recalled the
event : " A thrid Missionary was to come later (to Tezpur)
on the 15th. August 1934 and who was to play a dominant
role in my case? ~~It was through him that I came to know the~~
~~and in our family. He was Rev. Father Michael Devalle sdb...~~
and in our family. He was Rev. Father Michael Devalle sdb...
You will allow me to express a special word of thanks to
our dear Rev. Father Michael Devalle sdb who has played so
great a role in my case. It was through him tha God commu-

-nicated to me personally and to my entire family at the same time the precious gift of Faith and the Divine Life of Grace. I was not born a Christian, though for that matter, no one is bbrn a Christian, but I was not born even of Christian parents. All my family members were born together in the family of God through Baptism through the instrumentality of the sons of Don Bosco as mentioned above". (From the speech of Bishop Robert Kerketta on the occasion of his installation as Bishop of Tezpur on January 31, 1981. I worked in the Tezpur Mission till the 18th. December 1936, when I was appointed Parish Priest of Barpeta District including Mangaldai.

1936, December 18 - to 1939, December 8. BARPETA ROAD Mission-
Parish Priest.

1936 - On the 18th. December I was appointed Parish Priest of Barpeta District including Mangaldai. This Parish embraced the Districts of Kamrup and Goalpara on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra River, and the Mangaldai Sub-division of Darrang District.

Tangla was a place central and ideal for the Missionary Residence. We managed to get some 18 bighas (c. 2½ Hectares) of Land in Tangla. In Mangaldai we had a number of flourishing communities - Boro, Adivasis etc, living in villages and in Tea Gardens. To them Tangla was like the hub of a Wheel.

1937 - My Assistant was Fr. T. Bonomi. We began work in January '37. We put up a two-room house in concrete. Meanwhile the Christians put up houses in Bamboo and thatch for a boarding School. The work was soon completed. On the 16th April '37 Bishop Ferrando came down from Shillong to bless the complex. We made a big Sabha. a Mahasabha rally. There was a large concourse of people from every part of the Mission and else where. There was great joy and satisfaction. A beginning was made: The Catholic Mission Tangla.

Our thought was now turned to Barpeta ~~Road~~ Road. There the Mission owned a Field. We had bricks made there and an iron frame for a five-room house prepared by Messrs. Beruck and Comens, Calcutta. Building material was collected. Fr. Bonomi laid the foundation of the residence. The he was transferred and Fr. T. Lopez joined me. We had many bricks, the iron frame had come up from Calcutta. No sooner had Fr. Lopez arrived than he went heart and soul into the work. Soon a five-room building in brickwork was up - beautiful and comfortable. And the iron-frame that had cost over Rs. 2000/- remained there untouched - a gift for our successors. The work was now completed. The ~~Bapa~~ The Barpeta Road Mission had the Residence - The Catholic Mission, Barpeta Road.

1939 - December 8 - I was transferred to Liluah to be Prefect of Studies and work in that New School just opened. Great had been the difficulties, the sacrifices and sufferings and hardships I had gone through in those 3 years. I was happy and satisfied. A start had been made in Mangaldai and in ~~Bapa~~ Barpeta - The Catholic Mission Tangla, and the Catholic Mission Barpeta Road.

1940 - June 10 - Italy joins the War.

June 11 - At about 3 p.m. Police came to Liluah and took all Italians to Fort William, Calcutta. We were 8 (4 Priests, 3 Clerics, 1 Lay Brother.). Italian Internees of the Merchant navy were already assembled there. Soon other Confineres arrived. Five from Bandel and one from Calcutta. Seven Priests, four Cleric and three Brothers. That was the beginning of our life as Internees. For me it would last till May 11, 1946 c. 6 years.

June 15 - We leave Fort William and by train go to Ahmednagar.

June 18 - We arrive at Ahmednagar and occupy Wing 3 of the C.I.C. The life of an Internee is by no means an enviable one. The Internee lives in an depressed situation - monotony, sadness, humiliation, haunted by the thought of his dear ones. The Internee is just a number....

We, the Clergy, ^{are} trying to think out new means to keep the spirits high, to distract, to amuse. Hence plays on the stage, farces, comedies, music, songs, and various games, football, bowls, badmington etc. Ample provision too was made for the life of the spirit - Mass, Sacraments, Sermons. On the 15th. August we had a solemn Procession of the Assumption and on 8th. December there was a solemn Procession of the Immaculate Conception.

We, Civilian Internees, were in Wing No. 3 of the C.I. & C. Nearby in Wing No. 5 there were Italian Soldiers Prisoners of War POW. (P.O.W.) No priest was with them. One other Priest and myself went to live with them from September to December 1940.

Christmas 1940 was kept with the greatest solemnity. There was the Novena preached. An Italian artist, an Internee, painted Christmas scenes on large boards of ply-wood. The boards were exposed high up in the barrack and enhanced the beauty of Christmas. On the 25th. January 1941 we left Ahmednagar for Deolali. ^{February} by bus

1941 - February 25. - We leave Ahmednagar and by bus go to ~~Deolali~~ Deolali. We arrive at Deolali the same day. We remain in Deolali till the 7th October 1941.

With us in Deolali there were four Salesian Clerics and one Jesuit Cleric. In all Five Clerics. Some useful work had to be found for them. On the first of March 1941 they began their Course of Theology. It was a wise decision. These Brothers were later ordained Priests in the C.I.C. at Dehra Dun.

For the Civilians we organized various classes, - where whoever wished, could learn a subject of his choice. The classes were a real success and appreciated by all.

The Camp at Deolali was not fit to live. All the Civilians made a hunger strike to obtain a transfer from there by the Authorities. It was a general strike. And it was very successful. On the 7th October 1941 we left Deolali and by train we went to Dehra Dun.

In Dehra Dun I would remain till my release from the Camp on May 11, 1946 - c. 6 years.

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We left Deolali on the 7th October 1941 by train, and arrived at Dehra Dun on the 10th. of October 1941.

Good climate, a big playground, suitable camp. We were satisfied. Nobody regretted Deolali. We settled down in our new camp. A barrack, secluded and suitable for the purpose, was made available for Church services on Sundays as well as on week days. Every day services were held. The Internees had every possibility to attend them and receive the Sacraments.

Meantime many other Priests, Religious and Secular, came to join us, -all Civilian Internees. Our other Confreres of the provinces of Calcutta and Madras, interred at Deoli, arrived at Dehra Dun. Many were young clerics, students of Philosophy and Theology. Classes of Philosophy and Theology were soon organized. There was no dearth of Professors.

Life in the camp became a valuable experience. The work began in Ahmednagar and continued in Deolali was brought out to perfection in Dehra Dun, due to new possibilities and availability of personnel. The camp was swarming with various activities - intellectual, manual, sports etc. More numerous and diversified the Schools - trades were mushrooming, tailors, carpenters, smiths, barbers etc. gardening. Each one would find himself a hobby to occupy his time.

And the unforgettable football matches and other games. Conferences on various topics were held by expert and competent persons. No lack of amusements and diversions. The stage was kept well occupied and busy. Music of every kind. Thus the men's spirits were kept high. Time was not wasted. And life was going on.

On April 1944 I was made Chaplain of the camp.

On March 25, 1946, Feast of the Annunciation, I received the good news of my release from the Camp.

On May 11, 1946, I left Dehra Dun for good. My Internment lasted 71 months: June 11, 1940 - to May 11, 1946.

Without regret I remember those 71 months spent in the camp.

So much good we could do - spiritual as well as Educational and Social. And we made so many experiences that would stand us in very good stead for the future. The Camp had been a School for me.

In the C.I.C. I learnt things the old way, the hard way, and the only way, in the School of experience.

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1946 - May 11 - Leave Dehra Dun and proceed to Calcutta, C.O.P.

May 23 - Leave Calcutta and proceed to Sonada.
Confessor and Teacher of Mathematics.

1947 - January - I go to Liluah - Prefect of Studies.

November 6 - My Dear Mother dies in far away Italy, R.I.P.

1949 - May - to November - Go on Home Leave - Italy

1950 - January - I go to Bandel - Assistant Prior.

August 24 - To Don Bosco School, Gauhati. Prefect of the House.

1951 - November 24 - Appointed Parish Priest of Nowgong District.

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Confessor and Teacher.

I arrived at St. Paul's Seminary on Friday, May 29, 1964. My appointment was to be Confessor and Teacher.

I was then thirty years a PRIEST.

A PRIEST is an Educator. EDUCATION, the formation of good habits, bringing out all the powers of the child to the highest perfection possible, training its intellect to perceive the truth, its senses to perceive what is beautiful and, above all, its will to do what is good. "Mens sana in corpore sano - A sound mind in a sound body" The body too must be so trained as to keep in a healthy condition.

Mere erudition is only a small part of education. The child's intellectual, aesthetical and moral faculties must be trained. Moral cultivation should go hand in hand with the intellectual. If this be neglected, knowledge is likely to be abused. Knowledge is power. In God Power and Goodness are equal, for each is infinite. The extreme example of intellectual power without rectitude is Satan, the opposite of God, the Evil One.

In St. Paul's Seminary I was TEACHER?

The top class of the High School in S.P.S. was class IX with just four ~~pupils~~ boys. These boys were my first pupils and the subjects were Mathematics and Latin. - the two subjects so well calculated to train the intellectual faculties of the boys. Mathematics included Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry. The Latin Authors were Caesar and Vergil. The boys thoroughly enjoyed Caesar's description of his military exploits in Gaul, - the very model of a military history: and Vergil's narrative of the fall of Troy, the city with nine lives, written in a style that rises to the highest realm of poetic accomplishment. Indeed, the boys had the best capital of all - their own talents, a will to work and the conviction that the way to success is by hard work and self sacrifice.

In the High School I taught Mathematics and Latin. And later, in the P.U. C., I taught Logic and Latin when the pre-university course was added. Logic, a pre-eminently intellectual discipline, a mental gymnastic, affords a training of the mind's powers, and cannot but possess a great importance. The Latin authors were Cicero and Vergil. It was a real pleasure to read ~~the~~ the learned treatise on old age "De Senectute" of Cicero - the accomplished orator, the man of letters, the creator of a rich Latin prose style: and the description of the various games in Sicily given in detail by Vergil - ~~the~~ the Roman Homer.

In St. Paul's Seminary I was Confessor.

In the confessional the Priest is TEACHER, PHYSICIAN, and JUDGE.

Man's mind is not proof against error and vice nor his conscience proof against ~~deception~~ deception. Mind and heart and conscience must be trained and educated in the right way. We must seek light and truth. To act, we must have the knowledge of the truth: to do, we must have for our guide the principles of Truth.

As TEACHER, the Confessor instructs, guides and directs the penitent in the right way.

As PHYSICIAN, the confessor gives the penitent, who is sick with the disease of sin, the remedy to effect his spiritual cure.

As Judge, the confessor, by the absolution, reconciles the sinner with God.



God is all-wise as well as all-loving. He ordains all things to certain ends and so arranges that everything created fulfils its destiny, according to His designs.

It is God Himself Who calls every man to his special state, to his "vocation", and God gives every one the graces necessary to his calling. In a matter so important as "his vocation", a boy needs the guidance of his confessor.

Every day of the week, every week of the year, I sat in the Confessional to receive and instruct and guide and direct in the right way, and to reconcile man with God.

In St. Paul's Seminary, MUSIC too was my concern

Children and youths must be trained to perceive what is beautiful. They should be brought up in hymns and songs. And Music is a fine art.

In S.P.S. music, in every form, was given a front rank. Music and the stage. Operettas, classical pieces, choruses with four voices, Church music, music for every occasion, scores of musical compositions. Thus their aesthetical faculties were trained. The boys loved it. Indeed, they could sing well and did sing very well.

Unforgettable dates:-

1977 - Jan. 6 - Golden Jubilee of my Religious Profession

1984 - July 7 - Golden Jubilee of my Priestly Ordination

1987 - Jan. 6 - Diamond Jubilee of my Religious Profession.

Love knows only one law, to make those you love happy. And we did make one another happy. The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather loved in spite of ourselves. We are none of us perfect. One should rejoice in being loved anyway. In S.P.S. life flowed like a dream. There was happiness because there was love. Charity never faileth away. Charity remaineth.

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All's well that ends well - A Missionary Tour in the Mangaldai sub-district.

I was leaving Khokha, a village of Adivasi Christians, for Loreto subha, a village of Boro Christians. No road soever. I had to walk through the paddy fields, knee-deep in water. I pulled up my cassock to my waist, rolled up my trousers, and off in the water and the mud. On and on without stopping, to avoid leeches, ever ready to attack. And it was hot! From above the sun was darting its scorching rays on the fields - from below the evaporating water was enveloping me - I was drenched in perspiration. I recalled the words of the prophet "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace; of those who bring glad tidings of good of good things!" The sounded ironical! After long hours of walking, I arrived at Loreto subha exhausted!

A delegation of Boro - Christians and non-Christians were waiting for me with a message. In the nearby village of Jamprabari the wife of the village priest, - the Bailung - was sick. Would I go and see her? I washed, changed my clothes and went. I saw the woman, we prayed, gave medicines and returned to Loreto subha.

Few days afterwards, another delegation came to see me with a message. The wife of the pagan priest was well. Will the Father please send a Catechist to instruct them? They wanted to become Christians. I sent a Catechist and in due time all, including the Bailung and his family, were baptized.

God somehow always repays the trials of the Missionary!

Not Corrected

Your Grace Archbishop Rosario, Your Lordship Bishop Robert, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and friends,

The beautiful life of Fr. Michael Devalle came to a beautiful end and final fulfilment yesterday at 5.35 a.m. in Nazareth Hospital. His life was burnt out in the service of the Lord. He has entered into the Paschal mystery of Christ and the joy of his Lord.

We have gathered here this mournful afternoon to manifest our respect and love to this great salesian missionary priest who has left us for the portals of heaven in the evening of a long life of 80 years marked by dedication to the Lord and to duty.

Here before us in this coffin serenely lies the lifeless body of Fr. Michael Devalle in the sleep of death, dressed in white priestly vestments, with the book of the Constitutions and Regulations of the Salesian Society held close to his breast and the beads of the Rosary in his folded hands, all symbols of what he was and what he valued most in his life--his priestly ministry, his religious commitment and his intense spiritual life.

Fr. Devalle was a priest for 54 years. He was ordained at Shillong on July 7th, 1934 by Archbishop Perier of Calcutta. He began his priestly ministry at Tezpur as Assistant Parish Priest. In 1936 we find him at Barpeta Road as Parish Priest. He laboured there with great dedication for 4 years. But the most fruitful part of his pastoral life was at Salana, Nowgong where he opened a mission station in 1951. "Fr. Devalle was 9 years alone in Salana in the midst of difficulties and privations", writes Fr. Paviotti in his history of the Archdiocese of Shillong-Guwahati. 4000 catholics scattered in 28 communities was the harvest he reaped and handed over to Fr. Donato Fernandez the first diocesan Parish Priest of Salana.

The religious life of Fr. Devalle began in 1926 when he arrived in India and began his noviciate training. He made his First Religious Profession with great fervour and determination on January 6th, 1927. He had put the hand to the plough never to look back. He had decided to follow Christ along the path traced out in the Constitutions and Regulations of the Society of St. Francis of Sales, contained in the book that he holds firmly now to his breast with his lifeless fingers! He had started out on a journey in undying quest of quiet perfection and total dedication which are the hall-marks of his 61 years of evangelical life. Yes, dedication, perfection and orderliness marked every moment of his life whether as a pioneer missionary in Tezpur, Barpeta Road or Salana, or as a Professor of theology in the Concentration Camps of Deoli and Dehra Dun or at Sacred Heart College, Mawlai, or as a teacher and confessor for 23 years at St. Paul's Seminary, Shillong and for the last one year in Don Bosco, Shillong. He was a much sought after teacher and confessor. He loved teaching boys Latin, Mathematics and Logic, subjects that required great mental alacrity and clarity.

Fr. Evalles's practice of poverty was exemplary. Everything about him was neat and orderly. He possessed nothing that was expensive and showy. He was a perfect example of detachment from earthly goods. Having forgone the riches of this world, he certainly amassed a great spiritual wealth for himself in heaven.

Respect and obedience to superiors was another commendable virtue that adorned the beautiful and self-effacing life of Fr. Devalle. He was a perfect gentleman who caused no pain to others.

As we bid farewell to this veteran salesian who loved the youth and

and spent many delightful years in their company guiding and helping them, we shed tears of sorrow at the thought of this painful separation. We extend our condolences to his brother and sister Ceva, Cuneo, Italy. The hope of immortality given to us in the death and resurrection of Christ gives us the reason for true christian joy as Fr. Devalle passes from temporal life to life eternal. We do believe that we are born to live for ever in the bliss of heaven.

Before I conclude, I extend my gratitude to all the confreres who surrounded Fr. Devalle with love in the last years of his life. I thank the sisters, doctors and nurses of Nazareth hospital whose services to our sick confreres are appreciated very much by us. I also thank each and everyone of you for having come to participate in this funeral as a mark of your love and respect for Fr. Devalle and as a sign of your sympathy and solidarity with the bereaved salesian province of Guwahati. Thank you.

Dear Fr. Devalle, goodbye! We shall meet again in the mansions of heaven. Thank you for your life and example. Do spend your eternity in the company of Jesus, Mary and the saints, praying for us whom you are leaving behind.

Shillong, 154 14 Oct. 1988

Fr. John Kalapura, SDB
Provincial

Provincial Office



Phone : 26162

DON BOSCO
GAUHATI 781001
ASSAM - INDIA

Ref.

Date.

13th Oct '88

My Dear Confreres,

Fr. Michael Devalle, 80, passed away this morning at Nazareth Hospital, Shillong. He was hospitalized yesterday evening. His death was sudden and unexpected.

The funeral is scheduled for tomorrow at 1.00 pm.

May his soul rest in peace and may he receive the reward of the faithful servant.

Yours lovingly in Don Bosco,

Fr. J. Thelekkatt SDB
(Vice-Provincial)

13th Oct '88

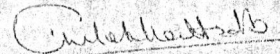
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(Vice-Provincial)

Provincial Office



Phone : 26162

DON BOSCO
GAUHATI 781001
ASSAM - INDIA

Ref.

Date.....

17th Oct '88

My Dear Confreres,

Fr. Michael Devalle, 80, passed away this morning at Nazareth Hospital, Shillong. He was hospitalized yesterday evening. His death was sudden and unexpected.

The funeral is scheduled for tomorrow at 1.00 pm.

May his soul rest in peace and may he receive the reward of the faithful servant.

Yours lovingly in Don Bosco,

Fr. J. Thelekkatt SDB
(Vice-Provincial)

A C ✓

1908 - Nov. 18 - Wed. - born at Clavesana (Italy)

Elementary School:- Thus -

Classes 1, 2, and 3 at Bruni (Murazzano)
Class 4 at Surie and Class 5 at Dogliani.

1921-1925 - Gymnasium or Secondary School - Four years - Thus:

1921-22:- First Year Oratorio Don Bosco - Turin.
1922-24:- Second and Third Year - Penango
1924-25:- Fourth Year - Ivrea.

1925 - Nov. 11 - Wed. - In the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians -
Turin - At 7.15 hrs. a.m. - Mass by V.Rev. Father
Philip Rinaldi followed by Vestition.

1925 - Mid-December - Left Italy for Assam (India) from Genova on
Steamer Aquileia and arrival in Bombay (India)

Brothers: Colussi Attilio, Cucchi Giuliano, De Valle
Michele, Cerato Luigi, Talamona Carlo, Zanon Ernesto,
De Zorzi Giorgio (Lay Brother), Ripa Giuseppe (Lay Bro.)
Costa Giulio, Rocca Luigi. (Ten).

Jan. 1926 - May 1928 :- c. 2½ yrs. - SHILLONG - Novitiate & Philosophy

Jan. 5, 1926:- Novitiate begins at Our Lady's House.
Novice Master: V.Rev. Father S. Ferrando sdb

Jan. 6, 1927:- First Religious Profession at Our Lady's
House followed by Holidays at Laitkhynew.
To and from Laitkhynew (c. 40 miles) on
foot.

1927:- First Year Philosophy in Shillong followed by
holidays in Raliang. To and from Raliang
via Jowai (c. 57 miles) on foot.

1928:- Second Year Philosophy begins - on 11th. May,
Friday, left for Bombay for my Regency.

Latter of Obedience No. 38 of 3. 5. 28 -
Don Bosco Institute, Bombay - Assistant and
Teacher - Sd. L. Mathias.

1928 - May 11 - Friday - Left for Bombay.
V.Rev. Frs. Joseph Hauber, & Austin Dehlert.
Brothers: William Haughey & Michael Devalle.

May 1928 - Dec. 1930:- c. 2½ yrs. - BOMBAY (Tardeo) - Regency.

Teaching Latin, Mathematics & other subjects.

1931 - to August 1934: c. 3½ yrs. - SHILLONG - Theology at O.L.H.
& concurrently: in 1931 at Don Bosco Techn. School for
6 months and with V.Rev. Fr. C. Vengrame, Parish. for
6 months. In 1932-33, for two years Teacher in St.
Anthony's School - Class 5 (full time)

1933: Feb. 24 - Fri. - Tonsure at O.L.H. - Mgr. L. Mathias.
July 20 - Thr. - Four Minor Orders - Parish Church.
Mgr. L. Mathias.

Dec. 14 - Thr. - Subdiaconate - Bandel - Mgr. F. Perier.

1934: March 4 - Sun. - Diaconate - Bandel - Mgr. F. Perier SJ
July 7, - Sat. - Priestly Ord. - Shillong - Mgr. F. Perier
July 8, Sun. - First Mass - Shillong - Parish.

~~~~~ P.T.O.

May 1949 - November 1949:- c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  yr. - First HOME LEAVE in Italy.

Home Voyage: S.S. Tripolitania - Bombay-Venice.

V. Albera, M. Devalle, E. Ferraris, D. Troncana.

Return Voyage:- S.S. Loenerkerk - Genova-Bombay.

Jan. 1950 - August 1950:- c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  yr. - BANDEL -Assistant Prior.

1950, Aug. 24, Thr. - 1951, Nov. 24, Fri.:- Don Bosco School, GAUHATI.

Prefect of the House. c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yrs.

1951, Nov. 24, Fri. - 1960, July 5, Tues.:- c.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  yrs. - NOWGONG dt.

Parish Priest.

1952 - Residence at Salana opened -(Rf. Directory <sup>1968</sup> 1966)

July 1960 - June 1961 :- c. 1 yr. - Shillong-Mawlai Theologate.

Professor and Confessor.

Letter of Obedience N. 24 of II. 6. 1960 - SHILLONG-MAWLAI

Professor and Confessor . A Alessi.

Teacher: Dogmatics for the First Year.

June 1961 - May 1962:- c. 1 yr. - SECOND HOME LEAVE - Italy.

Home Voyage: S.S. Australia - Cochin -Genova - July 8, Sat.  
A. Bangiorno, M. Devalle.

Return Voyage:- S.S. Victoria - Genova-Bombay. May, 30. Wed.

1962, July 3, Tues. - 1964, May 29, Fri. - c. 2 yrs.- SUNNYSIDE -  
Prefect of the House.

23rd. November 1962, Fri. -Novices leave in two groups  
for Yercaud - (Chinese Invasion).

1964, May 29, Fri. - Mid-August 1970:- c.c. 6 yrs & 2 mons. -

Laimer-Shillong - St. Paul's Seminary.

Letter of Obedience N. 101 of 29. 5. 64. A. Alessi.

Confessor and Teacher : (Cosmology, Latin, Mathematics).

August 1970 - 29 September 1971 :- c. 1 yr. and 1 month.

Third HOME LEAVE -

Home Flight: ALITALIA - Bombay-Rome-Turin. Aug. 25, '70. Sat.  
15 Aug. 1970: Sat:- TURIN - Mass Camerette Don Bosco.

29 Sept. 1971: Wed. - Leave for India by AIR INDIA.  
Turin - Rome - Bombay.

30 Sept. 1971: Thurs.- Indian Airlines - Bombay-Calcutta.

2 October 1971: Sat- By Air - Calcutta-Gauhati

4 October 1971: Mon - Gauhati-Shillong : ST PAUL'S SEMINARY

Confessor and Teacher: ( Logic and Mathematics)

4th. OCTOBER 1971 - Monday - .....1.....

LAIMER-SHILLONG :- ST PAUL'S SEMINARY -



4th. October 1971- Monday - Noon - Back to SHILLONG -  
Resume work. Rev. Fr. Lionel Henry, Rector.

1972 - Shillong Salesian Golden Jubilee Celebrations -  
November 16th, Thursday to Sunday 19th.  
November 18th.: Priestly Ordination of Rev. Frs.  
Edwin Kahit & Francis Wanlang.

1973 - Feb. 7 -10 : Wednes. -Sat. - Maligaon (Triduum)  
Feb. 11 -17 : Sunday - Sat. - Barpeta Road  
Oct. 4 - 8 : Thurs.- Monday - Maligaon (Retreat)

1974 - Feb. 14th - 11 a.m. - Rev. C.V. Raphael collects Logic Notes  
Feb. 16th 10.30 a.m. - Rev. L. Henry meets me -No class.  
Oct. 24th. - Tues - Visit of V. Rev. Fr. Raineri.  
Dec. 14th. ? - Rev. Fr. Lionel Henry leaves for  
for Australia. He had been Rector from Mid-1971 to  
Dec. 1974. 3½ years. God bless Him.

1975 - Rev. Fr. M.C. Thomas, the New Rector, arrives. March 1, Sat.  
Feb. 10th - Monday - Meeting with Rev. Fr. Bianchi.  
Requested to resume work - Logic and Mathematics.

1976 - June 15th - Tuesday - Rev. Fr. P.V. Zachary arrives.

1977 - Jan 4 - 11 : Tues - Tues. - Dibrugarh.  
Feb. 24th. - Thursd. - 6 p.m. Jubilee get-together at  
Mawlai.

Golden Jubilee of Profession -

April 21, Thursd - Begins  
April 22, Frid. - Feast  
April 23rd. Sat. - Picnic.

1978 - April 26 - P.V. Zachary leaves for home. - Wedns/  
June 11 - ~~Sundays~~ - P.V. Zachary is back - in Gauhati. - Monday  
turns up in Shillong, Seminary  
June 14 - Thursd. - Fr. M.C. Thomas leaves.  
June 30th. Sat. Fr. P.V. Zachary leaves for Tangla.  
August 9, Wedn. - Receipt for Rs. 760/- to Fr. I.R. -  
Air Fair Shillong- Bombay.  
August 21, Monday - Leave Shillong at 9.30 a.m. - This Day  
My Beloved Father is laid to rest at  
Murazzano.  
August 22, Tues. - Leave Gauhati at 3 p.m. for Cal and Bom,  
Arrive at Bombay late at night.  
August 27th, Sunday - Leave BOM early morning. Mass in room  
& arrive at Turin for supper.  
Sept. 23, Sat. Trigesima Mass for My Father at Muraz. - 9 a.m.  
Oct. 16, Mon - Dentist R. Giuria  
Oct. 20, Sat. - Come - Mass for Fr. M. Bianchi  
(Holy Masses) - Aug. 28 to Dec. 31 - (where said). No. of Days

Tarapin - 13; Ceva, 50; Turin 63; No. of Days = 126

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HOME LEAVE: 21st. August 1978, Monday - to 11th. August 1979-
Saturday.

1978 - August 19 - Saturday - Death of My Dear Father.

8 - 4 - 1878 = 19 - 8 - 1978. R.I.P.

August 21, Monday. - I leave Shillong on leave. My Dear
is laid to rest at Murazzano.

August 27, Sunday - Leave Bombay for Rome and Turin
Mass at 1.30 a.m. - departure at 3.30 a.m.
Arrive at Turin at supper time.

September 23, Saturday - Trigesima Mass for My Dear Father
at Murazzano.

September 28 - Thurs. - Death of Pope Joh Paul I.

26-8-1978 = 28-9-1978 - 33 days,

October 28, Saturday - Concel Mass for Rev. Fr. M. Bianchi at
Como

1979 - August 3 - Friday - I leave Turin for Rome by train

August 7 - Tues. - I leave Rome for Bombay by plane
Weds. morning at Bombay

August 11 - Saturday - I leave Bombay (6.15) for Calcutta
(a. 9.30 - d. 10.30), Gauhati (11.30), and
arrive at Shillong at 16.30

August 28 - Tues. - Diocesan Priests' Day at S P S -

Tot. 26; Khasi Priests 20; S P S past pupils: 14.

1980- January 24 - Thursd. - V. Rev. Joseph Sangalli at S P S -

February 2 - Saturday - Mass by Fr. Sangalli at S P S -

1981 - May 16-17 - Saturday-Sunday= Death of Rev. Fr. P. Runrns,

August 10 - Monday= Death of Sr. Cecilia Da Roit FMA

1982- April 14 - Wed - Death of Rev. Fr. Joseph Arokyaswami. R.I.P.

August 9 - Mon - Death of Rev. Fr. D. Troncana - R.I.P.

September 30 - Thurs - Death of Rev. Fr. Em. Albizuri. R.I.P.

1983- November 18 - 75th. Birthday -

1984- May, 30 - Wed.- Mass Golden J. Cel. S P S -

June 3 - Sunday - Mass Golden J. Cel. Parish - Procession O.L.

July 3- Tues - Get-together at Bishop's House at 3.p.m.
Mass G.J.M.

July 19- Thurs.- G.J. cel. at Sunnyside.

July 24 - Tues. G.J. Cel. at Magonna Convent.

September 11 - Tues - G.J. Cel. at Nongkseh M.E. School.

November 7- Wed. Jubiless Cel. at Mawlai.

1985 - February 26- Tues- Two talks to Dioc. Priests.