

### FATHER JOSEPH DRYZALOWSKI. SDB.

The late Fr. Dryzalowski was born in Biala Podlaska, Poland on the 14th March 1908. He received his secondary education at the Salesian College, Rozanystok, and then joined the Salesian Congregation soon afterwards in 1930. He studied Philosophy and went through his teaching practice from 1931-34. He then studied Theology in the University of Cracow from 1934-38, and was ordained priest on May 29th, 1938. After ordination he taught at the Salesian College of Oswiecim.

With the outbreak of war in September 1939, Fr. Dryzalowski shared the sad fate of so many of his compatriots. As he himself recalled, he covered about two thousand miles on foot throughout the length and breadth of Poland, trudging through forests and almost starved to death. Everywhere he brought with him the comfort of religion for the wandering population who were deprived of their homes as victims of the war. This period lasted a year and Fr. Dryzalowski finally returned to Oswiecim, but only for a short time. He was again forced to hide in the hills in the Bielski region where he helped the local clergy, despite the risk of arrest by the Gestapo.

In 1940 he managed to escape from Poland and reach Italy, and stayed in Chieri for some years. Early in 1945 he became a Polish Army chaplain and came to England with the 2nd Army Corps. By July of that year he became parish priest of the Polish refugees who had settled in Huddersfield. Fr. Joseph soon won the love and confidence of his people and they loyally assisted him in all his religious activities. Such were his achievements in Huddersfield that in 1965 he was appointed dean for the Polish religious centres in his area of Yorkshire.

Fr. Dryzalowski was a model of priestly zeal and concern and he never spared himself in serving his parishioners. He was a friendly, helpful, generous and dedicated priest – a truly exemplary son of Don Bosco. After his wartime experiences he never enjoyed good health and the strain of parish work told in the end. He died suddenly on September 27th 1968.

The funeral took place on September 30th. Over 100 priests were present at the last rites, and a large number of Polish exiles, for whom Fr. Joseph had done so much. Very Rev. Fr. Provincial. SDB attended the funeral. Mgr Staniszewski was the celebrant at the Requiem Mass and Mgr. Wheeler, Bishop of Leeds, officiated at the graveside.

May the generous soul of this hardworking Polish Salesian rest in peace!