

KNOW YOUR CONFRERES SERIES - NO: 2

FR. L. A. Hideo

↑ LUIGI

ABE

Salesian Provincial Office,
Wakabal-22, Shinguku-ku,
160 Tokyo, JAPAN.

Dear Confreres,

Our provincial community has suffered a severe loss by the sudden death of our very dear and unforgettable provincial economist Fr. Aloysius Abe Hideo.

Of late Fr. Aloysius suffered frequent bouts of cold and cough which caused him quite some discomfort. Though he had been advised to take some treatment he did not bother much about it and went on with usual regularity in his work.

On the 8th of May, reluctantly he went to the doctor who at once diagnosed his case as serious, and immediately he was admitted in hospital because of his deteriorating heart condition. The doctor did not make any secrecy about the advanced stage of his case, and gave us little hope for a recovery.

On the 21st we were urgently called to his bed-side because he was sinking very fast, and his relations too were informed. Fr. Provincial with tact and prudence informed him about his condition; and he accepted it with full resignation to God's will; being late, Fr. Provincial left with the promise of coming back the next morning for the anointing of the sick. But a phone call in the early hours of the morning told us that the dear confrere was in his agony; Fr. Provincial with two other confreres hurried to the hospital, but on their arrival he had already expired. On May 25th the burial service in the Parish Church was attended by a large participation of the Religious and the faithful.

Fr. Aloysius Abe Hideo was born in Kobe on November 2nd 1926. From 1939 to 1943 he studied in the aspirantate at Miyazaki, founded by Msgr. Cimatti. After his novitiate he professed on March 26th 1944; and after the philosophy course he worked in Nakatsu during the hard years after the war. Finally with great joy he reached the priestly ordination on May 14th 1953.

Fr. Aloysius began his activity as administrator in several of our institutions, till he was called to be the provincial economer; in the fulfilment of his charge he suffered and spent all his energy till his last day. Last year he had celebrated the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination among the rejoicing of confreres, of relatives and friends.

All of us, especially those who worked close to him, remember Fr. Aloysius as a person possessing a high sense of duty, impartiality and self sacrifice. Gifted with an open, jovial and humorous nature, he left a warm impression on all who approached him, because he was able to make himself available to the needs of others without counting the cost, in a joyous spirit of service. With real passion he studied history, and he had gained a very good knowledge of and practice in legal matters, so as to be of great help to the province. But along with his knowledge he took great care in the formation of the younger confreres by providing them with all possible facilities for their academical studies and their religious formation.

He himself was exemplary in a diligent life of prayer characterised by a profound devotion to the Eucharist and filial love for Our Lady. And we cannot forget the example he left us of a personal life of poverty which he lived with austerity in his demeanour and serene joy of heart.

While we bow our heads to the will of the Father who has called our dear confrere to his heavenly reward I ask you to remember him and our province in your fervent prayers.

Fr. Bernard Yamamoto Katsumi
Provincial.

(Trans: Fr. F. Zola)

YOUTH: india

YOUTH TO BE INVOLVED AND NOT LOOKED AFTER

A study made of the problems, potentialities and aspirations of youth reveal that Youth in India need to be involved much more significantly in Church life. Fr. Vallamattam in preparation for a background paper for the meeting of the National Advisory Council made an analysis of the views of the Youth in India on various topical issues. 1002 young men and women from 12 different states answered the questionnaire. Taking

a maximum of 25 answers from the same locality, 656 answers were analysed. Of these 389 are from strongly catholic areas as Kerala, Goa, Bombay and Shillong and the rest from mission areas. 560 were students and 365 women. Among the significant findings are the following:

Among the persons who influence Youth, companions receive great prominence, quite a few placing them over teachers and even parents. Political leaders and student leaders have significant control over the Youth. The first and second rank together assigned to each is as follows:

Parents	495	Students Leaders	28
Teachers	151	Political leaders	31
Companions	272	Religious leaders	166

Answering the questions regarding certain good and bad qualities of the youth, some have said that the Catholic Youth are indifferent to religion (30%) and antireligious (10%) quarrelsome (20%) drug/drink addicted (20%) and led by fashions and fads (50%). Quest for excellence and thirst for knowledge is nominal. Search for positions and a paying job is almost universal.

The chief aspirations of the Youth regarding society are for equality, honesty, and employment. Noted against each item is the number of respondents suggesting them.

Equality	178	Honesty in life	115
Service Oriented society	129	Casteless society	79
Economic prosperity	120	Education for all	71
		God fearing society	51

What the Youth expect most from priests and bishops is simple life style, love and understanding, dedicated service and availability. From the parents they crave greater affection and recognition. In the teachers they look for better teaching, dedicated work and personal guidance.

Courtsey - Catholic India.

As Salesians our mission is primarily to growing boys and young men. With Don Bosco we affirm the vast importance of this mission. The stages of adolescence and dawning manhood have a decisive value in a man's life, and the Church, like society, views each generation with renewed hope. In our evolving world the problem of youth assumes fresh proportions and particular urgency. (Const. No: 9)

DB Premnivas

The year of the handicapped has seen another dwelling for them. It was the 29th Jan. 1981, an auspicious day to be recorded in red letters in the history of our province, when the hostel wing of the orphanage was inaugurated by his excellency the Governor of A.P., Mr. K.C. Abraham.

Preparations began a fortnight before for the most exciting moment, the opening of a new home for the inmates of Don Bosco Prem Nivas Mangalagiri. At about 10 a.m. in the morning everyone gathered in front of the new home awaiting the arrival of the Governor. He was garlanded by Fr. Provincial. Without any delay, the Governor inaugurated the new home.

A well prepared blessing ceremony was conducted by his Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Mariadas, the Bishop of Guntur. As the representative of the Salesian family, Fr. Provincial welcomed everyone present and expressed his joy of having such very important personages in our midst. He also had the opportunity to thank the Government for all what it has done for the house. He hoped that the same help will be continued for the other projects yet to be completed. Then his Lordship the Bishop of Guntur gave an inspiring talk on the Christian life of Service and Mission and its immeasurable effect on society. Later it was the chance of the handicapped boys to show their talents. They entertained the Governor and the audience with dances and melodious songs. The Federal Bank Manager announced the sanctioning of loans to 2 past pupils. The Social Welfare Officer handed over to the Director the amount sanctioned by the Department as scholarships.

The Governor expressed his feelings of happiness of being present for this function in the midst of the handicapped children. He had all praises for the salesians for having taken up this challenge to care for the physically handicapped and words of appreciation were showered on the missionaries who are in no way behind the Govt. to better the situation of these less fortunate ones. He concluded saying that he would ever cherish the memory of the few moments, he spent with the children.

Fr. Koshy proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Salesians to all who were present, especially the Governor, the Bishop and the others who were instrumental in making the day a real success.

Bro. Jose Pathickal.

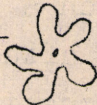

DBYC - Cochin

Don Bosco Youth Centre Vaduthala, held March 1st as its Membership Day. Prior to this, the Director, Fr. George Pudussery, spent weeks on interviewing those who wished to be members. As an immediate preparation, there was a recollection for all the members on February 28th evening.

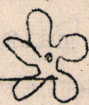

At 9 a.m. on 1st March, Fr. Provincial celebrated Mass for the members. After that the members were officially registered, by giving the Membership Cards. Accompanied by the D.B.Y.C. band all the members marched graciously into the hall for the 'Promise.' Fr. Rector welcomed the gathering. Then there followed the solemn and impressive ceremony in which about 500 members, divided into six groups namely, Sub-Juniors, Juniors, Inters, Seniors, Super-Seniors and Elders in clear and decisive voice promised, "I will be faithful to God, to the nation and to the Youth Centre." At the end of the promise all shouted in full gusto, the Youth Centre motto, "Ellavarum Onnu !" (That all may be one for others.)

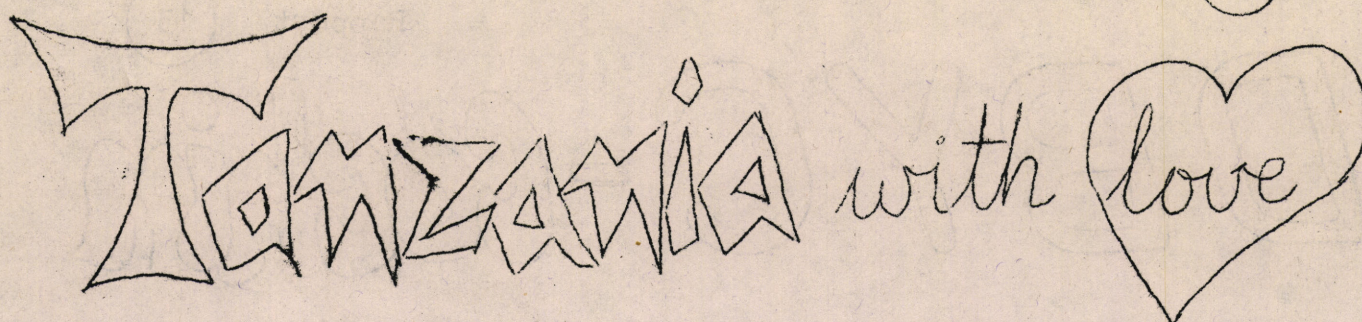
Fr. Provincial while felicitating the members, urged them to be really dedicated to the Youth Centre. The Chief guest, Mr. N.R.Shankar (Manager, Tata Oil Mills), spoke in high esteem of the Youth Centre and the work of the Salesians for the Youth. Fr. Varghese Menacherry (Provincial Delegate for Youth Apostolate), requested the members to remain united and work hard. He officially enrolled them as members of the 'Boscoss'. The Director, Fr. George Pudussery, while thanking everyone, urged the members to make use of all the facilities given in the Youth Centre for the betterment of themselves and everyone around them. Thus a very important day passed in the life of D.B.Y.C. Vaduthala.

Bro. Joseph Cherukunnel.



In our mission we often come in contact with adults, laymen or ecclesiastics who have responsibility for young people. As realists in our pastoral care we must value the work they do and those of us having the right ability and qualifications should collaborate with them to increase their worth and enrich their lives. (Const. No:13)





I am writing from Tabora where all the nine of us are at present. We are attending a Swahili course of 3 months run by the White Fathers. It is a well organized course and all of us are making good progress. Besides us there are many other missionaries attending the course. They come from Italy, France, Germany, England, America etc... It is indeed a very enriching experience living with these people of various cultures.

Life here consists of Swahili classes from morning till evening; and so is uneventful. The monotony was broken by the feast of Don Bosco. Everyone of the community joined us in making the feast grand: solemn high mass, volley ball match, get together etc.

We shall be finishing our course on 10th April. We shall be starting our work immediately after returning to our respective places.

Before coming for this course the six of us of Iringa diocese had a foretaste of our future work. After 2 months of study of Swahili we were given an opportunity to stay in some of the parishes of the diocese for 3 weeks.

I am recording some of my impressions of those three weeks: I was sent to a parish 50 kms. to the interior of Iringa town. Interior areas such as this are known as 'pori' or 'bushes'. The parish had about 34 villages under its care. They were spread out over quite a vast area. In fact some of them were over 90 kms. away from the centre. There was just one priest, an elderly Italian Consolata father to look after this huge parish. Everyday he would start his safari in the afternoon so as to reach a mission station where people would gather from neighbouring villages after their work to take part in the Holy Eucharist or in community discussion. I had several opportunities of visiting various centres together with him.

What impressed me during these visits was the way the small christian communities were functioning. Each mission centre had a little chapel built by the christians themselves - utterly simple in structure. They would fix a day and gather together to work on the church form for the maintenance of the church. In the absence of the priest they gather together and pray under the leadership of the catechist. They gather together regularly in order to discuss their christian life. Requests

for baptism of children are to be made to the community and the community decides whether or not to admit the child to baptism, hence to the christian community. I witnessed how several parents were asked to postpone the baptism of their children until there would be improvement in their own christian life.

By Easter we shall be starting work in Mafinga Parish. We are sure that we shall have the support of your prayers.

Fr. P.L. Joseph.

TIT BITS-N.Y.

At present we are having our Annual Fund Raising for the Cardinal's Archdiocesan Appeal. Every Parish is all out to collect money for the various activities in the Archdiocese. Every year they collect a few million dollars and this Parish contributed 37,000 last year and the target for this year is 40,000 !! You can imagine the amount of money that they collect. The whole collection goes to the Archdiocesan activities. This is the annual feature in every diocese in the US. On 15th we had a film show in the Church with all the activities in the archdiocese and there were quite a number of people who did not relish the idea of having a film in the Church and they expressed their disapproval by sending letters and calling on the phone etc... You will be surprised to know that people here are getting panicky with the price-rise and they complain of the worst recession after the great Depression. The auto-sales were very low and the major manufacturers were losing billions of dollars and they could not cope up with the stiff competition from Japan, Volks Wagen and other foreign companies. Now they are selling all the American Cars at a rebate and the rate starts at 350 and reaches over a thousand dollars. The sales are up and this is expected to have long range problems !!

It is interesting to see how people everywhere behave almost in a similar manner. I remember having written to you how a guy had been here asking me for eight dollars because that was the money that he lacked for securing a job. Well, I met him again at New Rochelle in our Salesian Provincial House. He had the same story to tell them and I foiled his attempts at extortion !! I didn't do anything except warning them. There are people going around having stories as they have in our own land. I have been approached by some for just a dime or a quarter...

Lately I had the happiness of going to some families. I must say that I was greatly edified and I knew that there are very many families that are struggling to keep up their faith and their authenticity. It was really an experience dealing with them and to know how they try to live a decent Christian life.

The common man is good. What affects the world is the tremendous power a few wield. The whole world is being manipulated by just a few hundreds of people living at the Govt. head quarters in the various countries especially in "Developed Countries". I sometimes feel extremely angry reading all this political scheming !

Today is St.Patrick's Day in New York and it is a glorious Day for the Irish. They gather in thousands and have a grand parade with all the pomp of an irish fiesta !! As I type out this letter they are having the parade and I will have sometime to watch it on TV.

Every Parish had a dinner-dance at this time to celebrate this great day. It is surprising to see all the Americans living in such harmony despite the various cultures they hail from. They celebrate all these occasions as if they belong to one family !!

Lent is on. And I must tell you that Ash Wednesday was something ! We had every parishioner coming into the Church for the ashes. All they wanted was ash and they didn't care about the mass. The Church was packed and after the ash was imposed following the gospel, a good number left the Church !! What do you call this type of piety??

There are quite a number of people who never come to Church. They don't feel that the Church is offering them something worthwhile.

Recently in Atlanta (Georgia) the 22nd Black child was killed !! They don't know how these kids are kidnapped and murdered. Here in N.Y. all the Blacks and all those who sympathize with them go about with a green ribbon and a medal with the inscription "Save Our Children". It is sad and we wonder how people can be that cruel !!

Spring is near and the birds have begun to return to their nests which probably they had abandoned in Winter !

Fr. Joe Fernandez.

from ROME

"You can take a man out of his country, but you can't take the country out of the man" is a saying very true of the Indians resident in Rome. On 26th Jan., ten of us of this community concelebrated the Mass to pray in a very special way for India. On 31st Jan. at 11.30 a.m. all the Indians living in Rome had been invited by Mr. Jethmani (the Indian Ambassador to Italy) to his house to celebrate the Republic Day and listen to the President's Republic Day message. Earlier in January, Pongal was celebrated here - on a comparatively modest scale.

We had a double celebration for the feast of St. John Bosco. At midday on 31st, Bafile Cardinal Corrado concelebrated Holy Mass with the community. This was followed by a 'high lunch' at which the deans of the different theological and philosophical faculties were our honoured guests. The evening saw us all at UPS, to which the Holy Father was paying an official visit. The Pope stayed on for supper with the Salesian community and addressed them again at the 'good night.' The next day our parish celebrated the feast of Don Bosco. Rossi Cardinal Opilio (who is the Deacon of this church) presided at the Principal Mass of the day and joined us for lunch.

The first fortnight of Feb. saw us struggling through the examinations of the first semester. With only the week-end for a bit of rest, our second semester got off to an earnest start on 16th Feb. The distant yet warm echoes of the Provincial Community Day were heard here too. The quartet of the Bangalore Province hosted a little party for the other Indians of the Community on 25th Feb.

Starting with 'giovedì grasso' ("fat thursday") on 26th Feb. the carnival celebrations went on to shrove Tuesday. The most conspicuous features of the celebrations were masquerading, folk dancing, and of course rich food and drink. Carnival also symbolises the death of winter and the resurrection of life in spring. - That is the brightest feature for some of us foreigners for whom the Roman winter was a near nightmare.

The Indian celebration of Carnival was restricted to 8th Mar. The Indian Association of Priests organised its annual picnic, this year to San Marino. (named after a certain Marino, a stone cutter of 4th century). It is the smallest independent state in the world, after the Vatican. Lying to the north-west of Rome it has a territory of 60.57 sq.km. San Marino issues its own postal stamps and the monetary unit is the Sammarinese lire equal to the Italian lire. The national anthem has no words and has been traced to an antique monastic choral of 10th century.

Don Ugo Santucci, a special delegate of the Rector Major is making an extra-ordinary visitation of this province. He will be with us in the first week of April.

With warm and cordial Easter greetings from all of us here,
Fr. Thomas Punnapadam.

DB Publications USA

DON BOSCO:

Give Me Souls - by Peter Lappin.
Cloth, 366 pages, ISBN 0-7973-749-2.
From our Sunday Visitor Press, \$ 9.95.

Man with A Dream - by Peter N. Rinaldi, SDB.
Paper, 161 pages, illus., ISBN 0-89944-035-5 \$ 2.50

Saint John Bosco: Friend of Youth - by F.A. Forbes.
Paper, 190 pages, ISBN 0-89944-026-6. 75c. Limited stock.

Stories of Don Bosco - by Peter Lappin.
Paper, 265 pages, illus., ISBN 0-89944-036-3. \$ 2.95.

A Man Sent by God - by Paul Aronica.
Pamphlet, 28 pages, 25c each.

DOMINIC SAVIO:

St. Dominic Savio by Saint John Bosco, edited with notes by Paul Aronica, SDB. All new edition brings research on the life and biography of Dominic up to 1979. A spiritual classic.
Paper, 169 pages, illus., ISBN 0-8944-037-1. \$ 1.95.

Dominic Savio : Teenage Saint - by Peter Lappin.
Paper and cloth, 191 pages.
Cloth ISBN 0-89944-034-7. \$ 2.75. Paper ISBN 0-89944-033-9. \$ 1.25

OTHERS:

The Wine in the Chalice - by Peter Lappin.
Biography of Blessed Michael Rua,
Paper, 189 pages, ISBN 0-8944-031-2. \$ 2.50.

By Love Compelled, Biography of Fr. Philip Rinaldi - by Peter M. Rinaldi, SDB., Paper, 124 pages, illus., ISBN 0-89944-032-0. \$ 2.50.

Conquistador, Biography of Cardinal John Cagliero - by Peter Lappin.
Paper, 300 pages, ISBN 0-89944-040-1. \$ 4.95.

General Mickey, Biography of Michael Magone, Pupil of St. John Bosco - by Peter Lappin. Paper, 152 pages, ISBN 0-89944-029-0. \$ 1.75.

Michael Magone, Biography of St. John Bosco's pupil, adapted from Don Bosco's own work - by Paul Aronica.
Pamphlet, 60 pages, 25c each.

Bury Me Deep, Biography of Zepharino Numuncura by Peter Lappin.
Our Sunday Visitor Press, paper, 192 pages, illus., ISBN 0-87973-865-
\$ 2.95.

Little Chief of the Andes, Biography of Zepharino Numuncura - By Paul Aronica, pamphlet, 57 pages, 50c each.

Brother Peter Ferraris, A biography by Alvin Manni, sdb.
Paper, 133 pages, illus., ISBN 0-89944-027-4. \$ 1.75.

Hands for Others, A biography of St. Mary Mazzarello -
By Sr. Louise Passero. St. Paul editions, paper, 70 pages, 50c each.
Also available through Salesian Sisters Provincial House, Haledon, NJ.

SALESIAN SPIRIT AND EDUCATION:

Don Bosco and the Spiritual Life - by Francis Desramaut,
translated by Roger Luna, SDB.
Paper, 360 pages, ISBN 0-89944-022-1. \$ 8.95.

The Maturing Salesian - by David de Burgh, SDB.
Paper, 50 pages, ISBN 0-89944-028-2. \$ 1.00

Reason, Religion and Kindness - by Paul A. Avallone, SDB.
Paper, 106 pages, ISBN 0-89944-030-4. \$ 1.95

The Educational Philosophy of St. John Bosco by John Morrison.
In a new edition available December, 1979.
Paper, 260 pages, ISBN 0-89944-050-9. \$ 5.95.

A Salesian Education - by John A. Ayers. In a new edition
available December, 1979. Paper, estimated 160 pages,
ISBN 0-89944-051-7. \$ 3.95.

An Ounce of Prevention, From the writings of St. John Bosco
on his "preventive" Method of education.
Pamphlet, 40 pages, 25c each.

The Proper Offices of the Salesian Society, an imitation
leatherette cover, sized to match your breviary or book o
morning and evening prayer, 52 pages, 95c each.

The Proper Masses of the Salesian Society, an imitation
leatherette cover, sized to fit nicely inside the cover of
your sacramentary or lectionary, with large type and rubrics
in red, 52 pages, \$ 2.50 each.

Halfway to Heaven - Mazzarello - by Peter Lappin, \$ 4.95.

Sunshine in the Shadow : Mother Margaret - Peter Lappin, \$ 3.95.

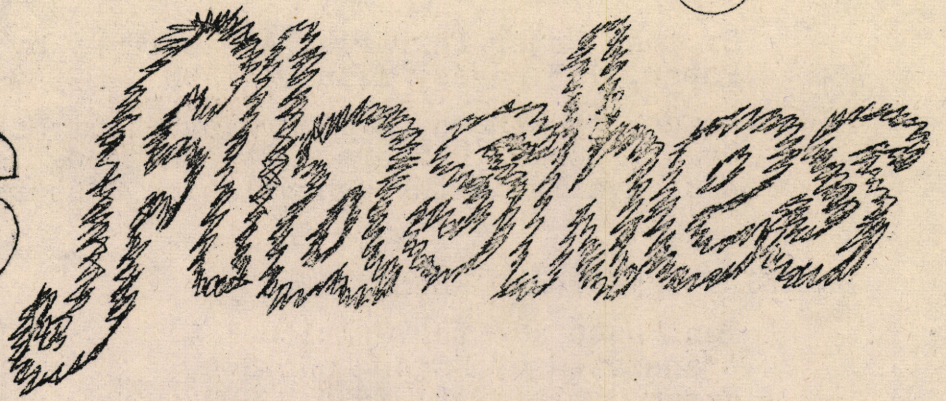
Don Bosco Kumbalam

We are delighted to have our parish priest back after an absence of exactly 48 days. He returned hale and hearty on 19th of Feb. due to the excellent care he received at the hands of the doctors and sisters of Benzing and of course, his people at home. The parishioners were all praying for his speedy recovery and return to the parish. The P.P. wishes to thank all around the province for their prayers, and get-well greetings send him during his illness.

In the meantime, the school building is going up, as the funds collected are coming down. Anyhow this being the time of 'plenty' for the people around here, they are generous and every week the committee members go round making collection. Let us hope the classrooms will be ready by the end of May.

Fr. C.K. Jose.

News



FMA PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS

The Salesian Sisters of the Provinces of India held their provincial chapters on 25th March and 31st March. The theme of the General Chapter is: "The Revision of the Constitutions and of the Manual-Regulations".

HALFWAY TO HEAVEN

Fr. Peter Lappin's latest book entitled "Halfway to Heaven" is a biography of St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello, Co-foundress with Don Bosco of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The book's publication coincides with the centenary celebrations of Mother Mazzarello's death - 14th May, 1881.

COURSE IN PREPARATION FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

The course in preparation for perpetual profession will begin on 23rd April to 16th May at Yellagiri Hills. Fr. John Peter, Vice-provincial is the animator of the course.

RETREAT FOR STUDENTS

The Province is arranging a spiritual retreat for student confreres since many of them are unable to attend the other retreats already announced earlier. The details of place and date will be communicated later on.

HIGHER STUDIES

Fr. Mathew Maruvathrail is expected to go abroad for higher studies in religious psychology and pastoral counselling after he lays down office as the Rector of Kristu Jyoti College.

Fr. Thomas Purayidam will do his B.Ed. remaining at St. Stephen's Tope, Quilon.

RENEWALS AND PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

Don Bosco, Irinjalakuda is the venue for Perpetual Professions on 25th May 1981. The renewals will take place at St. Antony's, Cuddapah and Don Bosco, Mannuthy on 24th preceded by a day of recollection.

ONGOING FORMATION COURSE

The next Ongoing Formation course at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore will commence on 29th June 1981 and end on 19th Sept. 1981.

SALESIAN FAMILY SEMINAR

24th - 26th OCT. are the tentative dates of the seminar on Salesian Family to be held at K.J.C., Bangalore. Fr. Joseph Pulikal, the Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Family is the animator of the Seminar.

ORDINATION TO DIACONATE

On 18th March 1981, at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore, nineteen confreres of various provinces were ordained Deacons by the Archbishop of Bangalore. Congrats to all the new Deacons especially Abraham Mattathilany, Rajanna Kondaveeti and Stephen Mukkattil.

TELUGU LANGUAGE COURSE

A group of 15 young salesians of our province will arrive at St. Theresa's Church, Hyderabad from Yercaud for a month long intensive language course in Telugu.

SPCI MEETING

The Provincial Conference of India will meet at the Pastoral Centre, Shillong on 27th - 28th April. Fr. Thomas Panakezham, the Regional Councillor for Asia will preside over the sessions. Besides the Provincials of India, a delegate of the each Provincial Council will also participate in the celebrations.

Fr. Matthew Uzhunnalil, Provincial Economist will attend the SPCI as the delegate of Bangalore Province.

PROVINCIAL VISITS N.E. REGION

After the SPCI meet, Fr. Provincial will visit our confreres working in the North Eastern Region in the Province of Gauhati. This is the first time that Fr. Provincial is visiting this region of our Salesian India.

CONGRATS

Fr. Mathai Kochuparambil, Provincial of Gauhati has been elected as the Vice-President of the CRI at its recent meet at KJC, Bangalore for a three year term.

The CRI Priests' section has elected Fr. Thomas Thayil, Provincial of Bangalore as its delegate to the National Advisory Council (NAC).

Fr. Tony D'Souza, Provincial of Bombay has successfully completed his term as the Vice-President of the CRI.

fr. francis felip

LOVE IN PRACTICE

In the pioneering days in Tirupattur a visit from Fr. Felip usually had a tonic affect on the enthusiasm of those first novices and students of philosophy.

Awakening early one morning the Brothers noticed a white rag on the path leads to the Station Road. They went to pick it up, but found it was a white cassock with Fr. Felip inside it. "I arrived by train at midnight," he said, "I did not want to disturb any of you, and so I slept the rest of the night here." Quite seriously he added, "When sleeping out in the wilds, I prefer to choose a convenient tree. Off the ground there is less danger of being disturbed by snakes, other crawling creatures, and the like." THERE was Fr. Felip's charity in practice: Sleeping on the road, a hundred yards from the house, rather than to disturb anyone !

LIVED POOR

Long before the Salesians settled in Yercaud, Fr. Carreno would rent a house there for the month of May for the students of philosophy. One year Fr. Felip joined them at the old ramshackle of a house called Fairlawns. He was given for his room a poky hole which had been a bath-room in the more prosperous days when Fairlawns had been a kind of hotel. Fr. Felip was happy with the empty, little room. He wanted no furniture at all.

Another year Fr. Felip had to walk from Archbishop's Villa, Yercaud, to Bears' Cave for the Exercise of a Happy death for the students of theology. The road was much more lonely then than now. By chance a Brother met him coming along the road bare-footed with his boots slung over his shoulder "to save shoe-leather." His poverty rivalled that of Don Rua.

His dietary habits were poor and his health suffered. By obedience he was called to leave his mission-station at Pallikonda, and he was sent, a very sick man, as confessor to Nagercoil. Worn out and emaciated, in an advanced state of pulmonary tuberculosis, he was taken to a sanatorium about five miles out of Nagercoil. Meanwhile the Salesians left the House of Nagercoil, and Fr. Felip was then dependent on the nearest Salesian House, which was St. Joseph's Trivandrum, some thirty five miles away.

Delicate conscience

A few days before his death he asked a confrere for a little favour. He asked him to write in his name to a good benefactress in Poona. This good Lady had sent him offerings "For St. Anthony's Bread." He had used the money for the poor, but had not always bought bread for the poor. He wanted the lady to condone him for this defect. By return of post the lady replied telling him that she was happy that he had used the money in whatever way he had thought best. But, before the reply came, God had already called his faithful servant home.

HOME COMING

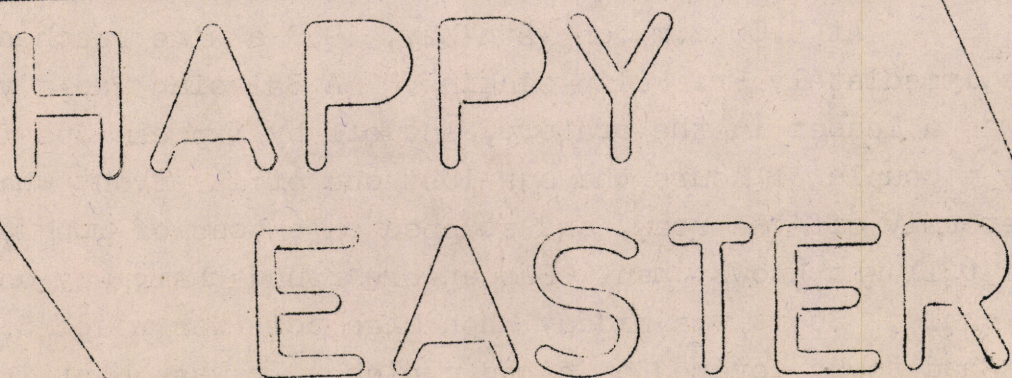
At 5.00 a.m. on 12th May, 1950 a wire reached Trivandrum: "Come immediately Fr. Felip sinking." A Salesian and a young man, Lenny, who was a leader in the oratory, set off by Express Bus for Nagercoil. After a couple of hours the bus lost one of its front wheels, lurched dangerously off the road, and stopped on a heap of rubble....to remain there till who knows when. Passengers found their way onwards as best they could. So it was midday when Nagercoil was reached. The next five miles had to be covered on hired cycles. It was about 1.00 p.m. when

they reached the Sanatorium. The Hospital authorities coldly asked: "Why haven't you brought a coffin? Fr. Felip died at 9.00 a.m. this morning and must be removed from the Hospital and buried before sunset." Wires went and came between Nagercoil, Trivandrum and Madras. The Provincial, good Fr. Carreno, could not allow our beloved pioneer to await resurrection so far from his Salesian family. "Cost what it may," he wired, "bring him home to our family cemetery at Tirupattur."

Fr. Felip's adventurous life on earth was followed up by an adventurous funeral. Lenny cycled back to Nagercoil and returned with a ready-made coffin - just unplanned pieces of wood, roughly hammered together. The body was placed in this make-shift box, and the lid tied on with string. (Hammer and nails were not available. Fr. Felip had lived a life of exemplary poverty; he died in heroic poverty. His remains were pushed into the trunk of a very old taxi, and ignoring all formalities and legalities the long journey to Tirupattur started at night.

After a couple of hours the taxi broke down. A lorry driver was kind enough to tow it to Tirunelveli where at mid-night a mechanic, unaware of the precious cargo, repaired the taxi. Those were the days of Customs' Inspection between the state of Travancore and India. The taxi-driver cleverly out-talked the Customs' Official, and sped on through the night.....and through the whole of the following day....it was a sweltering hot day, one of the dog-days of May. Tirupattur was reached late at night. Fr. Carreno was up, awaiting. He tolled the church bells and summoned all from their beds for the funeral. Torches were lit, and at mid-night the old warrior was laid to rest in our family cemetery. Fr. Felip must surely have loved that setting. Truly, "as a man lives, so shall he die." May his great life, and that of our other pioneers, be an inspiration to us all.

By an impressed admirer.



HAPPY
EASTER