



FR. MARIO RASSIGA, S.D.B.

IN MEMORIAM

A Tribute
to the deceased Salesians
who worked in China
(1906 — 1986)

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I N M E M O R I A M

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SALESIAN PROVINCE OF CHINA
1987

February 25th, 1987

My dear Confreres,

“When it happens that a Salesian dies working for souls, the Congregation has won a great triumph.” (MB XVII, 273)

Our deceased Brothers have much to teach us as regards loyalty to the Church, to our Society and to our missionary vocation. With the passing of time the memory of their hard work, zeal for souls and sacrifices for the welfare of our Chinese brothers and sisters may tend to fade. Therefore these very welcome biographies of fellow Salesians who worked in this Province in the past eighty years will certainly be conducive to arousing in our hearts feelings of gratitude and the desire to imitate their examples. We indeed feel proud of our deceased Confreres and intend to walk steadfastly in their footsteps.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, our Father St. John Bosco and our Blessed Martyrs Mons. L. Versiglia and Fr. C. Caravario obtain for all of us in this the eightieth anniversary of Salesian work in China the grace of renewed fervour in our apostolate on behalf of souls in this great nation we are privileged to serve.

I hereby express my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Rassiga and those Confreres who have assisted him in preparing this very helpful work. May God bless them all.

Yours ever in D. Bosco,

Very Rev. Fr. Norbert TSE, SDB
Provincial

LIST IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

JANUARY

- 3 Fr. C. Braga
- 9 Fr. L. Cazzola
- 10 Bro. A. Penengo
- 11 Bro. Simon Tse
- 16 Fr. A. Saino
- 18 Fr. C. Brianza
- 24 Fr. P. Stacul
- 28 Fr. M. Kreutzer
- 31 Fr. A. Perkumas

FEBRUARY

- 2 Fr. J. Matkovics
- 3 Bro. J. Del Corno
- 6 Fr. J. Urban
- 6 Fr. G. Luvisotto
- 9 Fr. M. Schneidberger
- 10 Fr. J. Guarona
- 15 Bro. A. Buggea
- 16 Fr. Raymond Petit
- 22 Bro. F. S. Stoppa
- 25 Bl. L. Versiglia
- 25 Bl. C. Caravario

MARCH

- 7 Bro. J. Borri
- 9 Bro. T. Orsolin
- 17 Fr. A. Martin
- 20 Fr. M. Calvi
- 20 Fr. L. Repetto
- 21 Bro. A. Bonnici
- 22 Fr. B. Ronchi
- 23 Bro. F. Martinez
- 25 Fr. T. Wieczorek
- Fr. S. Leung

APRIL

- 13 Fr. M. Tchong
- 15 Fr. C. Frigo
- 15 Fr. G. Py
- 16 Bro. J. Kapczar
- 21 Bro. J. Lam
- 26 Bro. L. Carmagnola
- 27 Bro. F. Ruhland
- 29 Fr. R. Vetch

MAY

- 3 Fr. S. Bosio
- 12 Fr. M. Candusso
- 17 Fr. J. Monchiero
- 19 Fr. F. B. Lareno
- 19 Bro. P. Yeh
- 19 Fr. D. Correa
- 23 Fr. J. Betzenhofer

JUNE

- 3 Bro. M. Kwan
- 8 Fr. E. Fontana
- 11 Bro. L. Buri
- 12 Bro. C. Fino
- 13 Fr. C. Ng
- 18 Fr. A. Nardi
- 18 Fr. A. Terpin
- 18 Mons. M. Arduino
- 22 Fr. A. Yeh
- 27 Fr. J. Kerec
- 29 Fr. V. Bernardini

JULY

- 2 Fr. A. Gindri
- 3 Fr. A. De Amicis
- 5 Fr. J. Buchta
- 7 Fr. S. Garelli
- 10 Fr. D. Hourigan
- 19 Fr. F. Ruffini
- 20 Fr. J. Pedrazzini
- 21 Bro. J. Shi
- 24 Bro. J. Sturm
- 26 Fr. V. Barberis
- 27 Fr. J. Colombo
- 27 Fr. J. Zampetti
- 28 Fr. M. Mielczarek
- 29 Fr. V. Munda
- 31 Fr. E. Foglio

AUGUST

- 9 Fr. J. Siara
- 10 Fr. F. Dupont
- 14 Fr. A. Zen
- 15 Bro. A. Narciso
- 15 Fr. A. Faisst
- 17 Fr. O. Broggi
- 21 Fr. J. Capelli
- 26 Fr. P. Parisi
- 27 Fr. V. Randi
- 29 Fr. J. Cavada
- 31 Bro. R. Verona

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Fr. L. Montini
- 3 Mons. G. Pasotti
- 5 Bro. V. Suffia
- 17 Fr. L. Olive
- 29 Bro. S. Rigodanzo
- 29 Fr. B. Fochesato

OCTOBER

- 5 Fr. P. Corcoran
- 6 Fr. J. Butterfield
- 9 Mons. I. Canazei
- 12 Fr. R. Musso
- 21 Fr. U. Dalmasso
- 22 Bro. P. Doldi
- 26 Fr. J. Lucas Da Silva
- 26 Fr. A. Rottmayr
- Fr. J. Fu

NOVEMBER

- 1 Fr. W. Schützdeller
- 7 Fr. A. Boccassino
- 9 Bro. F. Pyka
- 9 Bro. P. Monti
- 10 Fr. J. Geder
- 10 Fr. G. Bardelli
- 12 Fr. W. Haughey
- 13 Fr. M. Suppo
- 13 Bro. N. Tambascia
- 14 Fr. V. Ricaldone
- 15 Fr. B. Ly
- 16 Fr. J. B. Tsiang
- 23 Fr. J. N. Avalle
- 27 Fr. E. Rossetti
- 27 Bro. P. Prokopovicz

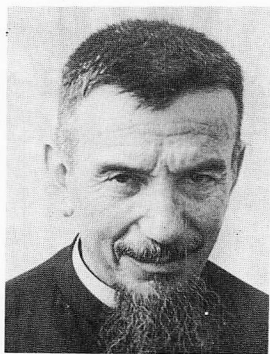
DECEMBER

- 6 Fr. C. Benato
- 8 Fr. A. Kirschner
- 13 Fr. J. Bertoldi
- 13 Fr. A. Cotta
- 18 Fr. J. Cucchiara
- 19 Bro. P. Tang
- 24 Bro. B. Marcos
- 24 Bro. J. Marongiu
- 28 Fr. M. Cavallin
- 29 Fr. S. Lomazzi
- 29 Fr. J. Fergnani
- 30 Fr. G. Boscariorl

LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Arduino	18.6	Faisst	15.8
Avalle	23.11	Fergnani	29.12
		Fino	12.6
Barberis	26.7	Fochesato	29.9
Bardelli	10.11	Foglio	31.7
Benato	6.12	Fontana	8.6
Bernardini	29.6	Frigo	15.4
Bertoldi	13.12	Fu	. 10
Betzenhofer	23.5		
Boccassino	7.11	Garelli	7.7
Bonnici	21.3	Geder	10.11
Borri	7.3	Gindri	2.7
Boscariol	30.12	Guarona	10.2
Bosio	3.5		
Braga	3.1	Haughey	12.11
Brianza	18.1	Hourigan	10.7
Broggi	17.8		
Buchta	5.7	Kapczar	16.4
Buggea	15.2	Kerec	27.6
Buri	11.6	Kirschner	8.12
Butterfield	6.10	Kreutzer	28.1
		Kwan	3.6
Canazei	9.10	Lam	21.4
Candusso	12.5	Lareno	19.5
Calvi	20.3	Leung	.3
Capelli	21.8	Lomazzi	29.11
Caravario	25.2	Lucas Da Silva	26.10
Carmagnola	26.4	Luvisotto	6.2
Cavada	29.8	Ly	15.11
Cavallin	28.12		
Cazzola	9.1	Marcos	24.12
Colombo	27.7	Marongiu	24.12
Corcoran	5.10	Martin	17.3
Correa	19.5	Martinez	23.3
Cotta	13.12	Matkovics	2.2
Cucchiara	18.12	Mielczarek	28.7
		Monchiero	17.5
Dalmasso	21.10	Monti	9.11
De Amicis	3.7	Montini	2.9
Del Corno	3.2	Munda	29.7
Doldi	22.10	Musso	12.10
Dupont	10.8		

Narciso	15.8	Tambascia	13.11
Nardi	18.6	Tang	19.12
Ng	13.6	Tchong	13.4
		Terpin	18.6
Olive	17.9	Tse	11.1
Orsolin	9.3	Tsiang	16.11
Parisi	26.8	Urban	6.2
Pasotti	3.9		
Pedrazzini	20.7	Verona	31.8
Penengo	10.1	Versiglia	25.2
Perkumas	31.1	Vetch	29.4
Petit	16.2		
Prokopowicz	27.11	Wieczorek	25.3
Py	15.4		
Pyka	9.11	Yeh A.	22.6
		Yeh P.	19.5
Randi	27.8	Zampetti	27.7
Repetto	20.3	Zen A.	14.8
Ricaldone	14.11		
Rigodanzo	29.9		
Ronchi	22.3		
Rossetti	27.11		
Rottmayr	26.10		
Ruffini	19.7		
Ruhland	27.4		
Saino	16.1		
Schneidtberger	9.2		
Schützdeller	1.11		
Shi	21.7		
Siara	9.8		
Stacul	24.1		
Stoppa	22.2		
Sturm	24.7		
Suffia	5.9		
Suppo	13.11		



FR. CARLO BRAGA

b. Tirano (Italy) 23.5.1889
p. Valsalice (Italy) 30.7.1906
o. Turin (Italy) 11.4.1914
d. San Fernando (Philippines) 3.1.1971

Fr. Carlo Braga was born at Tirano (northern Italy) in 1889. An orphan at an early age, the boy enrolled in the Salesian School at Sondrio. He made his first profession in 1906 at Valsalice (Turin) in 1906.

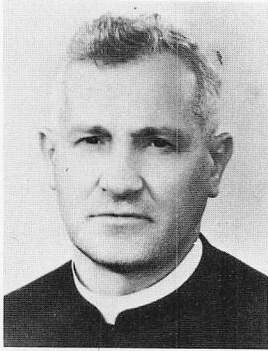
After priestly ordination in 1914 Fr. Braga served in the army for four years as a chaplain. In 1919 he left for China. Blessed Bishop Versiglia welcomed him in his vicariate of Shiu Chow, where he served as rector of the St. Joseph Orphanage in Ho Sai and later at the Don Bosco School in Shiu Chow. Under his wise and zealous guidance the latter developed and flourished considerably in difficult times.

In 1929 he took part as the delegate of the province in the general chapter. The next year he was made provincial superior, a post which he filled successfully until 1952. It was a very difficult period for the province because of the Sino-Japanese hostilities at first and later the Civil War. In spite of all hardships he guided and encouraged his confreres in an outstanding way.

When his term of office ended, Fr. was sent to the Philippines where he served as rector in our technical schools in Victorias and Makati. In 1955 he was appointed Superior of the Philippine province, to which he brought his valuable experience as well as his salesian enthusiasm and optimism.

He concluded his life-long apostolate as spiritual director in our Juniorate at San Fernando (Pampanga) and in the nearby villages, where he used to go regularly to celebrate holy mass and to hear confessions on Sundays. On January 3rd 1971 while getting ready to celebrate the holy sacrifice, he suffered a heart attack and peacefully passed away after uttering his final words (like those of Jesus on the cross): "It is all over!" ("E' finita!")

A great pioneer of salesian work in China and the Philippines, Fr. Braga is remembered with esteem and affection by the many who knew him and were inspired by his exemplary life as a salesian missionary. A biography of this great salesian has been written by Fr. Vasco Tassinari, sdb.



FR. LUIGI CAZZOLA

b. Savona (Italy) 5.6.1905
p. Strada Casentino (Italy) 22.9.1928
o. Hong Kong 15.6.1935
d. Macerata (Italy) 9.1.1981

Four brothers of the Cazzola family joined our Society. The eldest Paul, died fighting in the 1914-1918 war and a short biography of him was written by the late Fr. P. Parisi, sdb, who had been his admiring fellow-soldier. Young Luigi attended primary school and then middle school (technical stream and later grammar stream) to form three level.

He went through his military training as a "Bersagliere" for a two year period (1925-27). Discharged from the army, Luigi spent a short time at Colle Salvetti as an aspirant, after which he started his novitiate at Strada Casentino. He took his first vows on September 22nd 1928.

Bro. Luigi arrived in Hong Kong in 1932 after completing his study of philosophy and going through his practical training in Italy. He received holy priesthood in 1935 from Mons. H. Valtorta, bishop of Hong Kong.

During his theology years, which were a somewhat difficult time for the studentate, Bro. Luigi showed himself quite helpful and co-operative. He applied himself seriously to his studies and, besides, gave generously of his time and energy to other activities like stage performances.

After ordination, Fr. Luigi served for three years as prefect of studies at the Don Bosco Technical School in Shanghai; back in the south, he spent a year as prefect of studies at the Aberdeen Trade School (Hong Kong). Subsequently he returned to work in Shanghai, where he spent practically the rest of his missionary life apart from a short stint in the newly opened trade school at Süchow Fu.

In the latter city Fr. Luigi had to put up with serious difficulties caused by the school management committee which apparently was bent on exploiting the situation rather than seeking the welfare of the students.

After a while Fr. Luigi was recalled to Shanghai where he went on working zealously as usual. He was great help as economer at the house of formation in the difficult post-war period.

Eventually in 1948 he returned to his native Italy, always keen on working in China again. In 1962 he asked the then Provincial Fr. Massimino to be given some work back in the province but his health was rather poor and he had to give up his plan.

Fr. Luigi died on January 9th 1981 aged 76 after a long life of generous service to the Church and our Society.



BRO. ARMANDO PENENGO

b. Vinchio d'Asti (Italy) 29.1.1924
p. Hong Kong 15.10.1940
d. Shanghai 10.1.1945.

After spending his juniorate years at Penango, Armando arrived in China in 1939. On completion of his novitiate at Hong Kong on October 15th 1940 Brother moved to Shanghai for the study of philosophy. There he suffered considerably because of the hardships brought about by the war. In 1943 he started his practical training as a supervisor and teacher at the salesian juniorate in Shanghai. He showed remarkable diligence and spirit of responsibility in the fulfilment of his duties. Since he possessed a strong physique, once he did not mind sleeping on the floor while on holiday in the country in order to let a newly arrived youngster spend the night in his own bed. The floor being quite damp, the cleric contracted pleurisy. In hospital he suffered not so much as a result of his ailment as because he was unable to attend to his duties. Apparently well again, he was discharged but shortly afterwards he relapsed into the same illness, this time with serious complications. His condition deteriorated rapidly, so that he was allowed to make his perpetual profession. After receiving the holy sacraments he died an edifying death on January 10th 1945 aged 21.

Bro. Penengo was missed by many confreres, friends and acquaintances but particularly by the aspirants who loved him very dearly.



BRO. SIMON TSE PING YUEN

b. Shui Hang 28.7.1902

p. Ho Sai 29.1.1925

d. Shanghai 11.1.1926

Bro. Simon was born at Shui Hang in Kwang Tung Province. At 13 years of age he was admitted to Salesian School Macau to complete his elementary education and later to learn shoe-making. It was there that he developed a strong spirit of piety. He enrolled in the sodality of St. Joseph first and then in that of the Blessed Sacrament, in which he shone for apostolic zeal and eventually was elected president.

At the conclusion of his novitiate at Ho Sai in 1925 he made his profession and then was assigned to work in the Don Bosco School in Shiu Chow. In the latter place Bro. Simon distinguished himself not only as a capable craft-master but also as a responsible educator. He made efforts to follow the examples he had admired in the Salesians at Macau.

A year had hardly elapsed when he was sent to serve at the newly opened school in Shanghai so that he might learn more about shoe-making from his former teacher Bro. Ottavio Fantini.

The small ship in which he was travelling with three young aspirants had just sailed into the estuary of the Yang Tse Kiang when it collided with an American steamer and sank. All passengers on board managed to survive except Bro. Simon and his three charges who were caught by the water in their cabin and drowned. It was January 11th 1926.

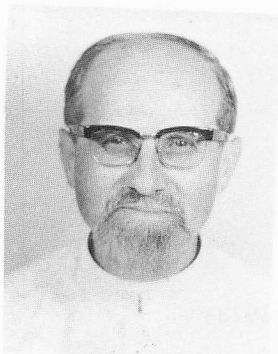
Bro. Simon, 26, was the first Chinese Salesian to pass away and join Don Bosco in heaven.



FR. ANTHONY SAINO

b. Volpiano (Italy) 3.8.1900
p. Turin 18.10.1917
o. Turin 20.7.1924
d. Turin 16.1.1966

Fr. Saino was born at Volpiano (Italy) in 1900. After studying at Valdocco he joined our Society in 1919. Having studied philosophy and gone through military training, he continued his studies in preparation for holy priesthood which he eventually received in 1924. The following year Fr. arrived in China, where he first worked in the newly opened school at Shanghai. After the latter was closed because of the war, Fr. Saino was sent to Salesian School-Macau as prefect of studies, then to the Vicariate of Shiu Chow where he exerted himself as a zealous missionary at Lau Ha in the district of Lok Chong. Later he was appointed economer of the Don Bosco School in Shiu Chow. When the war broke out, Father sailed with several other confreres to Shanghai, where he was appointed superior of the St. Joseph's School in Nantao. There he exerted himself with zeal for the welfare of both confreres and boys through the difficult war years. In 1949 he returned to his native Italy because of poor health. However he continued working with enthusiasm among the lads of the "Michael Rua Boys' Centre" in Turin, until the Lord came to call him to his reward in 1966 at the age of 66. A remarkable confrere who shone not so much for his talents and personal abilities as for his love for Don Bosco and China



FR. CESARE BRIANZA

b. Chiari (Italy) 24.8.1918

p. Hong Kong 12.1.1936

o. Shanghai 29.1.1944

d. Macau 18.1.1986

Fr. Brianza was born at Chiari (Italy) on 24th August 1918. Young Cesare was hardly 10 when he joined our Juniorate at Chiari whence in 1933 he transferred to Ivrea, as he intended to go to work in the missions. He left for China in 1934 and took his first vows in Hong Kong – Shaukiwan on January 12th 1936. In the latter place he studied philosophy and then went through his practical training at our mother-house in Macau. Following his study of theology at Shanghai-Nantao Brother received holy priesthood on January 29th 1944.

As a young priest, Fr. Cesare served in our Juniorates in Shanghai and later in Macau. Endowed with outstanding musical talent, Fr. Cesare was encouraged to cultivate it by the then Provincial Fr. C. Braga; so he attended the conservatory of music at Lisbon (Portugal) and graduated in 1957. He was then assigned to serve at the “Colegio Don Bosco” in Macau, where he spent the rest of his life-time. There he dedicated himself to the teaching of religious knowledge and especially of music in the Colegio and at the local conservatory of music “St. Plus X”. He also founded the Macau section of the Little Singers of the Wooden Cross, whom he managed to train to a high degree of artistic skill. With them he travelled abroad and gave a series of remarkable concerts over a period of 25 years in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, Japan, Portugal and Italy, besides the numerous ones in Macau itself.

The Portuguese Government acknowledged his merits and awarded him an official decoration for his contribution to the artistic life of Macau. Fr. Cesare always showed untiring zeal and perseverance in his mission as a priest, an educator and a competent teacher of music (singing and piano). For several years he was also the conductor of the brass-band of the Macau Police Force.

A sudden heart failure concluded his life at 67 on January 18th 1986. His demise was felt very keenly by his confreres, his many past and present pupils and friends. The Bishop of Macau presided over the funeral Rites during which a good number of the late Father’s friends were noticed unashamedly shedding tears.



FR. PAUL STACUL

b. Podgora (Italy) 29.6.1902

p. Ivrea (Italy) 4.10.1921

o. Bang Nok Khuek (Thailand) 2.6.1928

d. Guatemala 24.1.1973

Fr. Paul Stacul was born on June 29th 1902 at Podgora (Italy) and at 14 joined the Oratory at Valdocco. He spent his novitiate year at Ivrea where he made his first profession on October 4th 1921.

After completing his study of philosophy at Valsalice, he started his practical training at Valdocco and then in 1925 sailed for Shanghai to continue it. In the latter city he was unable to stay long because of the unsettled situation. Later he moved to Shiu Chow where he worked for one year. In 1927 he left for Thailand with the batch of confreres sent to start Salesian work in that country. He was ordained a priest on June 2nd at Bang Nok Khuek. Fr. Stacul served for six years as catechist in the house of formation and then returned to China and worked for one year in Shanghai (Nantao).

Later he was sent to Nanking to prepare for the establishment of Salesian work in that city. However because of the war the plan fell through so that Father in 1937 returned to Shanghai to serve as bursar. Later he worked also in Hong Kong and Macau.

Back in Italy Father attended the Gregorian University in Rome and gained his doctorate in church history. He spent the rest of his life teaching church history in several Salesian seminaries and ended up in that of Guatemala in 1971. Here he taught for just over one year until in January 1973 he suffered a severe stroke and died a saintly death on January 24th 1973. He was 71.

Fr. Paul was sadly missed by the many who had benefitted by his teaching and good examples.



FR. MATTHIAS KREUTZER

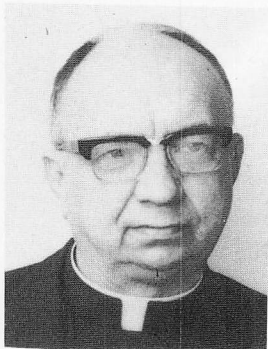
- b. Barbach (Saar, Germany) 24.3.1905
- p. Ensdorf (Germany) 16.8.1930
- o. Benediktbeuern (Germany) 22.6.1939
- d. Munich (Germany) 28.1.1975

Fr. Kreutzer was born at Barbach, Saar (Germany), worked for several years as a miner until in 1929 he joined our Society, professed in 1930 and received holy priesthood in 1939. It was 1940 when Father arrived in China. He worked first in Shanghai in several capacities and eventually as provincial economer as well as vice-provincial for the communities in northern China in very difficult circumstances brought about by the war with Japan first and then by the civil war as well.

He did his best to support our confreres both financially and morally while the new regime was exerting itself to undermine our work. In 1954 Fr. left China and spent a year of recuperation in Germany. Back in the province he was sent as superior of our house in Victorias (Negros Occidental, Philippines). Yet his physique was unable to stand the stresses and strains of his new responsibility, so that eventually and regretfully he returned to his native country.

After patiently carrying the cross of his failing health for another 12 years, on January 28th 1975 he devoutly concluded his earthly pilgrimage. He was 70 years of age.

Fr. Kreutzer will long be remembered in our province for his great love for the Chinese people and the sacrifices he went through with a truly missionary heart.



FR. ANTHONY PERKUMAS

b. Darbenai (Lithuania) 29.3.1909
p. Villa Moglia (Italy) 7.9.1931
o. Hong Kong 20.9.1941
d. Caracas (Venezuela) 31.1.1986

Fr. Perkumas was born at Darbenai (Lithuania) on 29th March 1909. His parents Anthony and Barbara Ruzgailate were modest peasants, endowed with deep religiosity.

At 18 years of age young Anthony felt attracted to the Salesian way of life and travelled to Italy with the intention of joining the Sons of Don Bosco. After his novitiate at Villa Moglia he professed on September 7th 1931. Brother arrived in China soon afterwards and having gone through his college studies he was sent for his practical training to the newly opened school in Kunming (Yunnan Province). His superior there was Fr. J. Kerec and his companion Bro. Fernandez. The hardships he had to put up with in the new place matured him considerably, so that he was very much appreciated by confreres and pupils for his musical skill, his conscientious fulfilment of duties, his generous and cheerful attitude.

Bro. Anthony left Kunming in 1938 to go to study his theology at Macau and later at Hong Kong. He received holy priesthood in the latter city on September 20th 1941. Father was serving at our School in Aberdeen when on December 8th 1941 it was requisitioned by the Royal Navy. Confreres and pupils had to move to St. Louis School, West Point. The latter school, however, was also taken over by the authorities and the inmates were forced to live at North Point in huts reserved for refugees and standing near the sea. As the Japanese army was now in control of the Kowloon peninsula, the situation of our people facing the mainland across the narrow strait became dangerous. Both confreres and boys had to be on the move again and this time to the valley overlooking Taikoo Dockyard. But even in that place our refugees were not safe and had to split ranks and set off one group towards Stanley and the other towards our school in Aberdeen.

Fr. Anthony stayed behind in a hut to look after the possessions of the refugees. It was here that a passing Japanese patrol fired at the hut and wounded Fr. Perkumas in one of his legs. Poor Father was now in great danger of bleeding to death with no one to look after him. Luckily our confreres who were now living at North Point came to know that Father was lying seriously wounded in the Taikoo Valley and obtained a permit from the military authorities to have him transferred to hospital. There Father was taken care of and cured. After the turmoil of the early days of the occupation our schools at Aberdeen and West Point reopened their gates and even the house of formation at Shaukiwan was now used as an orphanage. Fr. Anthony was asked to look after the budding institution which eventually developed fast and became the well-known Salesian School of today.

Father went on working zealously in the new place for a number of years. In 1952 he was asked to move to Venezuela where a good number of his fellow countrymen needed pastoral assistance. Father pitched in again with youthful enthusiasm while also helping out at the local salesian school as spiritual director and teacher. Fr. Anthony served in Venezuela for 33 years.

Towards the end of his lifetime he was afflicted for a long time by a troublesome illness which he accepted from God's hands with resignation, patience and his usual good humour. His edifying death eventually occurred on 31st January 1986. He was 77 years of age.



FR. JOHN MATKOVICS

b. Markotobodoge (Hungary) 4.11.1907

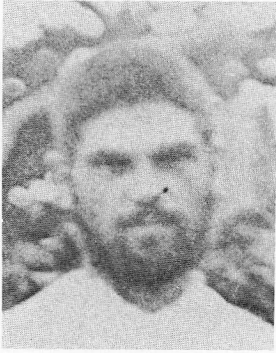
p. Szentkereszt (Hungary) 15.8.1926

o. Hong Kong 15.6.1935

d. Yan Fa 2.2.1944

Fr. John was born in Hungary on November 4th 1907. In 1926 he joined our Society and studied philosophy for two years, after which he sailed for China, where he arrived in 1928. As a cleric he worked in Shiu Chow and later in Salesian School Macau. After studying his theology in Hong Kong Bro. John received holy priesthood in 1935.

Having worked for a year in Macau, Father was then sent to our vicariate apostolic of Shiu Chow, where he exerted himself zealously in the district of Yan Fa. The latter, although not extensive, was an arduous field of work because the christian communities lived apart. Father used to visit them always travelling on foot. His way of life was austere and his work hard, so that in 1938 he was forced to return to his homeland for a badly needed rest. In 1939, completely recovered, he joyfully returned to his field of apostolate. He found the latter greatly changed because of the war and the deep-seated xenophobia of people who saw in every foreigner a spy. In those days the finances of the mission were exhausted, so that Mons. Canazei, the Vicar Apostolic, urged his missionaries to do their best to exact the money the prople owed the mission through loans and rents. In the district of Yan Fa there lived several of such people, who were asked by Father to pay up. It was then that three non-christian debtors (as it came to be known some years later) hired some assassins who murdered Fr. John on a road a few kilometers from Yan Fa. He was a mere 37 years of age. A victim to obedience and sense of duty.



BRO. JOSEPH DEL CORNO

b. Turin 18.11.1892
p. Lombriasco (Italy) 1911
d. Manique (Portugal) 3.2.1961

Bro. Joseph was born at Turin in 1892, joined our Society in 1911 and arrived in China in 1913. In that year our house in Macau reopened its gates after it had been forced to close down by the revolution in Portugal. Bro. Joseph worked for many years in that school in charge of book-binding and also as a useful member of the school's brass-band.

Brother spent also some time in Shanghai and again in Macau in charge of purchasing provisions for the community and for the boarders.

In 1929 Bro. Joseph went to Italy on leave, after which he was sent to work in Portugal. In the latter province in the house of Manique he passed away on February 3rd 1961 at the age of 69.



BRO. JOHN URBAN

b. Lubartov (Poland) 20.10.1881

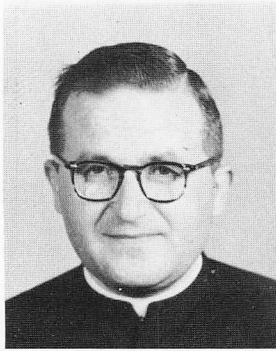
p. 1923

d. Rome 6.2.1963

Bro. John was born at Lubartov (Poland) in 1881. He joined our Society in 1923 and arrived in China in 1926. In spite of being a shoe-maker by profession he was unable to take charge of the workshop because of various handicaps among which his difficulty in learning the local language. In 1928 Brother was sent to Thailand, where he made himself useful in various jobs in the budding mission.

Later he returned to Europe. A man of simple ideas and tastes, he took delight in playing the violin by himself or in participating in celebrations of various kinds in the house. Unfortunately in this he was rather handicapped because of the fear that took hold of him when performing in public; yet he always made efforts to control it.

Bro. John spent many years in Italy and passed away in Rome on February 6th 1963 aged 82.



FR. GUERRINO LUVISOTTO.

b. Castions di Zoppola (Italy) 13.7.1912
p. Hong Kong 8.12.1937
o. Shanghai 8.6.1946
d. Pordenone (Italy) 6.2.1986.

Fr. Luvisotto was born on July 13th 1912 at Castions di Zoppola (Italy). On completing his primary education young Guerrino undertook the hard life of a peasant while helping out also at his parish church as sacristan. Feeling the desire to be a priest, Guerrino joined our school in Pordenone in 1932 as an aspirant. The very first day he was in the new place, he happened to meet a Sister who asked him, "Are you a son of Mary?"

"No, I am a son of Theresa!" he replied, yet unaware that late vocations used to be called "Sons of Mary". The Sister enjoyed his sense of ready humour. Having spent two years in Pordenone, Guerrino moved to the house for aspirants to our missions at Ivrea in 1934. Here he pursued his studies earnestly while making himself useful around the house with his various skills. In 1936 he received the cassock from the hands of Mons. Coppo and left for Hong Kong where he started his novitiate on December 7th 1936.

His Master was Fr. Almazan who appreciated the mature virtue of his novice, his hard work and openness. The late Fr. Luvisotto used to recall with evident pleasure his experiences as a novice. One day he was perspiring profusely in the yard digging a hole in which he was planning to bury a big boulder which he foresaw would be hard to shift elsewhere. There came on the scene the Master who half in earnest and half in zest gave him some friendly advice how to do the job.

"Dear Fr. Master! You better go and prepare your lectures. I have known how to do this job for a long time!" he replied.

"I see, I see" replied the Master with a mysterious smile.

Bro. Guerrino was thoroughly scared and said to himself, "How silly I have been. He'll certainly send me packing!"

Eventually on completing his novitiate Brother professed on December 8th 1937. He then studied his philosophy and was sent for his practical training to Shanghai "Don Bosco Middle School". His mature age

shortened the period from three to two years. The study of theology that followed was quite an ordeal for Bro. Guerrino who was already 30 years of age, but he worked hard in view of his future apostolate as a priest. He was truly jubilant on that June 8th 1946 when at last he reached the priesthood he had worked so hard for so long.

Fr. Luvisotto began his service as a priest at the St. Joseph's School in Nantao (Shanghai) with great zeal. The following year we find him serving in the budding boarding school at Ne Ziang in the countryside at the outskirts of the city. Father was happy to be back in the country, which he loved so dearly. It was indeed quite painful for him to leave when the authorities of the new regime took over the place and he had to move south. Next we find him in Macau (Colegio Don Bosco) where he served for three years as teacher and prefect of religious education.

In 1957 he was asked to move to Vietnam and gladly complied in spite of his age and the new language he would have to learn. An edifying example of generosity and spirit of sacrifice. In fact languages never were his cup of tea, **BUT THEY WERE NO STUMBLING BLOCK TO HIS MISSIONARY ZEAL EITHER.**

Whether it was Cantonese or Shanghainese, Portuguese or Vietnamese, Fr. Guerrino never floundered and with his amazing optimism, courage and sense of humour he always managed to come up on top of things. Very popular with the Americans when he served as administrator in the house of Thu Duc, he used to turn up at their bases wearing his usual smile and asking for "scrap" material for his school. It was natural that he eventually came to be known as "Fr. Scrap" His winning manners enabled him to obtain even four "scrap" cars which came in very handy to keep the school going.

From Thu Duc Father moved to Dalat where a Benedictine monastery had been purchased with a view to making it our novitiate house. The project was later abandoned because the location was not suitable for the purpose intended. After leaving Dalat Fr. Luvisotto for a number of years was in Saigon either Govap or Thu Duc in various capacities, always working hard in spite of age and poor health. In 1975 the Reds took over the country and Father became a persona non grata. He had to leave Vietnam and made his way back to the old house of Pordenone which had received him as a youthful aspirant many years before.

Always welcome wherever he went, he was particularly at home in Pordenone where confreres, boys and local folk loved him for his charming personality. Even as an old man now, he remained a farmer which he had always been proud to be. He enjoyed cultivating souls in the confession box as well as vegetables and fruit in the school garden. His exile from Vietnam always kept the flame of love for his country of adoption burning in his heart. Father would often send remittances to the economer general's office in Rome credit of the suffering confreres of Vietnam.

Thus good old Fr. Guerrino went on as "a good and faithful servant" to the very end. The Lord eventually noticed that Father was indeed old and tired (he used to say, "It is pleasant to grow old but not to be old!") and came to call him to his reward on February 6th 1986 at 74 years of age.



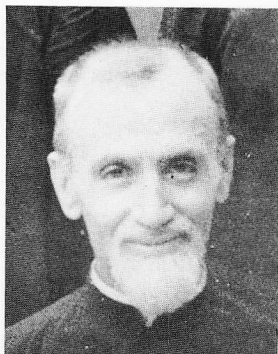
FR. MARTIN SCHNEIDTBERGER

b. Oberpriell (Germany) 26.10.1905
p. Ensdorf (Germany) 15.8.1929
o. Benedictbeuern (Germany) 4.7.1937
d. Bamberg (Germany) 9.2.1981

Fr. Martin was born in 1905 at Oberpriell, Bavaria (Germany). He joined our Society in 1929, received holy priesthood in 1937 and arrived in China in the same year. In our motherhouse in Macau Father served one year as assistant, one as prefect of religious education and eight in charge of the aspirants. After spending three years at the Aberdeen Trade School in Hong Kong, Father worked as rector in our motherhouse in Macau for nine years. Such a long period of hard work weakened his health considerably so that he was sent back to Germany on sick leave for six months.

Back in Macau, Father was assigned the task as bursar at Yuet Wah College in Macau. The change of community, duties and environment had an adverse effect on his mind and before long Father started showing signs of mental disorder, so that one year had hardly elapsed when Fr. Provincial thought it convenient to send him on long sick leave back to his native Germany. In his own country Father never recovered completely until his demise at Bamberg on 9th February 1981 at 76 years of age.

Fr. Martin was admired for his love for the Congregation and for China.



FR. JOHN GUARONA

b. San Salvatore Monferrato (Italy) 12.3.1889

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 17.3.1908

o. Turin 10.8.1913

d. Piossasco (Italy) 10.2.1961.

Fr. Guarona was born at San Salvatore Monferrato (Italy) on 12th March 1889. Young John was trained as a type-setter and printer apprentice at Valdocco and later joined the "Figli di Maria" (late vocations).

He professed in 1908 and received priestly ordination in 1913. In the same year Father arrived in China and for five years served as prefect of studies at our motherhouse in Macau.

When our Society took charge of the mission of Shiu Chow, Father was chosen by Blessed Bishop Versiglia to join him in his pioneering work.

At first Fr. John worked in the district of Nam Yung and later in Shiu Chow as vicar delegate. Following the glorious death of Bishop Versiglia Fr. Guarona looked after the vicariate until the new vicar apostolic took over. In 1930 Fr. John left the mission and served as superior of the motherhouse in Macau and subsequently of that of St. Louis in Hong Kong during the hard times of the Pacific war and the Japanese occupation.

Fr. John concluded his apostolate in our province by another three year term of rectorship in the motherhouse in Macau, after which because of ill health he returned to his native Italy. For several years Father was spiritual director at our house in Caserta. His last stint was at our rest-house at Piossasco as he was already affected by the ailment which would eventually cause his demise.

Father passed away in 1961 aged 72. A great lover of Don Bosco and friend of the Chinese people for whose welfare he exerted himself with zeal and a generous heart.



BRO. ANGELO BUGGEA.

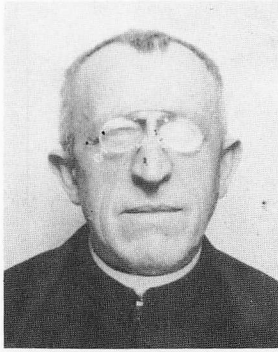
b. Favara (Italy) 10.8.1919
p. Hong Kong 29.10.1939
d. Piosasco (Italy) 15.2.1948

Bro. Angelo was born at Favara (Italy) in 1919. Keen on following his elder brother Salvatore in China, he joined the missionary Juniorate at Gaeta and eventually in September 1938 sailed for China to start his novitiate in Hong Kong. He made his first profession in 1939.

In 1940 he followed his fellow students of philosophy to Shanghai where the studentate moved because of the war and there concluded his study of philosophy.

As a practical trainee he exerted himself with zeal as assistant of the novices in the same city. Unfortunately the privations of war-time coupled with the earnest performance of his duties had a serious effect on his already weak health and eventually Brother contracted TB. He put patiently with his increasing discomforts setting an edifying example of Christian resignation to God's will.

As soon as it became possible, Brother left for Italy. In his native country he was taken good care of at our home for infirm confreres at Piosasco, where he spent the last few months of his exemplary life in the footsteps of Fr. A. Beltrami. He passed away piously in 1948 aged 29.



FR. ANTHONY MARTIN

b. Nice (France) 18.6.1883
p. Smyrne 8.9.1912
o. Genzano (Italy) 29.9.1916
d. Nice 17.3.1976

Fr. Martin was born at Nice (France) in 1883. In 1903 he started his novitiate at Avigliana (Italy), where the French Province trained its junior confreres because of the difficult political situation at home. Having studied philosophy at Ivrea, Bro. Anthnoy was sent to the Middle East where he went through his practical training and studied theology. In 1915 he moved to Italy and the following year received the priestly ordination at Genzano near Rome. In the following years Fr. Anthony served in Palestine.

In 1924 he was in Turin waiting to depart for Africa when a numerous group of confreres were getting ready to sail for China. They had to sail in two separate groups, one of which lacked a priest to accompany them. Anthony was invited to join the group and he gladly gave up his journey to Africa to sail for China. He worked for about a year in Shanghai and later in Heung Shan near Macau. In 1927 he was invited to join the group of confreres who were sailing to Thailand to set up our work there. In the latter country Fr. Anthony served for several years, after which he returned to his native France. Subsequently he worked in several houses in the country and also in Algeria. In 1950 he was assigned to the house of Nice where he spent the rest of his life-time ministering to the spiritual needs of confreres and boys until he passed away at 92 in 1976.



FR. RAYMOND PETIT

b. Oyannax (France) 21.8.1902
p. Chateau d'Aix (France) 14.9.1929
o. Bangxang (Thailand) 3.6.1939
d. La Navarre (France) 16.2.1975

Fr. Raymond was born at Oyannax (France) in 1902 and on completing his basic education attended a course on navigation. After his military service he worked for a year in Africa and for one in Marseilles in two navigation companies. He finally landed in our Society where he took his first vows in 1929. Later he was sent to work in Thailand where he received holy priesthood in 1939. During the second world war and after it Father worked in Hanoi (Vietnam) helping Fr. Francis Dupont to run an orphanage for Eurasian children. Following the tragic death of Fr. Dupont, the activities of the orphanage were wound down and Fr. Raymond accompanied some twenty orphans to France where he managed to find a home for them.

From 1948 to 1951 Fr. Petit served in China (Kunming) with a brief stint also at the house of formation in Shanghai. Then he moved back to France, where he exerted himself tirelessly as an intelligent and responsible educator as well as exemplary religious.

Father Raymond passed away at 73 at La Navarre in 1975.



BRO. FRANCIS SADY STOPPA

b. Pedrinate (Switzerland) 26.5.1913
p. Castelnuovo Don Bosco (Italy) 10.8.1942
d. Hong Kong 22.2.1980

Bro. Stoppa was born at Pedrinate in Switzerland in 1913. After serving for six years in the police force, he felt a vocation for the religious life and joined our Juniorate at Ivrea, made his novitiate and professed at Castelnuovo Don Bosco in 1942. Later he worked at Cumiana and Valdocco as assistant chief instructor in the electro-mechanic engineering shop. Bro. Francis arrived in Hong Kong in 1947 and for six years headed the workshop at the Aberdeen Technical School.

Sent to the Philippines, Brother was again in charge of the workshop in Victorias (Negros) Don Bosco Technical School where he left a very positive impression as a responsible instructor and educator. Back in Hong Kong, Bro. Francis set up and headed the electro-mechanical engineering shop at the newly opened Tang King Po Technical School where he exerted himself for the next 23 years. From May 1979 he suffered several discomforts, which later were diagnosed as originating from cancer at the abdomen and the lungs. He was operated on but eventually had to stop working and to be hospitalized. During his lengthy illness Brother set a charming example of patience and spirit of piety. In the morning of February 22nd 1980, already approaching death, he received holy Communion and the sacrament of the sick and at 11.20 peacefully passed away aged 67.

Bro. Stoppa left a lasting impression of fidelity to his salesian missionary vocation in the many confreres, pupils and past-pupils he taught and edified with his saintly life.



BL. BISHOP LUIGI VERSIGLIA

b. Oliva Gessi (Italy) 5.6.1873
p. Valsalice (Italy) 11.10.1889
o. Ivrea (Italy) 21.12.1895
c. Canton 9.1.1921
d. Li Tau Tsui 25.2.1930

The figure of Blessed Bishop L. Versiglia is well-known, so here we limit ourselves to proposing a brief account of his life.

L. Versiglia was born at Oliva Gessi (Italy). As a boy he was lively and pious although keen on helping out in his parish church, he would not heed people urging him to be a priest. He worshipped horses and his dream for his future was to be a veterinary surgeon. Being offered a scholarship to continue his studies, young Luigi rejected it out of fear of being pushed to join the seminary. However he accepted the idea of going to Turin to study at Valdocco because in that city there existed a school for veterinary surgeons, which he dreamt eventually to manage to attend.

At Valdocco he behaved as an exemplary pupil. The atmosphere of the house where Don Bosco was still living, the examples of the missionaries who used to depart for America from the shrine of Our Lady and particularly the teachings of the catechist Fr. Trione eventually replaced in his young mind the love for horses with that for the missions.

Following three years in high school, Luigi started his novitiate and on October 11th 1889 took his first vows. His superiors then sent him to Rome to attend the Gregorian University, where he eventually gained his doctor's degree in philosophy.

During his stay in Rome Bro. Luigi took time to help out in the boys' club at the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, very much esteemed and loved by the youngsters who attended it. Meanwhile he went on training himself in the practice of virtue in preparation for his future missionary apostolate.

From Rome Brother Luigi moved to Foglizzo where for three years he taught philosophy and supervised the novices. He was just 22 when he received the priestly ordination following a special dispensation from lack of canonical age. Barely one year a priest, Fr. Luigi was made rector and master of novices at Genzano near Rome. In the latter house he deepened his spirit of piety, improved his ability to be a worthy superior and especially trained himself in humility, which was to be his typical virtue throughout his life.

In 1906 Father was put in charge of the first group of confreres who were to start Salesian work in China. In Macau Fr. Luigi took charge of the small orphanage which the local bishop had entrusted to our Society. It would take quite some time to describe the various difficulties Fr. Versiglia and his confreres had to face. One of them was the very limited space which allowed for no expansion. The bishop eventually found a better place for the Salesians but unfortunately a month had hardly elapsed when the revolution broke out which expelled all religious from Portugal and from the colonies. It was then that the Salesians had to move to nearby Hong Kong.

Fr. Luigi lost no time in his efforts to look for a place of work for his confreres. The bishop of Macau, unwilling as he was to lose the help of the Sons of Don Bosco, offered them the pastoral care of the district of Heung Shan adjacent to the Portuguese territory of Macau. Fr. Versiglia and Fr. Olive started their direct missionary apostolate there. The Superiors in Turin blessed the new enterprise and sent personnel to help. When eventually the Salesians were allowed to return to Macau, Fr. Versiglia was again in charge of the orphanage and besides he continued to be responsible for the missionary work in Heung Shan.

In 1918 the Holy See entrusted the Salesians with the mission of Shiu Chow and Fr. Versiglia was put in charge. Later he became the Vicar Apostolic of the same place. During his term of office as Vicar, Monsignor did not spare himself in the care of his flock. In spite of lack of personnel and of means, in spite of the raging civil war and the wide-spread xenophobia of the time, the Vicar was soon wellknown for his apostolic zeal and for his ability as a builder of churches and schools, he animated his fellow missionaries by word and example so that in a few years the number of christians increased considerably. However, the Bishop was most outstanding in his love and care for his confreres, setting remarkable examples of virtue and zeal.

Following his heroic death in defence of the honour of three young women who were travelling with him to Linchow, it was widely asserted that he was a martyr and a saint. Fr. F. Rinaldi who knew him well used to say that even without his martyrdom Bishop Versiglia qualified for the honour of the altars in view of his eminent virtues.

Bishop Versiglia was murdered on February 25th 1930, was declared a martyr by Pope Paul VI in 1976 and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1983.



BL. FR. CALLISTO CARAVARIO

b. Cuorgne' (Italy) 8.6.1903
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 19.9.1919
o. Shiu Chow 18.5.1929
d. Li Tau Tsui 25.2.1930

Born at Cuorgne' in northern Italy in 1903, Callisto nourished a twin affection from his early years: for the Church and for his mother.

He would often ask to be taken to church to pray and instead of spending his own free time playing around with his brother and sister he would rather stay at home to keep company to his mother.

The family having moved to Turin, he attended the oratory of St. Joseph where Fr. S. Garelli was rector and Bro. C. Braga a supervisor, very much liked by both of them. Following the advice of Fr. Garelli, he enrolled in the Salesian primary school of St. John the Evangelist in Turin where Bro. Braga was teaching. Later on Fr. Garelli kindly found some benefactors who offered to support Callisto through his middle school studies at the oratory.

From Valdocco he moved to the novitiate house at Foglizzo where he eventually made his profession in 1919. In a period of four years at Valsalice Brother completed his high school and college studies. Then he was sent to teach and supervise the apprentices at Valdocco.

The departure of Fr. Braga for China in 1919 and the visit of Bishop Versiglia in 1922 helped to focus the aspirations of Bro. Caravario on China. His dream eventually came true in 1924 when Fr. Garelli managed to have him join the group of confreres who were leaving to found Salesian work in Shanghai. In the latter city Bro. Callisto was great help to Fr. Garelli to the end of 1926 when the deteriorating political situation forced the Salesians drastically to reduce the personnel working in the city; so Bro. Callisto had to move to Macau; from the latter city later he was sent to the Portuguese island of Timor, where the Salesians were about to start a foundation in the capital Dili.

Brother did not stay long in that city because the house eventually was closed down, so that he had to make his back to China.

During his stay in Timor Brother had concluded his study of theology without, however, receiving holy orders, because the Bishop of Macau was unable to visit the territory in those years.

His health, however, by now had considerably deteriorated.

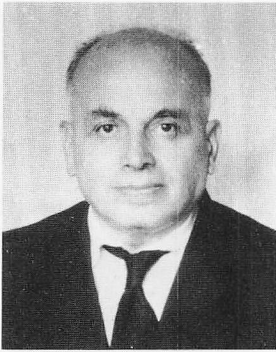
On arriving in China, Bro. Caravario was sent to the mission of Shiu Chow, where he received the subdiaconate, the diaconate and eventually holy priesthood at the hands of Bishop Versiglia on May 18th 1929.

The young priest was then assigned to the mission of Lin Chow, where he learnt the local dialect and took care of the mission's students and christians.

Before long his performance appeared so good that the veteran missionary in charge Fr. J. Guarona soon decided to leave him and make his way back to Shiu Chow. Although feeling the impact of solitude, the young priest did not lose heart and set about working hard. His pleasant work coupled with the good climate and healthy food before long brought about a considerable improvement in his condition. In early 1930 as Bishop Versiglia was planning to visit the district of Lin Chow, he asked Fr. Callisto to join him in Shiu Chow and then travel together back to Lin Chow. Father was glad to be given a chance to visit Shiu Chow and see his former pupils who were attending the Don Bosco School there.

On February 24th 1930 he left the city with the Bishop and in the afternoon of the following day met his glorious death with him in the attempt to protect the three young ladies who were travelling with them in the same boat.

Together with the heroic Bishop Fr. Caravario was declared a martyr by Pope Paul VI in 1976 and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1983.



BRO. JOSEPH BORRI

n. Ascoli Piceno (Italy) 4.4.1898
p. Ho Sai 24.2.1925
d. Piosasco (Italy) 7.3.1966

Bro. Borri was born at Ascoli Piceno (Italy) of a Roman noble family which was living in poverty as a consequence of financial failures. Young Joseph learnt the craft of book-binding.

From 1919 he was an aspirant at Schio and at Penango. In 1923 he left for China, made his novitiate at Ho Sai and took his first vows in 1925. During his novitiate Brother excelled for his spirit of piety and a witty and jolly character. While studying philosophy, he was advised to be a laybrother because he proved unable to pursue the demanding curriculum. This sudden change in his way of life had a negative effect on him, who then became a reserved and melancholic type.

From 1925 to 1954 Bro. Borri worked as a book-binding instructor and infirmarian at Shanghai, Macau and Hong Kong.

In 1954 he was sent to Vietnam and worked in the house of Thu Duc and later Go Vap as infirmarian, sacristan and teacher of English.

In early July 1965 Brother suffered a severe stroke. He was taken care of but his health started declining. In February 1966 he returned to his native Italy and was assigned to the house for infirm confreres at Piosasco, where shortly afterwards he piously passed away on March 7th of the same year aged 68.



BRO. THOMAS ORSOLIN.

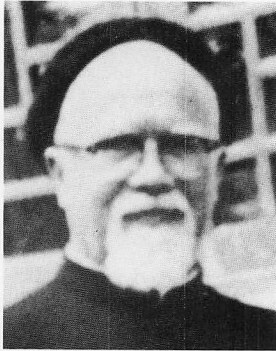
b. Siror (Italy) 11.8.1907
p. Hong Kong 12.1.1936
d. Belluno (Italy) 9.3.1971

Bro. Orsolin was born at Siror in northern Italy in 1907. He came to China in 1935 and made his novitiate at Shaukiwan (Hong Kong).

Following his profession in 1936, Brother worked with alacrity in various houses in Macau, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Peking.

Following the change of government in China in 1949, Brother made his way back to Italy and for two years helped out at Valdocco to prepare and ship various goods to our missions around the world.

Subsequently he asked to return to the East and was sent to the Philippines where he generously offered his services in several newly-opened houses. For health reasons finally Bro. Thomas went back to Italy and served for some time in the houses of Bardolino and Belluno in the Verona Province. He concluded his saintly life at sixty four on March 9th 1971.



FR. MARIO CALVI

b. Mornico Losana (Italy) 8.12.1906
p. Ho Sai 29.1.1925
o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931
d. Bagnolo (Italy) 20.3.1972

Fr. Calvi was born at Mornico Losana (Italy) in 1906. He arrived in China in 1924, took his vows in 1925 and received the priestly ordination at Hong Kong in 1931.

Young Fr. Mario then worked for twenty years in the mission of Shiu Chow, as a catechist in the minor seminary and subsequently as a pastor at Nam Yung and Lin Chow; in the latter place from 1948 to 1951 he served also as district vicar. After leaving the mission because of the change of government in China, Father worked for two years at Turin-Rebaudengo in charge of the local boys' Club.

After his return to the province, Fr. Calvi served as spiritual director and prefect of religious education at Tang King Po School in Kowloon, then as rector at Yuet Wah College in Macau for six years. After a further period of time at Tang King Po School Father was appointed parish priest at St. Anthony's in Hong Kong. Later he served at the Aberdeen Technical School as spiritual director for two years. In 1970 he returned to Italy because of ill health and was sent to the house for infirm confreres at Bagnolo Piemonte. In the latter place he seemed to recover so well that he decided to make his way back to China in early 1971. Unfortunately his condition took a turn for the worse again so that he had to return to his native country, where he arrived in very poor condition. Father Calvi spent the rest of his life-time at Bagnolo, where on March 10th he suffered a severe stroke, which eventually caused his demise on March 20th at 66. His characteristic virtue was goodness of heart which made him so popular with students and people at large. His memory lives on in many hearts.



FR. LINO REPETTO

b. Genova Sampierdarena (Italy) 28.5.1906

p. Strada Casentino (Italy) 24.9.1927

o. Hong Kong 15.6.1935

d. La Spezia (Italy) 20.3.1982

Born of a pious family at Genova Sampierdarena, Lino was a relative of blessed Mary Repetto, recently beatified by H. H. Pope John Paul II. His vocation to the Salesian life originated at our Don Bosco Youth Centre in Sampierdarena, where he took part in the scouting Movement. The charm of Salesian life attracted him and young Lino joined our Society in 1927 in the Province of Liguria.

On January 24th 1929 he arrived in China and after 2 years of work started his study of theology, which he concluded with priestly ordination in 1935 at Hong Kong.

Father Lino's early priestly apostolate took place in Hong Kong and Shanghai where he exerted himself as prefect of studies and economer in several houses. Following the change of government in China, Fr. Lino in 1951 moved to the Philippines where he went on working with alacrity particularly in the Houses of Victorias and Cebu: there he was wellknown for his dedication to the welfare of confreres and pupils alike.

In 1964 Father returned to his native Italy because of weak health and there he spent the remaining 18 years of his lifetime as assistant parish priest at our Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow in La Spezia. Endowed with a strong character, Father was also intelligent and wise. He was particularly keen on fostering religious and priestly vocations. While working in the parish he was especially concerned with the welfare of the poor and the sick.

Father died at 75 at La Spezia in 1982, after a lifetime wholly spent in the service of many in China, the Philippines and Italy. R.I.P.



BRO. ALOYSIUS BONNICI

b. Malta 11.2.1893

p. 12.3.1912

d. London (England) 21.3.1958

Bro. Bonnici was born in Malta in 1893. He arrived in China in 1925 with those confreres who founded our first house in Shanghai and worked there as an instructor in the tailoring shop until 1927. Then he spent some time at St. Louis School (Hong Kong), which had just been entrusted to our Society by the diocesan Authorities. Besides being in charge of the shop, Brother was also band-master and so contributed considerably to making the newly arrived Salesians better known.

A pious, hard-working and obedient confrere, Brother later on accepted the responsibility of managing the printing shop of the school. The change revealed his patience and spirit of sacrifice all the more.

Following the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese, Bro. Bonnici was interned at Stanley by the new authorities until the end of the conflict in spite of efforts made by the superiors through the International Red Cross to have him released. In the concentration camp he found work as a tailor and shared with his confreres the little money he was able to make. After the war ended, Brother was repatriated to Malta where he continued his life as a pious, obedient and hard-working salesian.

In 1957 he fell ill and was taken care of in his native Malta and later in London. In the latter city doctors diagnosed a brain tumour. An operation was performed but to no avail and good Bro. Luigi passed away piously on March 21st 1958 aged 65.



FR. BENJAMIN RONCHI

b. Racchioso d'Attimis (Italy) 3.11.1884
p. Turin 30.11.1907
o. Turin 7.11.1915
d. Lin Chow 22.3.1928

Fr. Ronchi was born at Racchioso d'Attimis (Italy) in 1884, joined our Society in 1907 and received the priestly ordination in 1915.

Following his arrival in China in 1919, Fr. Ronchi served as prefect of studies in our house in Macau, where his amiable manners soon won over the hearts of the pupils. They missed Father very much when he had to leave them to go to the mission of Shiu Chow. Here he exerted himself zealously in the districts of Yeung Shan and Lin Chow. While working there, Father managed to solve several difficult problems.

Mons. Versiglia commenting on his performance, wrote: "Fr. Ronchi possessed a remarkable sweetness of character which he had acquired through repeated efforts coupled with an outstanding steadiness of purpose. I think these two were the main traits of his personality."

His fellow missionaries enjoyed his company and used to call him familiarly "The smile in the family".

In 1927 although Father started feeling unwell, he carried on taking things seriously and showed even greater diligence than before in carrying out his duties and visiting his christians. Father Ronchi used to work with fellow missionary Fr. P. Parisi. The latter was just back after a visit to Tung Pi on March 21st and Fr. Ronchi who had just recovered from an attack of fever told him not to wait for him the following morning for holy mass because he intended to rest a little longer. Unfortunately when on the 22nd in the late morning Fr. Parisi knocked at his door and got no answer, on entering he realised that good old Fr. Benjamin had passed away during the night. He was 44. Fr. Ronchi left remarkable examples of piety and zeal for the salvation of his Chinese brothers and sisters.



BRO. FRANCIS MARTINEZ

b. Pineira de Arcos (Spain) 24.1.1897
p. S. José del Valle (Spain) 7.9.1917
d. Sevilla (Spain) 23.3.1971

Bro. Martinez was born at Pineira de Arcos (Spain) in 1897, joined our Society in 1917 and arrived in China in 1931. He taught in several trade schools of ours (Hong Kong, Kunming, Shanghai, Macau). In 1970 Brother left the province and returned to Spain.

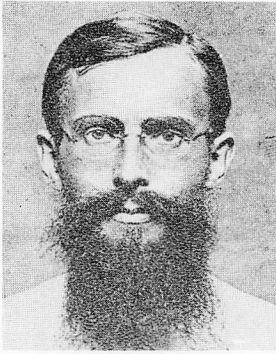
He was an exemplary confrere, quite competent in his trade, humble and self-sacrificing, entirely given over to the welfare of his pupils. He put into practice the preventive system with great conviction and diligence and used to supervise his pupils with care and zeal to the very end of his days. Quite keen on the observance of poverty, he practised this virtue both in his private life and at work in the shop with his pupils.

Bro. Francis was quite keen on guarding the virtue of Chastity in himself and others and set a shining example of obedience to his superiors in whom he used to see Don Bosco himself.

A pious religious, he edified both confreres and boys by deeds rather than words.

Rev. B. Tohill who knew him well said of him: "Bro. Martinez' presence in the house was a guarantee that God indeed was in our midst!" Bro. Francis shone for his goodness to all, confreres, pupils as well as employees and all on their part held him in great esteem and veneration; many used to regard him as a saint.

Brother died of arterio-schlerosis at 74 on March 23rd 1971.



FR. THEODORE WIECZOREK

b. Popovo Ignacevo (Poland) 6.11.1888
p. Radna (Poland) 15.8.1913
o. Macau 26.5.1923
d. Hong Kong 25.3.1957

Fr. Wiczorek was born in Poland in 1888. He joined our Society in 1913. Two years of military service interrupted his studies during world war one. After it he was sent to pursue his studies in Italy. In 1921 he left for China and in 1923 received the priestly ordination. Subsequently Father worked in the district of Heung Shan until 1927. Back to his native Poland for one year, he organized a group of benefactors who would support his apostolate generously in future years.

Back in China, Father served as provincial economer to 1952. He resided in Macau first and later in Hong Kong. In the latter city he was rector and then parish priest at St. Anthony's, superior for three years of St. Louis School, spiritual director for another three at the house of formation in Shaukiwan and then again at St. Anthony's. It was in those years that he showed remarkable spirit of sacrifice and courage when he managed to rescue about ten people from a huge fire that raged at the gas works in Western.

During the hard times of the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong Fr. Theodore made himself all to all people who were suffering from penury, hunger and sickness. It must also be accounted to his merit that he set up the house of formation in Shaukiwan on a solid basis.

In 1951 Father travelled to America to collect funds and to seek the cure for Parkinson's disease which was already troubling him. Unfortunately he did not recover and was forced to retire to the Aberdeen Trade School to assist confreres and pupils as spiritual director. He edified all in that school by his exemplary patience to 1957, when on the feastday of the Annunciation of the Lord 25th March he piously went to his reward aged 69.



FR. SIMON LEUNG SHU TCHI

b. Tsin Wan 3.10.1912
p. Hong Kong 8.12.1936
o. Shanghai 1.7.1948
d. Lin Chow 3.1956

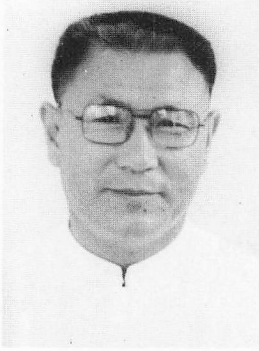
Fr. Simon was born at Tsin Wan (Kwang Tung Province, China) in 1912. He was for a time an apprentice cabinet-maker at our school in Macau and later at Shiu Chow. Here he decided to be a Salesian and after his novitiate at Hong Kong - Shaukiwan joined our Society in 1936.

During his course of philosophy Bro. Leung had to interrupt it and spent four years as a supervisor of the pupils at St. Louis School (Hong Kong), at Kunming and Aberdeen Trade School (Hong Kong).

Subsequently Brother was allowed to pursue his curriculum in Shanghai and on completing his philosophy and theology received holy priesthood in 1948 from Mons. M. Arduino.

After serving for a year in Macau, Fr. Simon was appointed principal of our school in Lin Chow in the mission of Shiu Chow. Not long after the Red Army had taken over control of the country, Fr. Simon became the target of suspicion and calumny as a counter-revolutionary element. Following the departure of his expatriate confreres from Lin Chow, Father was expelled from the mission, subjected to two ignoble popular trials and thrown into jail. He had hardly regained his freedom when one evening he realized that he was being followed by the police. Overcome by panic, he tried to escape by running in the dark. Unfortunately he tripped and fell to the ground breaking several of his teeth. Yet he managed to get away and to find refuge in Shanghai, where he was allowed to stay for three months. As soon as his permit came to an end, Father moved to Peking, but the authorities ordered him to return to his home-town to get his documents which at that time he did not possess.

Back in his own home-town, Father might have been able to live on in peace, but he opted to go back to his own community and departed for Peking. A few days had hardly elapsed after his arrival in the latter city when the authorities had him arrested with the other confreres of his community and sent him back south to Kwang Tung Province. Here he went through his final ordeal and suffered incarceration and maltreatment in Shiu Chow and Lin Chow until he crowned his heroic saga probably in March 1956 aged 44, an outstanding example of loyalty to the Church and to the Pope to the very end.



FR. MATTHEW TCHONG

b. Hsienhsien 15.8.1923
p. Hong Kong 16.8.1949
o. Bollengo (Italy) 1.7.1957
d. Macau 13.4.1982

Fr. Matthew was born at Hsienhsien (in Ho Pei Province) in 1923. He was training for holy priesthood in the seminary when he was affected by an eye ailment and forced to interrupt his studies. Our Fr. M. Acquistapace welcomed the young man to our house in Peking as an apprentice aspirant. Matthew was keen on hard work and on service on behalf of youth so that he easily adapted to the type of dire poverty in the house.

Hardly a year had elapsed when his eye-sight improved so much through the intercession of Our Lady that he asked and was granted permission to start his studies again. Bro. Matthew made his first profession in Hong Kong in 1949 and after his philosophy and practical training left for Bollengo in northern Italy to start his theology.

Newly ordained Fr. Matthew made his way back to the province and was assigned to serve in Vietnam. Here Father exerted himself zealously at Govap and Tranhanh near Dalat to assist the novice master and to look after the aspirants. The times were difficult because of the raging civil war. Father for a time was also superior of the house until the Vietcongs overran the place. Subsequently Fr. Matthew was put in charge of a parish near Danang. However his activities did not please the new masters, who on the excuse that he was a Chinese national expelled him from the country.

Back in Hong Kong, Father was put in charge of a small reformatory entrusted by the Portuguese government of Macau to the Salesians in Coloane Island. In the latter place Father exerted himself zealously until 1980 when his health started showing signs of strain. Father had to undergo a serious operation at the liver. The surgeons gave him one more year to live. Yet he lived on for two more years during which he managed to pay farewell visits to our confreres in Taiwan and to some relatives of his in northern China.

Back in Macau, Father felt that his condition was fast deteriorating. Admitted to the local government hospital of St. Januarius, he piously concluded his earthly pilgrimage on April 13th 1982 at the age of 59.



FR. CARLO FRIGO

b. Mosson di Cogoglio (Italy) 15.1.1889

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 15.9.1908

o. Turin 26.4.1916

d. Forli' (Italy) 15.4.1976

Fr. Frigo was born at Mosson di Cogoglio (Italy) in 1889. Having professed in our Society in 1908, after his study of philosophy he was sent to Brasil for his practical training. At the conclusion of his theology in Italy he received holy priesthood in 1916. Endowed with a strong character and robust physique, during the first world war he served in the army as a military chaplain with the rank of captain.

Fr. Frigo arrived in China in 1918 and served in the vicariate of Shiu Chow, Yeung Shan district to 1924. After spending one year in New York and two in Portugal, Father returned to China and worked for a while in the district of Heung Shan near Macau until the district was returned by the Salesians to the Bishop of Macau (1928). Father then served as prefect of religious education and later as rector in our mother-house in Macau. In 1934 he went back to Italy and served for many years in our House at Forli' as spiritual director. In the latter house he joyfully celebrated his golden jubilee anniversary of priesthood in 1966 and also concluded his long and fruitful pilgrimage on earth at 87 years of age on April 15th 1976.



FR. GREGORY PY

b. Koyi 12.3.1919
p. Shanghai 16.8.1942
o. Hong Kong 30.5.1953
d. Hong Kong 15.4.1975

Fr. Gregory was born in 1912 in a small minority group of christians in south-western Yunnan Province. From the diocesan seminary at Kunming young Gregory moved to our newly established school in the same city and later joined our aspirants in Hong Kong (Aberdeen). After his novitiate in Shanghai, he professed in 1942 and studied philosophy in the same city. He underwent his practical training in Kunming after which he studied his theology partly in Shanghai and partly in Hong Kong. Having received holy priesthood in Hong Kong in 1953, Father served as a teacher in the same city, very much appreciated by his pupils.

Later he was sent to work in Tainan, where he exerted himself teaching a good number of catechumens of whom 32 eventually were baptized. Later on Father moved to our house in Taipei where he helped in translation work with our Salesiana Publishers. From then on he concentrated on the apostolate of the pen. He contributed considerably to making Don Bosco better known through two local catholic weeklies as well as the Clergy Review of Taipei and the Salesian Bulletin in Chinese. On the occasion of the beatification of Fr. M. Rua Fr. Gregory published an attractive biography of the newly Blessed Father. He also published the monthly leaflet "The Voice of Don Bosco" which reached the number of 5,000 copies per month. He also wrote several books of episodes from the life of St. John Bosco and the edifying dreams of the Saint. Meanwhile his health started showing signs of strain. Father was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital (Lo Tung) managed by the Camillian Fathers; his ailment was diagnosed as "Hodgkin disease" which caused him intense suffering. Father lost his eyesight and was troubled by strong headaches. He was then transferred to the "Caritas Medical Centre" in Hong Kong for further treatment which, however, proved fruitless. Amid his intense pains Fr. Py was consoled by a good number of confreres, friends and old boys who visited him. His ordeal ended on April 15th when Father passed away to return to the Lord aged 56.

A confrere who loved Don Bosco and our Society and offered all his energies for the welfare of youth.



BRO. JOSEPH KAPCZAR

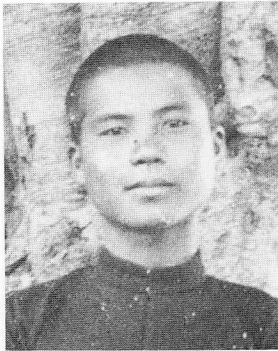
b. Erdoterek (Hungary) 22.3.1899
p. Szentkereszt (Hungary) 26.7.1925
d. Hong Kong 16.4.1978

Brother Joseph was born at Erdoterek in Hungary in 1899 and learnt the trade of shoe-making. He served his country as a soldier in the first world war.

In 1924 at 25 years of age Joseph joined our Society. Very loyal to Don Bosco for over half a century, he faithfully kept the resolutions made during his novitiate: "Retirement-silence-fidelity to my vocation". Bro. Kapczar arrived in China in 1931 and served as a shoe-maker and later an assistant to the economer in some of our houses in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Macau. In 1961 Brother was assigned the fourth time to our house of formation in Hong Kong, where he spent the last few years of life on earth.

Bro. Joseph possessed a dignified bearing and a pleasant way of conversing with people. He showed a keen interest in world events and kept informed about the vicissitudes of his native Hungary under communist regime and prayed every day for his country's liberation. From 1976 Brother started showing signs of ill health. Before long the doctors at St. Paul's Hospital diagnosed cancer. He was duly operated on and seemed to recover for a few months but before long his ailment re-appeared. Brother accepted his trial with faith from the hands of God and prepared in earnest to meet the Lord.

He passed away peacefully on April 16th 1978 at 79 years of age and 54 of religious profession. A typical lay Salesian, loyal to Don Bosco, pious and cheerful.



BRO. JOSEPH LAM KWONG TCHI.

b. Ngan Hang 1905
p. Macau 2.2.1927
d. Macau 21.4.1927

Bro. Lam was born at Ngan Hang, a village near Macau, in 1905. At 11 years of age he entered our orphanage in Macau. Later he transferred to our Don Bosco School in Shiu Chow where he was trained as a tailor and matured his vocation. Joseph was a simple soul, pious, gentle and virtuous. He loved Don Bosco and our Society and appreciated its mission and spirit.

He had hardly made his profession on February 2nd 1927 when he was taken seriously ill. His spiritual director eight days before he passed away asked him whether he was willing to accept God's will in his regard, Brother replied that of course he was.

Knowing that he was about to go back to the Lord, he never lost his peace and composure and passed away peacefully surrounded by his praying confreres at noon on April 21st 1927. He was 22 years of age. Bro. Joseph was the second Chinese confrere to pass away in the province.



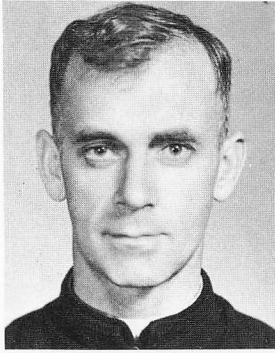
BRO. LUIGI CARMAGNOLA

b. Turin 2.4.1856
p. 18.9.1897
d. Turin 26.4.1932

Bro. Carmagnola was born in Italy in 1856. In 1906 he arrived in China as a member of the first batch of confreres who were to open the first Salesian house in Macau. In the latter city Brother set up the first shoe-making shop and distinguished himself also as a player in the school's brass-band. Both the shoe-making shop and the brass-band attracted considerable interest by the people of Macau who thought that the orphanage was aiming solely at the welfare of the Chinese population of the territory. In the new shop they found the solution to the footwear needs. The brass-band, the first ever in the city, brought plenty of life and cheer to the local population.

In 1910 the house at Macau had to be closed down in the wake of the revolution in Portugal, which proved to be hostile to religious Bodies. On that occasion our confreres transferred to Hong Kong while Fr. Versiglia and Fr. Olive found work in the nearby district of Heung Shan.

Bro. Luigi instead travelled back to his native Italy where he spent the rest of his life-time as a good religious in several houses. He eventually died at Torino on April 26th 1932 aged 76.



FR. FRANCIS RUHLAND

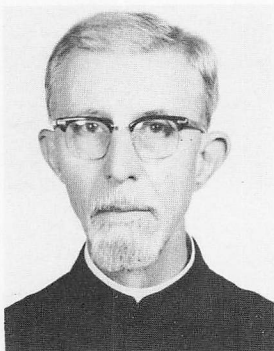
b. Morsburg (Germany) 12.6.1914
p. Ensdorf (Germany) 29.1.1934
o. Shanghai 29.1.1944
d. Munchen (Germany) 27.4.1958

Fr. Francis was born in 1914 at Morsburg (Bavaria). He joined our Society in 1934 and subsequently came to China. He studied philosophy in Hong Kong (Shaukiwan) and underwent his practical training at our School in Shiu Chow and later in Hong Kong – St. Louis and Aberdeen. He showed himself a devoted educator as well as a capable teacher and musician. After studying his theology in Shanghai, he received holy priesthood there in 1944.

In the following years Fr. Francis served in our St. Joseph's School in Shanghai (Nantao) as teacher, prefect of studies and of religious education until 1950.

Transferred to Hong Kong, Father went on serving as a hard-working teacher of science at St. Louis School (Hong Kong). In 1951 Father spent a few months on sick leave in his native Germany. Back in Hong Kong, before long he showed signs of ill health again and so was repatriated so that he might be taken care of by capable specialists. At Munich he gladly accepted to be operated on in the hope of regaining his good health and to return to work in China. Unfortunately the operation turned out to be of no avail and good Fr. Francis passed away on April 27th 1958 aged 44.

Fr. Ruhland was endowed with strong and simple faith; he was regular in his practices of piety and showed great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to Our Lady Help of Christians. He was ever ready to hear confessions at St. Anthony's and showed keen interest in the welfare of his fellow human beings, particularly those he taught in his physics lectures. To him teaching was always a valuable form of apostolate.



FR. ROBERT VETCH

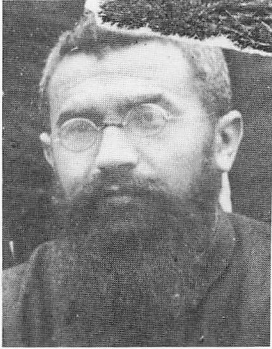
b. Biarritz (France) 14.4.1894
p. Chateau d'Aix (France) 29.9.1920
o. Lyon (France) 20.12.1924
d. Hong Kong 29.4.1979

Fr. Vetch was born in France in 1894 of a Scottish father and a Yugoslav mother. From 1900 to 1904 young Robert lived with his family at Foo Chow (China) where the French consul was the well-known Paul Claudel. The latter tutored Robert in a serious and exacting manner.

Later the family moved to Belgium where Robert matured his vocation among the Salesians in Tournai. He also spent some time studying for a degree in England. Prevented by the breaking out of the first world war from joining the Salesians, eventually he professed in our Society in 1920 in the province of Lyon where he received holy priesthood in 1924. Fr. Vetch arrived in China in 1926 and spent 20 years in our mission, of which thirteen in the district of Ying Tak. In the latter place he suffered a good deal during the Sino-Japanese conflict since his mission lay right between the two contending armies. Later he was appointed secretary to Mons. Canazei, the Vicar Apostolic with whom he shared many views on the Church and its mission.

Before dying Mons. Canazei designated him his own pro-vicar, but owing to a misunderstanding, some other missionary was appointed to the post instead. Fr. Vetch with admirable humility gave up the honour which was due to him by right.

After leaving the mission, Father taught at Yuet Wah College in Macau and St. Louis and Salesian Schools in Hong Kong. He was very much appreciated for his gentlemanly manners and his ready availability to all. From 1962 Fr. Robert lived and worked at the house of formation in Cheung Chau and Shaukiwan, where he kept his youthful spirit to the very end of his days. He was keen on reading, on taking notes of what he read, on attending conferences and meetings, always showing great interest and ardour as well as the simplicity so dear to Our Lord. He promoted ecumenism with enthusiasm and was wellknown for his attachment to the Pope and to his teaching. He loathed all kinds of violence and vis-a-vis narrow-minded or wrong attitudes he heroically managed to keep his peace. Father's last year on earth was rather painful, but he was true to his resolve never to cause trouble to people. He departed peacefully on April 29th 1979 at the age of 85.



FR. STEPHEN BOSIO

b. San Cristoforo (Italy) 7.12.1890

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 1909

o. Fossano (Italy) 16.7.1916

d. Serravalle Scrivia (Italy) 3.5.1967

Fr. Bosio was born in 1890 at S. Cristoforo (Italy). He joined our Society in 1910. During world war one he served in the army and received holy priesthood in 1916. Soon after his discharge he arrived in China and for six years worked at Nam Yung (Vicariate of Shiu Chow).

Later Father spent two years in our mother-house in Macau and after a year in Heung Shan district resumed his apostolate at Ying Tak.

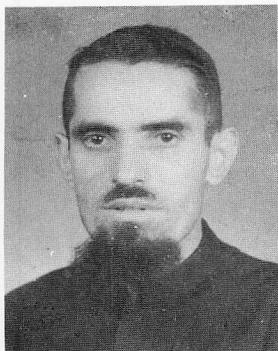
In 1930 one of his legs was injured in an accident and Father lived on patiently with his injury that never healed. After leaving the mission, Father worked at St. Louis School and later at the house of formation in Shaukiwan, which he left to be repatriated in 1934.

His poor health did not allow him to return to China, and he spent several years serving as spiritual director in different houses. Later he shifted to communities of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Pella, Mornese and finally at Serravalle Scrivia.

At Pella he suffered a stroke which warned him to be ready for the Lord's Call. On May 2nd 1967 after celebrating holy mass, Father felt an intense pain at his heart and said, "This is the beginning of the end!"

He received the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy Viaticum the following day with great devotion and passed away peacefully at 6 p.m. .

His devout demise came to crown a zealous apostolic life which prepared him worthily to meet the Lord. He was 77 years of age.



FR. MAURILIO CANDUSSO

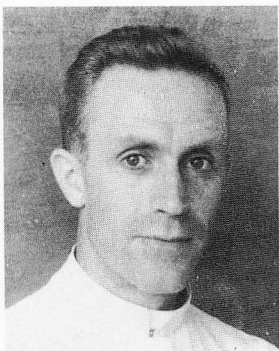
b. Juris di Ragogna (Italy) 27.8.1909
p. Hong Kong 11.1.1935
o. Shanghai 29.1.1943
d. Udine (Italy) 12.5.1972

Fr. Candusso was born in 1909 at Juris di Ragogna (Italy). He joined our society as a late vocation and professed on January 11th 1935 at the house of formation in Shaukiwan (Hong Kong). After receiving holy priesthood at Shanghai in 1943, he showed great zeal in doing good to souls through teaching catechism, the care of catechumens and the ministry of reconciliation; he was indeed a prudent, serene and understanding spiritual director.

At Shanghai he served as prefect of studies, prefect of religious education, parish priest and rector. Following the change of regime in China, Father left Shanghai for Hong Kong and in 1952 was eventually sent to the Philippines, where the Salesians had just started their work.

At our school in Mandaluyong Father spent the last 15 years of his zealous life in charge of the boy's club, as spiritual director of the community as well as workshop instructor in the mechanical engineering department. In spite of his limited command of the language, Father made himself all to all as an ardent apostle. In December 1970 it was found that his lack of strength and stomach pains were due to a tumour. He was operated on but to no avail. His superiors talked him into repatriating to see whether he would be able to recover completely. Back in Italy he kept dreaming of going back to his apostolate in the Philippines until he had to be told that there was no more hope for him. Yet he did not lose heart but kept his serene and cheerful mood. He used to say that he would pass away on a Friday because on a Friday he had made his profession and on a Friday he had received holy priesthood. Actually Friday May 12th 1972 was the day the Good Lord came to call him. After receiving the last sacraments and devoutly following the prayers for the dying, Fr. Candusso peacefully passed away at 3 p.m. .

The confreres who assisted him thought that the Good Lord had come to accompany him to heaven at the very hour He himself had breathed his last on Calvary. Fr. Maurilio was 63 years of age.



FR. JOHN MONCHIERO

b. Fossano (Italy) 1.5.1915
p. Pinerolo (Italy) 17.9.1931
o. Chieri (Italy) 1.6.1940
d. Manila (Philippines) 17.5.1976

Fr. Monchiero was born at Fossano in 1915. He joined our Society in 1931 and received holy priesthood in 1940. During world war II he assumed the pseudonym "Luciano" and served as a chaplain to the partisans who were operating on the mountains of Piedmont in northern Italy. Father spent the war years amid trials and dangers. He knew that among the partisans he assisted the marxist ones were quite active propagandists, yet he managed to have almost all his charges receive the sacraments at Easter. The war over, the liberation Committee at Novara handed over its powers to the British occupation forces. On that occasion Fr. John induced the commandant of the latter to pay a courtesy visit to the heroic Bishop of Ossola. The latter received the commandant with pleasure, congratulated him on his victory and boldly warned him to behave with dignity and justice. Fr. Monchiero arrived in China in 1947. He worked for a time in Hong Kong, then in Shiu Chow and Ho Sai. After the Red Army had taken over the country he went around freely. One day he was seen taking photographs of the city from a hilltop, was promptly arrested and jailed but luckily not for long. After leaving China in 1952 he moved to the Philippines, where he served with zeal in several capacities, very much esteemed and loved by many. Endowed with quite a sensitive heart, Father was very much affected by the demise of his mother, whom he dearly loved. The shock was too much for him who did not enjoy strong health and he passed away in Manila on May 17th 1976 aged 61.



FR. BASSANO LARENO FACCINI

b. San Colombano al Lambro (Italy) 25.4.1890
p. Turin 10.10.1909
o. Foglizzo (Italy) 22.9.1917
d. Pak Heung 19.5.1945

Fr. Larena was born at San Colombano al Lambro (Italy) in 1890. He joined our Society in 1909, received holy priesthood in 1917 and arrived in China in the following year.

After serving in the Vicariate of Shiu Chow for six years, Father was appointed master of novices and teacher to the newly professed clerics. He also spent a year as prefect of religious education at our house in Macau, after which he went back to the mission and later was appointed secretary to Bishop Versiglia. When in 1930 the latter met his glorious death with his companion Fr. Caravario, Fr. Larena left no stone unturned to recover the mortal remains of the Martyrs and to collect all the necessary documents connected with their life and glorious death in view of a future canonical investigation. For this purpose he visited Italy and carried on his research also when, back in China, he worked at Kam Kong (Nam Yung) and at Pak Heung (Lok Chong).

During the Japanese occupation Pak Heung was controlled by the guerilla while the city was in the hands of the Japanese army. Father used to visit the city quite often and managed to purchase salt, which was monopolised by the authorities. The guerilla took him for a spy and on May 19th 1945 arrested him while he was on his way back to Pak Heung and shot him dead. His mortal remains were found several years later and given worthy burial near the church of St. Joseph in Ho Sai. Father was 55 when he passed away.



BRO. PETER YEH

b. Yung Kia 5.10.1921
p. Shanghai 16.8.1941
d. Shanghai 19.5.1952

Bro. Peter was born in 1921 at Yung Kia in Chekiang Province. He made his profession in 1941 and studied philosophy at the house of formation in Shanghai. A very pious and diligent young cleric, he was quite active in the work of the sodalities and the boys' club, and used to take a keen interest in performing on stage for them. He went through his practical training at the Don Bosco Technical School in Shanghai, very much appreciated by confreres and students alike.

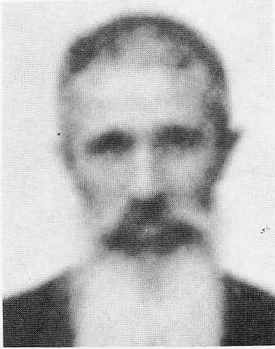
When the new regime came to power in China in 1949, Brother was already studying his theology at the house of formation in Shanghai (Nantao). As his companions were evacuated to Hong Kong, Brother was sick with TB in hospital and was left behind in Shanghai.

Now there began for him a slow martyrdom. The authorities were soon bent on taking over all religious establishments in the city and started cleverly stage-managed campaigns to lend an appearance of legality to their moves. The brunt of the attack against our St. Joseph's School had to be borne by Bro. Peter. He had been made principal in place of the rector who was not a local confrere and so not accepted by the authorities.

Brother had to put up with all manners of trouble stirred up on purpose to make the school unmanageable and so to give the authorities a pretext to take it over. Brother was temporarily jailed, charged with unwillingness to co-operate with government.

Then there began the well-known "Three Self Movement" which aimed at severing all links of the Church in China with Rome. During a meeting especially arranged to include the principals of catholic Schools to adhere to the movement, one of our confreres Fr. Joseph Fu very loyally and boldly stood up and refused to sign the prepared declaration, urging his colleagues to follow suit. Before long Fr. Fu was arrested followed soon afterwards by Bro. Peter. The hard life in jail broke the physical resistance of Bro. Peter but not his noble spirit of loyalty to the Church.

The youthful martyr passed away on May 19th 1952 at 31, a heroic witness to Christ and to His Church.



FR. DOMINIC CORREA

- b. Pado de los Toros (Uruguay) 4.8.1895
- p. Manga (Uruguay) 23.12.1922
- o. Montevideo (Uruguay) 23.12.1922
- d. Asunción (Paraguay) 19.5.1974

Fr. Dominic was born in Uruguay in 1895. He joined our Society in 1914, received holy priesthood in 1922 and arrived in China the following year. He served in the mission of Shiu Chow until 1936.

One day Mons. Versiglia realized that one volume of the original works of St. Theresa was missing from his own library. Later he found that the missing book was there among those which belonged to Fr. Dominic who had borrowed it so that he might be able to read it in his own language.

After thirteen years of service in the mission Father was assigned to our School in Macau as prefect of studies. There he worked until 1940 when he returned to his own country. There too he intended to be a missionary and was assigned to the mission of Chaco where he worked for many years and served also as vicar-apostolic for a time. Fr. Dominic concluded his zealous life at Asunción on May 19th 1974 at 79 years of age.



FR. JOSEPH BETZENHOFER

b. Shenkenau (Germany) 9.10.1901
p. Ensdorf (Germany) 15.8.1928
o. Benediktbeuern (Germany) 4.7.1937
o. Burghausen (Germany) 23.5.1969

Fr. Joseph was born at Shenkenau (Germany) in 1901. He joined our Society in 1928 and received holy priesthood in 1937. The same year he arrived in China. After serving for some years in Hong Kong, Father was sent to Chi Hing in our mission. During the war he was kept in the concentration camp which held our Italian and German confreres. Eventually he managed to obtain the permission of the authorities to return to his own district of Chi Hing. After the war Father spent some years serving in our schools in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Süchow. Being a good wood-carver, in the latter city he set up a wood-carving shop. There he produced the beautiful statue of O. L. Help of Christians that was to be the centre of devotion and of pilgrimages in our house in Peking. Father did also good business selling many busts of chairman Mao!

However our expatriate confreres were all doomed to leave China, now controlled by the new government. In 1952 Fr. Joseph went back to his native Germany. By now his health was in bad shape. Father spent the rest of his life moving from one hospital to another either as a chaplain or as a patient.

He concluded his earthly pilgrimage at Burghausen on May 23rd 1969 at 68 years of age.



BRO. MAURICE KWAN NIM CHEUNG

b. Port Louis (Maurice Islands) 17.6.1923

p. Macau 16.8.1946

d. Hong Kong 3.6.1976

Bro. Maurice was born at Port Louis (Maurice Islands) in 1923 of Chinese parents. His family having moved to China in 1938, young Maurice decided to join our Society. After spending some years as an aspirant in our house at Aberdeen (Hong Kong), he made his novitiate in Macau where he took his vows in 1946. Being unable to pursue his studies for holy priesthood, he humbly acknowledged God's will in his regard and worked modestly and cheerfully as a loyal Salesian brother. He served as a capable administrator at Macau (Yuet Wah College, Instituto Salesiano, Coloane).

Having fallen ill, Brother moved to Hong Kong to receive proper treatment. Living at our house of formation in Shaukiwan, he made himself useful to the community. The one thing he never managed to put up with was whiling away his time doing nothing. Having recovered slightly, Brother rejoined his community at Instituto Salesiano, Macau. However the following year he had to give up his duties again and make his way back to Hong Kong. In the latter place he spent the last years of his edifying life on earth. He was affected by leukimia, which was slowly killing him.

Medication and blood transfusions proved of no avail and Brother peacefully passed away on June 3rd 1976 after devoutly receiving the last sacraments, aged 53.



FR. ERNEST FONTANA

b. Crescentino (Italy) 10.5.1902

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 13.9.1918

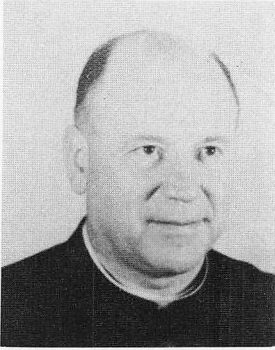
o. Shanghai 14.2.1926

d. Dily (Timor) 8.6.1942

Fr. Fontana was born at Crescentino (Italy) in 1902. He joined our Society in 1918, came to China in 1924 and received holy priesthood at Shanghai in 1926. Father spent most of his life-time in the latter city from 1924 to 1941 except for one year in Hong Kong as prefect of religious education. At Shanghai he served as supervisor of the pupils, teacher, spiritual director and then rector for a good number of years. It was due to his ability that the Salesians managed to stay put and work in the city to develop their apostolate quite successfully.

Father was the superior of our community in Shanghai-Chapei when he had to leave the city in a hurry to escape the attempts of powerful and wicked people to bring him to court on trumped up charges.

After living for a while in Macau, Father moved to the city of Dily in Portuguese Timor. There he served for some time as a teacher in the local seminary. As the Japanese invading forces were approaching, Father went to work at a mission station in the interior of the island. His health being now in bad shape, he made his way back to Dily where he arrived very seriously sick. He passed away there on June 8th 1942 at 40 years of age.



FR. LAWRENCE BURI

b. Freyre (Argentina) 3.7.1905
p. Bernal (Argentina) 27.1.1924
o. Magliano Sabina (Italy) 10.8.1930
d. Villalba (Argentina) 11.6.1961

Fr. Buri was born at Freyre (Argentina) in 1905. He joined our Society in 1924 and received holy priesthood at Magliano Sabina (Italy) in 1930. At Rome he gained a doctorate in theology in 1931 and subsequently came to China in 1932 and served as a prefect of religious education and teacher at the house of formation in Shaukiwan.

Because of ill health Father spent a few months recuperating in Macau and Shanghai. After his leave in his native country in 1938, Father was sent to India where he taught theology at our seminary in Shillong from 1939 to 1945. Subsequently he served for three years as parish priest and superior at the Don Bosco Technical School there. His term completed, Father had to be repatriated because of ill health. In his native country he was rector and teacher for several years in the province of Cordoba. He had been for some years rector at our international seminary at Villalba when the Lord called him to Himself.

It was midday on June 11th 1961: he had just celebrated holy mass and given the first holy Communion to three pupils addressing them a short sermonette. Then suddenly he collapsed and died of a heart attack. He was 56.



BRO. CARLO FINO

- . Avigliana (Italy) 24.1.1905
- . Foglizzo (Italy) 4.10.1924
- . Hong Kong 12.6.1935

Bro. Fino was born at Avigliana (Italy) in 1905. After completing his professional course at S. Benigno, he made his novitiate and professed in 1924. He then left for China.

Brother was a very skilful cabinet-maker and distinguished himself as a workshop instructor at our Schools in Shanghai, Macau and Hong Kong (St. Louis and Aberdeen). In most of the Schools in which he served Brother had to start from scratch. He did not give up when one day he lost three fingers in a workshop accident. Because of this, Brother had to forgo playing the clarinet in the school band. However he at once learnt to play another instrument which could be managed with two fingers only. For a time he was also band-master.

While serving in St. Louis, Brother was invited to teach also at nearby King's College, run by the government. In the latter place his ability was much appreciated.

An exemplary religious as well as a zealous educator, Brother was esteemed and loved by superiors and pupils alike even the less co-operative ones. The latter, taken care of patiently, eventually improved their ways, many of them joined the Church and on graduating left the School well-equipped for life.

A short illness, probably the effect of a sun-stroke, caused Brother's untimely demise at 30 years of age on June 12th 1935. Brother was deeply mourned by the many who knew him. He was the first Salesian to pass away in Hong Kong.



FR. NG (WU) SAN KIT

b. Pak Heung 19.5.1925
p. Shanghai 16.8.1943
o. Turin 1.7.1953
d. Hong Kong 13.6.1960

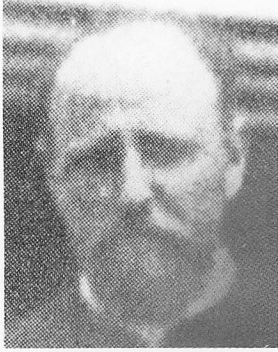
Fr. Ng was born at Pak Heung (Lok Chong, China) in 1925, joined our Society in 1943 and after his practical training was sent to study theology at Turin (Crocetta). In the latter studentate he gained a licence in sacred theology.

After receiving holy priesthood at Turin in 1953, Fr. Ng, back in the province, served as prefect of studies and later of religious education at Salesian School in Shaukiwan and subsequently at Tang King Po School.

Before long Father started feeling pains at his nose, which he thought was due to a protracted bad cold. However it turned out to be due to cancer. The latter was taken care of by means of very strong X-ray treatment, which unfortunately turned out to be of no avail.

Father then withdrew to the Tang King Po School's holiday house in Cheung Chau, where he was visited by the confreres of his own community and by those of the nearby Salesian House of studies quite often.

Eventually he was informed that there was little hope for him. He accepted God's will with faith and concentrated on getting ready to meet the Lord. On June 10th he was admitted to Canossa Hospital, where Fr. Cucchiara, also in hospital recovering from an operation, took care of him and assisted him until he eventually passed away at 11 pm. on June 13th 1960 aged 35. His untimely death was deeply mourned by confreres, relatives and pupils. His memory remains as a blessing in the province.

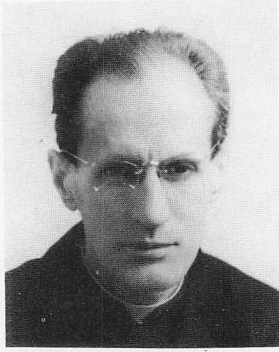


FR. ALFONSO NARDI

b. Montelupa (Italy) 2.8.1879
p. 4.10.1986
o. 20.9.1902
d. Port Said (Egypt) 18.6.1934

Fr. Nardi was born at Montelupa (Italy) in 1879. He gained degrees in literature and theology. After serving as prefect of religious education and rector in several houses in Italy, Father came to China in 1923 with Bishop A. Versiglia, hoping to make himself useful with his knowledge and experience.

However he soon found it difficult to adapt to the new environment because of the climate and the language. So after a year spent at Ho Sai he returned to his native Italy. Later he joined the Middle East Province and died at Port Said on June 18th 1934 aged 55.



FR. ALEXANDER TERPIN

- b. Trieste (Italy) 17.5.1903
- p. Ivrea (Italy) 17.9.1920
- o. Bang Nok Khuek (Thailand) 2.6.1928
- d. Napoli (Italy) 18.6.1972

Fr. Terpin was born at Trieste (Italy) in 1903. He joined our Society in 1920, came to China in 1924 and served as supervisor of the novices at Ho Sai. Later he worked at the Don Bosco School in Shiu Chow. In 1927 he moved to Thailand with those confreres sent there to start salesian work in that nation. In the latter place he received holy priesthood in 1928. Later for health reasons he returned to Italy and worked there, always suffering from poor health. He passed away at Naples on June 18th 1961.



MONS. MICHAEL ARDUINO

b. Foglizzo (Italy) 5.3.1909

p. Macau 8.12.1925

o. Turin 9.7.1933

c. Shanghai 29.6.1948

d. Locri (Italy) 18.6.1972

Mons. Arduino was born at Foglizzo (Italy) in 1909. As the boy attended the local youth club, Fr. Vismara took good care of him and tended his budding vocation. Eventually he sent him to our junior seminary at Ivrea where young Michael was trained to work in our missions. He left for our Province in 1924.

In China he prepared for his profession partly in Ho Sai and partly in Macau. He joined our Society in 1925. After the study of philosophy at Macau and his practical training at Don Bosco's in Shiu Chow, Brother was sent for theology to Turin (Crocetta) where he spent three years. The fourth he spent in Rome at the Gregorian University, where he gained his licence in theology in 1933.

After receiving holy priesthood, Fr. Arduino returned to the province. In Hong Kong he served as teacher at the house of formation and subsequently was put in charge of the aspirants.

Later Father was rector for six years at Don Bosco's in Shanghai and then at St. Joseph's in the same city.

On June 29th 1948 he was consecrated bishop and took possession of his see (Shiu Chow) on July 10th the same year.

Then the new bishop set about with zeal to rejuvenate his diocese' christian life which had suffered considerably during the war and the long vacancy of the see following the death of Mons. I. Canazei, the previous Vicar Apostolic. Unfortunately one year had hardly elapsed when there took place the change of government in the country, which blocked the plans the Bishop had in mind for the development of the work of evangelization in his diocese.

After a period of relative freedom there came the troubles, the persecution and eventually the arrest and imprisonment in his own house in Shiu Chow, followed by the expulsion from the country.

The Bishop arrived in Hong Kong on December 2nd 1951 and left for Italy at once.

The following years (1953 - 1962) Monsignor was the Pastor of our parish of Mary Help of Christians in Valdocco. In October 1962 he was transferred to the diocese of Gerace-Locri in southern Italy. There he served with indefatigable zeal for a number of years.

On November 9th 1970 he suffered a serious setback in a car accident which affected the rest of his life. In May 1971 his condition worsened further until he piously passed away on June 18th 1972.



FR. ALOYSIUS YEH SHUN TIEN

b. Yung Kia 20.12.1912
p. Hong Kong 11.1.1935
o. Shanghai 29.1.1945
d. Shanghai 22.6.1973

Fr. Yeh was born at Yung Kia (near Ning Po, China) on December 20th 1912 and was baptized with his whole family at 13. At 16 young Aloysius was betrothed according to local custom, but he already had other plans in mind than marriage. He was strongly supported by his own grandfather when he decided to join our Society. To break his betrothal contract was no easy matter, but Aloysius was determined to pursue his own vocation and travelled to Hong Kong where he eventually professed in our Society and studied philosophy at our house of formation at Shaukiwan.

In 1937 Brother was assigned to supervise the aspirants at the Aberdeen Trade School.

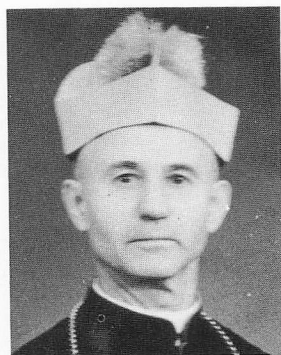
The death of his only brother now posed a serious problem to Aloysius, who was expected to carry on the family line. But now he lacked the support of his grandfather and came under increased pressure from his mother who insisted that he must remain in the family. The situation turned out to be a veritable persecution for Brother, who suffered intensely indeed. As a student of theology at our seminary in Shanghai, Brother Yeh had to travel back home to attend the wedding of his own sister. On that occasion every effort was made to keep him home. As a result his health suffered such a serious setback that his mother, thoroughly frightened, decided to allow him to rejoin his community and to resume his studies. His return to the studentate turned out to be a veritable triumph.

Brother received holy priesthood in 1945 and was sent to serve in our newly established Sūchowfu in northern Kiang Su Province. In the latter place he had to put up with no little troubles with the local authorities especially when the new regime took over control of the country in 1949.

In 1951 Father was sent to Shiu Chow to assist Bishop Arduino, but before long the authorities arrested him and detained him for five months alleging irregularities in his travel documents. Later he was sent back to Shanghai. In the latter city Father was appointed pastor at our parish in the northern district of Chapei. In 1953 the "Three Self Campaign" was set in motion by the authorities which aimed at severing the Chinese catholics' links with the Church of Rome. Fr. Yeh refused to subscribe and was jailed. During his detention he had to take part in several courses of indoctrination. At the conclusion of each of them he was asked what his position now was and he would infallibly reply, "As before!"

Father was eventually freed in 1963 but was kept under strict surveillance. Before long however he was re-arrested and jailed at Zi Ka Wei (Shanghai) where those priests who were unwilling to abide by the demands of the authorities were being kept and made to work for the government.

There our heroic confrere spent the rest of his days on earth until 1973, engaged in the production of umbrellas. In that year Father suffered a stroke which left him half-paralised. He lived on in that state for one more week until the angel of death came to open the gates of heaven for him as a reward for his loyalty to the Church and to the Vicar of Christ on June 22nd 1973. He was 61 years of age.



FR. JOSEPH KEREC

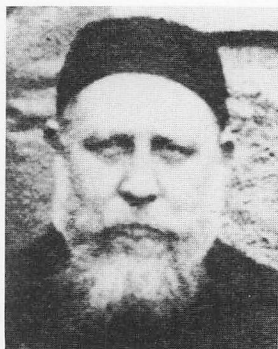
b. Proseka Vas (Yugoslavia) 15.10.1892
p. Verzej (Yugoslavia) 19.3.1915
o. Macau 26.5.1923
d. Verzej 27.6.1974

Fr. J. Kerec was born at Proseka Vas (Yugoslavia) in 1892, joined our Society in 1915 and arrived in China in 1921. After his priestly ordination at Macau in 1923 Father at first served in the Heung Shan district. Later he was economer at our School in Macau, then pastor at St. Anthony's in Hong Kong and later economer at St. Louis School in Hong Kong as well. Then there followed a two-year stint as rector at Don Bosco's in Shiu Chow. Subsequently Father was sent to open our new work in Kunming in Yun Nan province. There he had to put up with numerous and serious difficulties, but managed to set up a large and much appreciated School in that city.

In 1938 the Delegate Apostolic Mons. Zanin asked Father to take charge of the Prefecture Apostolic of Chaotung, where serious problems had arisen between the Prefect and his clergy. Father did his best to help solve the problems. When the Prefect Apostolic resigned his post, Father was appointed Prefect Apostolic in his stead and exerted himself strenuously for the welfare of his clergy and faithful. In 1951 eventually he was expelled from the country by the new regime.

Then Father spent ten years as chaplain to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in France and then for a number of years back in his own native country in various places as spiritual director.

His last post of service was at our house of Verzej, where in 1973 he joyfully celebrated his golden jubilee anniversary as a priest. Father passed away on June 27th 1974 aged 82.



FR. VINCENT BERNARDINI

b. Tempio Pausania (Italy) 5.11.1887

p. San Gregorio (Italy) 22.2.1903

o. Turin 23.9.1910

d. Lanusei (Italy) 29.6.1962

Fr. V. Bernardini was born at Tempio Pausania (Italy) in 1887, the first child of a family of noble lineage. In order to join our Society he renounced his noble rank in favour of a brother of his.

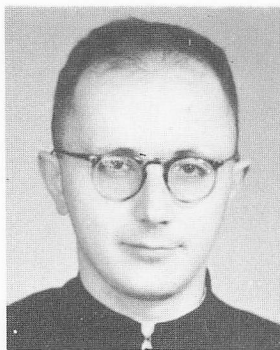
During the earthquake of Messina in 1908 he lost both parents, a loss that affected him for the rest of his life-time. He received holy priesthood from Mons. Costamagna in 1910 and came to China the following year.

For a time he worked as economer and then rector at our House in Macau. After a one-year stint in Shanghai Father was appointed rector at St. Louis School in Hong Kong and then at the Aberdeen Industrial School. From 1941 to 1946 he served as economer at Colegio Don Bosco in Macau. During this period of time he distinguished himself in helping the poor affected by the hardships of the war. He organized the distribution of rice, which was being monopolised by unscrupulous businessmen.

After the war Father spent another three years as rector at the Aberdeen Industrial School and then retired to Italy in 1949.

He lived out the rest of his life-time at our House in Lanusei (Sardinia) where he was renowned for his priestly ministry. In the latter city he dedicated time and energy to the building of the shrine of Don Bosco. He passed away on June 29th 1962 aged 75.

Father was one of the great pioneers of our Province. In spite of his scanty knowledge of the Chinese language he spoke the noble language of christian charity with remarkable results.



FR. AUGUSTIN GINDRI

b. Turin 21.2.1919
p. Hong Kong 15.10.1940
o. Shanghai 24.5.1950
d. Hong Kong 2.7.1973

Fr. Gindri was born at Turin in 1919. He was for a time a student at Valdocco and from there he transferred to Ivrea. Arriving in China in 1939, he made his novitiate at Shaukiwan and professed in 1940.

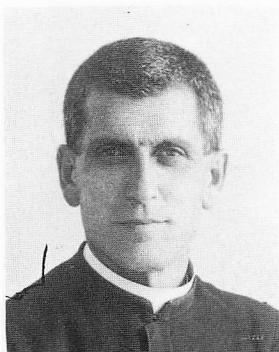
Because of the war, Brother had to move with the other confreres to Shanghai, where he studied philosophy. He did his practical training at the Don Bosco Technical School in the same city and having completed his course of theology received holy priesthood in 1950.

After a year as a teacher at the local aspirantate, Father left the city and took up the duties of prefect of studies at our mother-house in Macau (Istituto Salesiano). Later he taught for five years at St. Louis School in Hong Kong, then moved to Tang King Po School in Kowloon, where he spent one year as economer and thirteen as a diligent teacher.

Father was particularly outstanding for his teaching of religion, on which he was quite keen. He produced a number of useful text-books of religious knowledge; he was eager to instruct catechumens and to prepare them for baptism. Every year he was able to baptize a fair number of lads. Of the latter he used to keep careful records, because he intended to follow them in their early christian life.

After exerting himself for many years in the class-room and the ministry in church as well as several chaplaincies on behalf of communities of Sisters, he felt he needed a change of work and so was sent to our retreat house in Cheung Chau to help with the ministry of the Sacrament of reconciliation. There the only relaxation he enjoyed was going about the seashore angling. It was July 2nd when tragedy struck. God knows what happened to Fr. Augustin when he left the house after tea to go for his usual pastime by the sea. He never came back. Probably a sudden giddiness or a slip on the rocks and Father, who was alone, disappeared never to surface again, probably the victim of an underwater whirlpool. The place was thoroughly searched for many hours but all efforts proved fruitless.

In the Salesian section of the cemetery at Happy Valley amid the niches which hold the remains of our confreres there is one showing the photograph, the name and the date of the late Father's demise but the niche is empty. The Father's bones are resting at the bottom of the sea off the island where our confreres, pupils and co-operators make their retreats. Good Fr. Gindri was 54 years of age when the Lord came to call him in such tragic circumstances.



FR. ANTHONY DE AMICIS

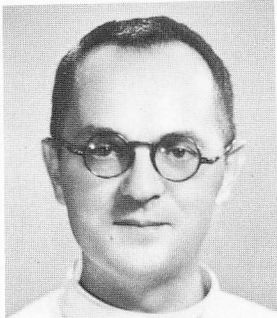
b. Fossa (Italy) 17.5.1898
p. Genzano (Italy) 12.9.1923
o. Canton 5.4.1930
d. Bra (Italy) 3.7.1981

Fr. De Amicis was born at Fossa (Italy) in 1898 of a family of modest farmers. In 1912 he came to know and appreciate Don Bosco. Later he served for three years in the army during the first world war. He had his first contact with the Salesians at Trento in northern Italy. In 1920 having been discharged from the army, he was admitted to our novitiate in Genzano near Rome. After his practical training at Naples Brother was assigned to China where he arrived in early 1926. He started at once his study of theology at Shiu Chow. In 1929 there arrived on the scene Brother C. Caravario, the future Blessed Martyr, and the two soon became close friends. Brother received the subdiaconate from Mons. Versiglia and was to receive holy priesthood in 1930 after the Bishop returned from the journey which turned out to be the last of his lifetime. Thus Brother Anthony received holy priesthood later on April 5th 1930 from the Vicar Apostolic of Canton.

Fr. Anthony at first served in our mission of Linchow where he made up his mind to follow the edifying examples left by Blessed Martyr Fr. Callisto Caravario, who had been working in that very place before his glorious death. He run with zeal the local Boys' Club. His way of teaching and preaching was simple and cheerful and was thoroughly enjoyed by youngsters and adults alike.

In 1935 he was sent back to Italy for a period of rest, as he was feeling ill. At first his ailment was thought to be malaria but later it came to light that his heart was not working well. Thus Father was unable to make his way back to our province. Yet he went on serving zealously in various communities as spiritual director and then as superior at Cuneo, Benevaggenna and Avigliana. Wherever he worked he enjoyed a warm welcome because of his amiable ways of dealing with people. From 1960 to his death he lived at our house in Bra as spiritual director, delegate to the co-operators, rector of our public church and for a time teacher of religious knowledge.

Father was keen on spreading devotion to Mary Help of Christians and to St. John Bosco and continued, until his health allowed him, his apostolate of the sacrament of reconciliation and of preaching the word of God. The last years of his life-time, aware as he was of his approaching return to the Lord, Father carried on serenely his apostolic pursuits. On July 2nd 1981 he was visited by his old friend Fr. P. Pomati and spent a few happy hours conversing with him. During the following night, feeling that his time was near, he put on his cassock and lay in bed in devout composure. There he was found the following morning as if enjoying a slight slumber. He had silently concluded his saintly career on earth entirely spent in the service of the Lord. He was 83 years old.



FR. JOHN BUCHTA

- b. Ostog Ratibor (Poland) 15.6.1906
- p. Czerwinsk (Poland) 5.8.1925
- o. Hong Kong 15.6.1935
- d. Bagnolo Piemonte (Italy) 5.7.1972

Fr. J. Buchta was born at Ostog Ratibor (Poland) in 1906. He came to China in 1929 and received holy priesthood at Hong Kong in 1935. He then served as prefect of studies at St. Louis School (Hong Kong) up to 1946 and then was made superior of our community at Yuet Wah College in Macau. After concluding his term of office in the latter place in 1954 Father was sent to work in the Philippines. It was in Tarlac that Father was involved in a serious car accident which brought about the progressive weakening of his memory; the efforts made to help him recover were all in vain, yet he went on working with great alacrity in several houses. In 1967 his conditions having become hopeless, Father was sent back to Italy to be taken care of in our nursing home at Bagnolo Piemonte near Turin. There he lived on, much admired for his piety and attachment to Don Bosco and to our Society until he piously passed away on July 5th 1972 aged 66.



FR. SANTE GARELLI

b. Faenza (Italy) 22.3.1884
p. Genzano (Italy) 3.10.1900
o. Turin 26.6.1908
d. Turin 8.7.1982

Fr. Garelli was born at Faenza (Italy) in 1884. At just over 14 young Sante started his novitiate at Genzano near Rome, where his master was the future Blessed Martyr Fr. A. Versiglia. He concluded it two years later with his perpetual profession.

After his priestly ordination Fr. Sante was appointed rector of our St. Joseph's Boys' Club in Turin where he was assisted by Bro. C. Braga and had among his charges the future Blessed Martyr C. Caravario, who was very dear to him.

During the first world war Father served in the army for one year and following his sudden discharge was asked to lead a group of confreres who were leaving for China. Arriving in Macau in 1918, Father was sent to Pak Heung in the vicariate apostolic of Shiu Chow, where he spent a few months learning the local language; he then was assigned to the district of Linchow. He worked there for a while until in 1919 he was sent to our house in Macau as spiritual director and teacher of theology. In 1923 he returned to Italy on leave.

At that time the Salesians were planning to open a house in Shanghai and the Superiors asked Father to prepare some confreres for the new venture. Father Sante led the group who sailed in 1925 for Shanghai.

The situation was confused in China in those days and Fr. Sante lived through a series of ordeals, at time all alone with a group of youngsters who had to move from place to place for safety. Then there arrived on the scene Fr. Fontana who managed to obtain the agreement of the local bishop to open a Salesian School in the city. When things started looking up, Father Garelli sailed back to Italy on leave.

In 1931 the provincial superior Fr. C. Braga asked Fr. Garelli to take charge of the house of formation in Hong Kong. Father served there for two years and then in 1933 returned to Europe. In 1934 he travelled to the Soviet Union as a member of a papal commission.

Later on he served as pastor and rector in several parishes and houses in Italy until in 1948 he was appointed superior of our Middle East province, a post he covered for ten years.

In 1958, when Father was 74, he was asked by the Rector Major Fr. R. Zigiotti to act as his vicar for the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. He was already 85 when he started his full time apostolate as spiritual director at Valdocco. As long as he was able to walk about, he would be ready every day to hear the confessions of his confreres in the church of St. Francis de Sales; in the last three years he used patiently to wait for them in his own room. It was July 8th 1982 when Father passed away serenely as a patriarch at 98 surrounded by his praying confreres he had edified with his saintly life for so long.



FR. DAVID HOURIGAN

b. Castletown (Ireland) 12.7.1906

p. Cowley (England) 11.9.1922

o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931

d. Sicily (Italy) 10.7.1943

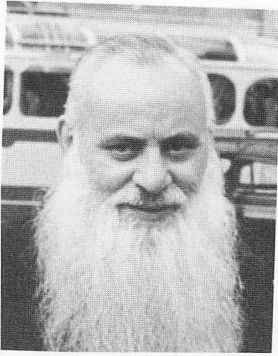
Fr. Hourigan was born at Castletown (Ireland) in 1906, joined our Society in 1922, arrived in China in 1925 and received holy priesthood in 1931. He served in Hong Kong at Shaukiwan, at St. Louis and Aberdeen.

His ready co-operation was very useful to the Provincial Fr. C. Braga during the protracted and complicated dealings with the authorities concerning the opening of the new industrial school at Aberdeen.

In 1935 Father was repatriated for health reasons. His poor health prevented him from returning to China as was his desire. Reluctantly he stayed behind in his own country doing parish work.

During the second world war he joined the army as a chaplain and was able to do a great deal of good to his soldiers with his zeal and optimism.

During the disastrous retreat to Dunkirk Father often risked his life while performing his priestly duties. Later he was assigned to a regiment of parachute troops and met his untimely death at 36 in action in Sicily on July 10th 1943.



FR. FRANCIS RUFFINI

b. Sarzana (Italy) 11.10.1895
p. Valsalice (Italy) 31.7.1913
o. Turin 25.9.1921
d. Piossasco (Italy) 19.7.1960

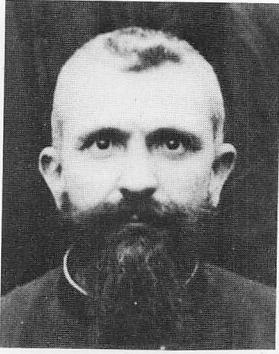
Fr. Ruffini was born at Sarzana (Liguria, Italy) in 1895. His mother had received the blessing of Don Bosco at La Spezia on Sunday 24th April 1887 together with one of her sons who later became a Salesian. The following day she attended a holy mass celebrated by the Saint in a small room of the house and after it she received eleven medals from him as souvenirs. The number turned out to be a prophecy, because actually she would bear eleven children.

Fr. Francesco joined our Society in 1913 and received holy priesthood in 1921. He arrived in China in 1926.

Our records have little to say about Father's first years in the province. He served for a time at Nam Yung in our mission, always troubled by a weak heart condition.

Later he was sent to work in Shanghai and in 1936 was assigned as chaplain to the St. Joseph's Hospice in the same city. The institution, founded by a very good catholic gentleman Mr. Lo Pa Hong was made up of a hospital, an orphanage, a hospice, a kindergarten and a dispensary.

Fr. Ruffini was the only chaplain of the extensive place and worked hard in spite of the fact that he felt very much isolated. So he often went over to visit the confrères at the house of formation because he enjoyed the family atmosphere that prevailed in the latter place and could be kept informed about things Salesian. After the change of government in the country Father returned to Italy, where he carried on his apostolate of spiritual direction. He spent the last year of his life-time in our nursing home at Piossasco where he passed away on July 19th 1960 at the age of 65.



FR. JOHN PEDRAZZINI

b. Intra (Italy) 23.2.1884
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 29.9.1903
o. Turin 23.9.1911
d. Hong Kong 20.7.1939

Fr. Pedrazzini was born at Intra (Italy) in 1884 and joined our Society in 1903. As a young cleric he was sent to Portugal where he worked at Braga and Lisbon. There he enjoyed the esteem of his confreres and the affection of his pupils. During the revolution Brother managed to escape trouble by wearing a red scarf round his neck and mixing with the shouting mobs.

After his return to Italy he concluded his study of theology and received holy priesthood in 1911. The same year Father joined our Province and after a six months long study of the Chinese language at Ngan Hang near Macau he began his missionary apostolate in Heung Shan District and did a great deal of good. He spared no efforts so that as a result his health was ruined and affected by malaria and other ailments all his life. He spent 13 years in Heung Shan District and after a short leave in Europe returned to the province and worked a number of years at our House in Macau as economer, prefect of religious education and rector.

Since his old ailments kept troubling him, Father sought a change of climate in Europe and in the U.S.A., where he served as a pastor to the Portuguese immigrants with great success.

In 1935 Father returned to China and was put in charge of St. Anthony's in Hong Kong. There, beside his pastoral work, he shouldered also the apostolate of confessions and of preaching on behalf of several religious communities. In 1938 he fell gravely ill but the doctors were unable to diagnose the nature of his ailment. They decided to operate on him. Before being carried to the operating theatre, Father received the Sacraments with great devotion. Unfortunately the operation turned out to be impossible and Father passed away peacefully without regaining consciousness, aged 55.

It was July 20th 1939.



BRO. JOSEPH SHI

b. Shanghai 20.3.1916
p. Hong Kong 8.12.1937
d. Taly 21.7.1948

Born at Shanghai in 1916 young Joseph was adopted by a Portuguese family and baptized in 1921. He was enrolled in our School in Macau where he received his early education and professional training as a printer. After his religious profession in Hong Kong in 1937, Brother went back to Macau where he served as an assistant shop instructor until 1939, when he was sent to work in our School at Kunming (Yun Nan Province).

In the latter place Brother proved to be a capable head of the printing shop, a good teacher of technical drawing and of physical exercise as well as a dedicated supervisor of the pupils.

In spite of his short stature and slim physique, he managed to keep order and discipline without making himself disagreeable; his ability as a master of gymnastics gained for him the esteem of his students and of the authorities as well as much goodwill towards the School.

During the summer holidays in 1948 Brother went to spend a few days with the Betharan Fathers in the Taly Prefecture. On July 21st he took part in an excursion in the mountains with some fathers. There they were surprised by a powerful storm, during which Brother disappeared never to be found again in spite of careful and prolonged search. The date of his death was then fixed on July 21st.

With Bro. Joseph there disappeared a pious, hard-workings, humble and self-sacrificing son of Don Bosco. He was 26 years of age.



BRO. JOSEPH STURM

b. Fladungen (Germany) 29.8.1892

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 15.9.1912

d. Lin Chow 24.7.1925

Bro. Sturm was born in Germany in 1892. He joined our Society in 1912 and came to China in the same year.

A veritable jack of all trades, Brother made himself very useful at Macau, at Ho Sai and at Lin Chow in our mission. At Lin Chow he painted the chapel with remarkable skill. Brother also enjoyed the reputation of a skilful player of the violin and undertook the training of a number of pupils in his art. Punctuality and a refined demeanour were the qualities which made him a popular teacher. When the time for his lessons arrived, he would set down his brushes, put on his formal suit (it used to be a neat evening dress!) and proceed like a refined gentleman to instruct his pupils. Brother was keen on hygiene and never ate food which he regarded as of dubious nature. On his journeys he would never take anything at restaurants along the way but consumed the provisions he had brought along from the mission. Yet in spite of his precautions in the summer of 1925 he contracted typhus. The poor confrere was all alone at the mission centre, as his confreres were all at Shiu Chow to attend their annual retreat and Fr. Ronchi was on a pastoral tour. The good Brother feeling that his hour was approaching wrote a moving letter which was found later on among his papers. In it he stated that he felt at peace with God and regretted the fact that no confrere was there to assist him. He expressed confidence in Jesus crucified, in Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Joseph. He concluded his letter with words full of faith and confidence in God: "I invoke the assistance of our Father Don Bosco. Under his banner in the past ten years in various situations I have always sought the greater glory of God as expressed in the order of my superiors."

Fr. Ronchi arrived back at the mission in time to look after the dying confrere with brotherly care. To the confreres who assembled to attend the funeral rites he commented, "Brother Sturm died like a Saint!"

It was July 24th 1925. Brother was 33 years of age.



FR. VINCENT BARBERIS

b. Turin 11.11.1888
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 15.9.1905
o. Foglizzo 5.7.1914
d. Macau 26.7.1941

Fr. Barberis was born in Turin in 1888. He was a nephew of the wellknown Fr. Giulio Barberis, who was the first master of novices of our Society and later on Catechist General.

Young Vincent, attracted by the example of his uncle and the fame of Don Bosco, joined our Society in 1905. He obtained a doctor's degree in sacred theology at Turin. He received the priestly ordination in 1914 and subsequently served in the army during the first world war.

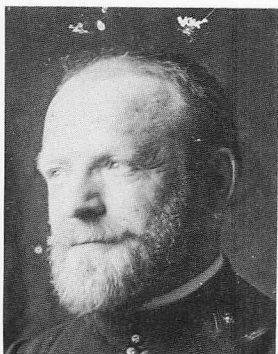
In 1918 Father left for China as a member of the first batch of Salesians destined for the new mission of Shiu Chow.

Fr. Vincent worked in the mission until 1926 and later he was sent to teach at the Salesian seminary in Macau and before long in Hong Kong. He was very highly esteemed as a teacher as well as a spiritual director.

When the second world war broke out and our students of philosophy and theology moved to Shanghai, Fr. Vincent was assigned to serve as a teacher and spiritual director at our house in Macau where some aspirants, novices and junior confreres were studying.

In 1939 Father suffered a stroke which left him partially paralysed. Later he became unable to speak and his mind grew dim. At times he enjoyed some bright intervals which made him suffer all the more by letting him understand his situation. During those clear intervals he went on showing signs of deep and simple spirit of piety which was the characteristic element of his religious and priestly life.

Father died aged 53 at Macau on July 26th 1941.



FR. JOSEPH COLOMBO

b. Sirtori (Italy) 21.11.1883
p. 1.8.1902
o. 21.8.1910
d. Nam Yung 27.7.1920

Fr. Colombo was born in Italy in 1883, joined our Society in 1902 and received the priestly ordination in 1910.

Esteemed on account of his wisdom and learning, Father was sent by the Superiors to China at the head of a batch of capable missionaries. Both Blessed Bishop Versiglia and the Superiors had set great hopes on him, but God's plans in his regard were different.

Father was sent to the mission station of Nam Yung in our vicariate of Shiu Chow in order to learn the Chinese language but he soon realised that he was hardly able to bear the heat of the region. His confreres, worried by his condition, advised him to move to the mission station at Fong Tung, a place in the mountains with a better climate.

Father left his station at Kam Kong on July 27th 1920. The day was a very warm one and Father who struggled along the uphill road, was soon overcome by the heat. Exhausted he collapsed by the roadside, probably affected by cerebral thrombosis, lost consciousness never to regain it.

His fellow missionary Fr. Bosio, informed of Fr. Colombo's condition, rushed to assist him but found him already dead. He was 37 years of age.

Fr. Joseph of the missionary possessed only the desire and the hope, but we feel sure that he obtained ample reward in heaven for his generous sacrifice.



FR. JOHN ZAMPETTI

b. San Quirico (Italy) 8.4.1908
p. Cumiana (Italy) 23.9.1929
o. Hong Kong 15.6.1935
d. Rome 27.7.1983

Fr. John was born at San Quirico (Italy) on 8.4.1908. As a young man he felt attracted to the priestly life and joined the diocesan seminary at Camerino, where he went through high school and college.

At 20 years of age he decided to become a Salesian and to work in the missions. He made his novitiate at Cumiana (Italy) where he took his first vows on September 23rd 1929.

His two years of practical training at Cumiana over, Brother left for China, and spent six years in Hong Kong where he received holy priesthood in 1935.

Fr. John enjoyed the trust of his superiors who appreciated his goodness of heart and earnestness of character. As a cleric he was supervisor of the novices, and as a priest he worked as administrator, teacher of philosophy and theology, beside taking a keen interest in the priestly ministry.

In 1938 Father left the province and spent three years at Rome deepening his knowledge of Church disciplines: he gained a degree in canon law and several diplomas from the Sacred Congregation of the Council and the Church's central tribunals.

In 1942 Father was asked to teach canon law and moral theology at the newly established Pontifical Salesian Atheneum in Turin. In 1947 he rejoined our province and taught at our houses of formation in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

In 1953 in view of the difficult situation prevailing in China following the change of regime, Father was asked to move to Shillong in India to serve in the local house of formation, where eventually he spent fourteen fruitful years in teaching and in the priestly ministry.

In 1967 Father Zampetti returned to Italy and was asked to teach again at our Atheneum in Rome. His academic qualifications and his plentiful experience in the pastoral field attracted the attention of various church organizations, which took advantage of his competence both at local, national and world levels.

Father's main characteristic as seen by many admirers was his prompt and generous service to the Church with untiring zeal and enthusiasm. The very same attitude he showed to our Society in his 54 years of devoted religious life. Father was an obedient and hard working confrere, who loved Our Lady Help of Christians and St. John Bosco dearly and had the missionary work of our Congregation very much at heart.

Well versed in the juridical sciences, he was ever ready to use his knowledge to assist people who went to him for advice and help. He was a much sought after consultor at the service of the Holy See and several religious Institutes besides being one of the most knowledgeable professors at our university in Rome.

Fr. A. Cuva writes this in the mortuary letter of Fr. John following his demise on July 27th 1983 at Rome:

“Fr. Zampetti was a courageous fighter in the cause of goodness, a hard working man of untiring activity and indomitable steadiness of purpose. At the same time he was a kind-hearted and pious priest, patient and ever-ready to co-operate, well balanced in judgement and endowed with a pleasant sense of humour, which made him welcome among his fellow professors, his students and the people at large.”

Fr. Zampetti's memory is indeed an inspiration to the many he edified with his teaching and saintly life.



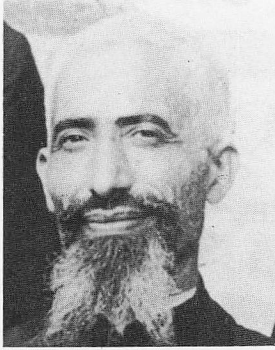
FR. MARIANUS MIELCZAREK

- b. Warsaw (Poland) 27.1.1907
- p. Klecza Dolna (Poland) 12.8.1924
- o. Krakov (Poland) 19.5.1936
- d. Hong Kong 28.7.1951

Fr. Mariano was born at Warsaw (Poland) in 1907, joined our Society in 1924 and received holy priesthood in 1935 in Poland. Having arrived in China in 1936, Father served at Macau, at Hong Kong (Shaukiwan) and from 1941 to 1948 at the Aberdeen Trade School (Hong Kong) as economer. Those were the difficult war years, the Japanese occupation and the post-war hardships. In order to provide for the needs of the house Father managed to transform a piece of arid and unproductive land adjacent to the school into a small farm with a vegetable garden, an orchard, a poultry yard and a pig sty; the project was a veritable godsend in those difficult post-war years.

In 1948 Father was sent to Shanghai as superior of our St. Joseph's School, but was unable to carry on his duties for long because of ill health and language problems. Subsequently he served again in Macau as economer. He had hardly resumed his duties there when it became apparent that his health was now affected by cancer. His ailment was taken care of without delay in Macau and then in Hong Kong but to no avail.

Father passed away at St. Francis Hospital in Hong Kong on July 28th 1951 while the surgeons were fighting to save his life by an emergency operation. Father was 44 years of age.



FR. VINCENT MUNDA

b. Canicatti' (Italy) 23.6.1889
p. San Gregorio (Italy) 14.2.1910
o. Foglizzo (Italy) 10.12.1919
d. Nam Yung 29.7.1945

Fr. Munda was born at Canicatti' (Italy) in 1889 and joined our Society in 1910. While studying theology, Bro. Vincent had to join the army and fought in Italy and Macedonia. Discharged from the army, he received holy priesthood in 1919. After serving several years in houses in Sicily, Father came to China in 1931 and spent the rest of his life in the Vicariate Apostolic of Shiu Chow.

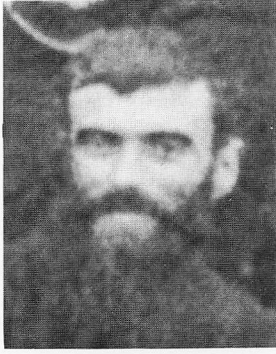
He went on leave in 1935 and found no better way to rest and relax than by working in our Boys' Club at Modica Alta in his native Sicily.

Fr. Munda was admirable for his spirit of poverty, for his hard work and outstanding zeal. He was wellknown among his fellow missionaries and christians for his long exhausting journeys, often made in health conditions that were far from ideal. During the Japanese occupation, Father was left alone to look after his own district of Nam Yung while taking care of the adjacent district of Chi Hing as well.

In a note-book of his, which was found after his demise, he stated that his physician had visited him and found that he was affected by seven different ailments.

"I am suffering from so many ailments and I feel that travelling prevents me from feeling their impact considerably!", he said one day to a friend who was urging him not to travel so much.

As the war was about to end, Father was told that the Japanese troops had left the city of Nam Yung, so he decided to go back to the latter thinking that he would be safer there. However, at the city gate he was arrested by the guerillas, accused of collaborating with the enemy and of spying and summarily executed on July 29th 1945. He was 56 years of age.



FR. HERNEST FOGLIO

b. Mezzana Martigliano (Italy) 4.10.1891
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 15.9.1912
o. Turin 19.2.1921
d. Foglizzo 31.7.1947

Fr. Foglio was born at Mezzana Martigliano (Italy) in 1891, joined our Society in 1912 and received holy priesthood in 1921. Father came to China in the same year and served in the districts of Ying Tak and Yan Fa in our mission of Shiu Chow. At the village of Lin Kong How (district of Yan Fa) on a hillock overlooking the railway station Father built a small but beautiful mission station which used to welcome our Salesian confreres who crossed the border into the vicariate.

For health reason Father left the mission and went to serve at Macau as spiritual director and teacher of theology. Shortly later he returned to his native Italy and worked in several communities as spiritual director, especially at the house of formation in Foglizzo where he gave the students enlightening weekly talks. Although his health conditions were far from good, Father Foglio worked hard and produced the well-known analytical index of the Biographical Memoirs of St. J. Bosco.

The last two years of his life-time were particularly painful for him who was affected by cancer. He carried his cross with patience and died an edifying death on July 31st 1947 at 56 years of age.



FR. JOHN SIARA

b. Schardzin (Poland) 20.6.1887
p. Oswiecim (Poland) 29.9.1906
o. Krakow (Poland) 20.3.1916
d. Pogrzebien (Poland) 9.8.1937

Fr. John Siara was born at Schardzin (Poland) in 1887, joined our Society in 1906 and received holy priesthood in 1916. During the first world war Father served in the army as a chaplain. Later he was appointed supervisor of a School for Polish immigrant Children in America.

He was also for a time in Australia in the Vicariate Apostolic of Kimberley. Later he came to China and served in the district of Heung Shan near Macau. Subsequently Father was appointed rector of the house of formation for our students of theology in Hong Kong (St. Louis).

In 1932 he was transferred from the latter place to our Middle Eastern Province, which he had to leave shortly afterwards for health reasons. Father returned to his native Poland and passed away on August 9th 1937 at Pogrzebien (Poland) aged 50.

Fr. John looked like a strong and healthy confrere, yet he suffered a great deal because of asthma, which, however, did not prevent him from doing a great deal of good to many.



FR. FRANCIS DUPONT

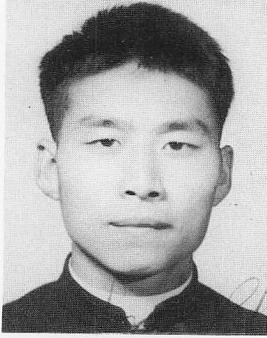
- b. Paris (France) 14.7.1908
- p. Port-a-Binson (France) 22.9.1935
- o. Tokyo (Japan) 29.6.1939
- d. Hanoi (Vietnam) 10.8.1945

Fr. Dupont was born at Paris in 1908. After joining our Society in 1935, Brother went to Japan, where he studied theology and received holy priesthood in 1939. Father possessed the gift for propaganda and organization, which he put to good use when he was in charge of the parish at Mikavajima until 1940.

Then he was called to arms and served in Hanoi as an interpreter between the French command and the Japanese occupation authorities. Besides fulfilling his normal duties, Father found time to do pastoral and educational work on behalf of youth.

After his discharge from the army in 1941, Fr. Francis took charge of an orphanage for Eurasian children in Hanoi at the death of its founder. Fr. Provincial Fr. C. Braga, unable as he was to send personnel to help him, managed to get only one confrere to travel over to assist burdened Fr. Francis: he was Fr. Raymond Petit, who had come to China from Thailand the previous year. Good Fr. Dupont had to put up with much suffering caused by the war, particularly isolation and lack of financial support. As air-raids kept increasing in violence, Father left Hanoi with a number of boys and settled in Ke So (about 60 kms from Hanoi) while Fr. Petit stayed behind with another group.

Good Fr. Dupont spared no effort to look after his charges. Unfortunately on the night of August 9th 1945 he was brutally murdered by a band of communist guerillas. Was it out of hatred for priests, xenophobia or for the sake of gain? Probably all those motives brought about his untimely demise at 37. He was a zealous and generous confrere.



FR. ALOYSIUS ZEN

b. Chang Shu 18.5.1929
p. Hong Kong 16.8.1948
o. Messina (Italy) 29.6.1959
d. Taichung 14.8.1966

Bro. Aloysius was born in 1929 at Chang Shu near Shanghai. Attracted by the Salesian way of life, he joined our aspirants at Shanghai and made his novitiate partly in Macau and partly in Hong Kong (Shaukiwan).

After his profession in 1948 Brother studied philosophy at our house of formation in Shaukiwan. Then he was sent to Salesian School (Shaukiwan) for his practical training. In St. Louis School he started his study of theology which he completed at Messina (Italy). In the latter place he received holy priesthood in 1959.

Then young Fr. Zen worked with zeal for three years at the Aberdeen Trade School and then at Salesian School (Hong Kong) and later at our technical school in Tainan (Taiwan).

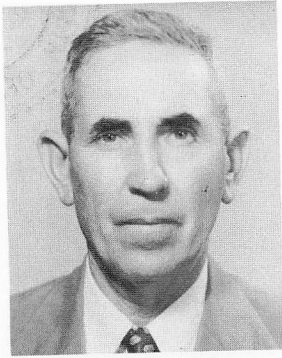
In 1965 Father started attending the Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei to study advanced philosophy. As he was also keen on music, Father before long founded a choir, which he trained with ability and zest.

With youngsters Fr. Aloysius felt at home and spent happy hours with them especially while camping together during holidays. He was also active in parish work at the cathedral of Taichung, where he taught religion and trained the local choir.

Good Fr. Zen lost his life during an excursion with university students on August 14th 1966. He was riding his own motorcycle while the students rode in a bus behind him. All of a sudden he crashed and bumped his head against the surface of the road. While receiving the absolution, he showed signs of consciousness and then passed away. He was 37.

A zealous Salesian, a loving friend of youth, Fr. Aloysius certainly is now in heaven with Our Lady and Don Bosco.

For twenty years his mortal remains rested in the graveyard of Jesuit retreat house at Ching Shan, Chang Hua (Taiwan), and since February 1987 in the small cemetery in the compound of Boys Town at Chaochou (Taiwan).



BRO. ANTHONY NARCISO

b. San Severo (Italy) 23.6.1902
p. Macau 2.2.1927
d. Pescara (Italy) 15.8.1968

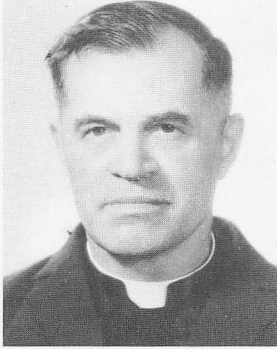
Bro. Narciso was born at San Severo (Italy) in 1902. While attending the Salesian Boys' Club at his native city, young Anthony felt attracted to the Salesian way of life and joined our house for aspirants at Ivrea. He made his novitiate in Macau and professed there in 1927. Bro. Narciso's life was indeed outstanding on account of his faithfulness in the fulfilment of his daily duties. He worked as door-keeper, farmer, gardener, wardrobe attendant, and in particular as administrator at Macau, Shiu Chow, Hong Kong and for a while even at Dily (Timor).

Typical of Bro. Anthony were his interest in the welfare of our Society and the practice of poverty.

In 1953 his failing health compelled him to be repatriated, which to him proved to be a great sacrifice indeed. Having recovered his energies, Brother worked at Brindisi, Resina, Torre Annunziata and Portici, always active and precise in fulfilling his duties, until sister death came to visit him at Pescara where he was visiting a cousin of his.

Wellknown for his tireless work, he also distinguished himself for his spirit of poverty. He gladly used to do without many things even tramcar rides in order to save money. He nourished a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady Help of Christians. When the demise of Bro. Narciso became known, a young lad at the Boys' Club asked, "Who? The old man who used to spend long hours in church saying the rosary?"

The love for prayer was indeed typical of Bro. Narciso.



FR. ALFRED FAISST

b. Graz (Austria) 8.11.1916
p. Hong Kong 21.11.1939
o. Shanghai 29.6.1949
d. Tainan 15.8.1983

Fr. Faisst was born at Graz (Austria) in 1916. After his graduation from secondary school young Alfred worked for three years in a dentist's clinic. In 1938 he arrived in Hong Kong, where the following year he made his profession. His study of philosophy was done partly in Hong Kong and partly in Shanghai because of the outbreak of the war.

Brother received holy priesthood at Shanghai in 1949. Then he served for a while in the latter city and then for several years at Yuet Wah College in Macau.

Later Fr. Alfred was sent to Taiwan, where he served as chaplain to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in Kao Hsiung. At the same time he rented a big shop where he set up a youth centre to entertain and instruct the local youth.

His last assignment was at the House of Tainan (Taiwan); there he served as spiritual director of the Salesian community, as a chaplain to the Salesian Sisters and director of the local Boys' Club.

He also utilized his experience as an assistant dentist and opened a dental clinic to attend to the needs of the local people: while taking care of their teeth, he would also speak to them of God and of the Church. Father never spared himself whenever the welfare of the people was at stake and he sacrificed his own life for their sake.

On August 15th 1983 he suddenly felt ill and died shortly afterwards at the local hospital aged 67. On that very day his little friends back at the parish residence were clamouring at his window to be allowed into the playground, unaware that Father would never be back again.

His humble and hidden service was acknowledged by the many people who took part in the solemn funeral service. Father had really been the good and faithful servant of all.



FR. ORESTE BROGGI

b. Luvinate (Italy) 8.12.1911
p. Hong Kong 11.1.1935
o. Shanghai 29.1.1943
d. Sulzano (Italy) 17.8.1978

Fr. Broggi was born at Luvinate (Italy) in 1911 and came to China in 1933 to make his novitiate. His first profession took place at Hong Kong, Shaukiwan in 1935. He received holy priesthood at Shanghai in 1943. His service started at Shanghai (Don Bosco Technical School) where he was administrator and teacher until 1945.

Later Father worked in Hong Kong and Macau in several capacities (administrator and prefect of religious education).

Father's health never was very good but he went on working faithfully until he was no longer able to carry a heavy burden.

In 1956 Father was repatriated and spent the rest of his life-time as a chaplain to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in several of their communities. He passed away at Sulzano on August 17th 1978 aged 67. Father was remarkable for his attachment to our Society and his exactitude in the fulfilment of his duties.



FR. JOHN CAPELLI

b. Tirano (Italy) 31.12.1908
p. Villa Moglia (Italy) 8.9.1932
o. Turin 2.6.1940
d. Rivarolo (Italy) 21.8.1980

Fr. John's contribution to our province as time is concerned was not great, yet he has left an edifying memory in those confreres who knew him when he served in China.

Fr. Capelli was born in 1908 in the Valtellina Valley of northern Italy which gave several wellknown vocations to our Society including the outstanding pioneer of the Province Fr. C. Braga.

The diary of young John reveals a profound spirit of faith and piety right from childhood.

After spending three years at Ivrea (1928 - 31) John made his novitiate at Villa Moglia and professed there in 1932. He was inspired by the remarkable personality of his compatriot Fr. C. Braga and came to our province and served with zeal for four years (1932 - 36).

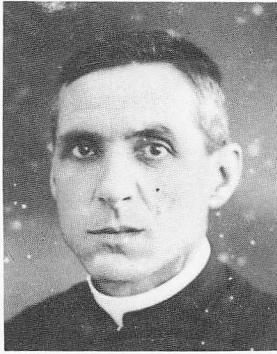
After another four years at Turin for his theology, John received holy priesthood in 1940.

Fr. Capelli's responsibilities as a priest extended over a period of forty years in very important communities and in various capacities like prefect of studies, prefect of religious education, administrator and rector.

Father was a hard worker, a capable organizer, severe but reasonable, a confrere people enjoyed working with. He loved our Society truly and was keen on cultivating vocations. A true Salesian, Father liked being with teenagers, whom he followed with fatherly care.

As a religious, Fr. John was co-operative with his superiors and set shining examples of obedience also in difficult circumstances. A delicate soul, he knew how to say "Thank you" with warmth and encouraged people to do good by word and example with no pose or paternalism. He loved the Blessed Mother dearly and used to repeat with great devotion, "My dear Mother Mary, watch over me, keep my mind and heart under your powerful protection, so that I may never offend you and your divine Son Jesus!"

Father suffered intensely during his last illness and returned to the Lord on August 21st 1980, "the good and faithful servant" to the very end of his days.



FR. PETER PARISI

b. San Nicolo' a Trebbia (Italy) 2.4.1895
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 19.10.1923
o. Piacenza (Italy) 25.5.1921
d. Shanghai 26.8.1942

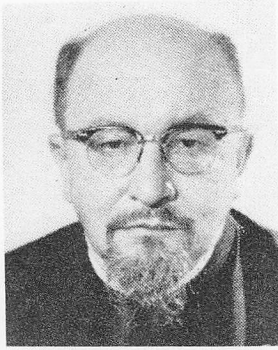
Fr. Parisi was born at San Nicolo' a Trebbia (Italy) in 1895. He was a student of theology at the wellknown "Collegio Alberoni" at Piacenza when he was called to arms at the outbreak of the first world war. He fought at the front and then was enlisted in the assault troops (locally called "Arditi") of which eventually he was made an instructor. Discharged from the army, Brother continued his studies and received holy priesthood in 1921.

His dream was to be a Salesian, but his Bishop put him in charge of the local youth club (Oratorio), where Father soon won over the hearts of the youngsters who attended. Eventually he obtained permission to leave his diocese and joined our house for aspirants at Ivrea where later he also started his novitiate. This he continued at Foglizzo, where he made his first profession in 1923.

He left for China at once and exerted himself zealously in the districts of Yeung Shan and Lin Chow. In 1935 he left the mission because isolation was too heavy for him to bear, who thoroughly enjoyed community life. Then he served in Hong Kong and Shanghai as administrator and spiritual director. In 1937 he took part as a delegate of the province in the XV General Chapter. On that occasion his former fellow soldiers and past pupils at Piacenza showed him repeatedly how much they esteemed and loved him.

Back in China, Fr. Parisi served as administrator at the house of formation in Hong Kong and later in Shanghai. The last year of his life-time he passed as spiritual director at the same house of formation. In August 1942 he was preaching a retreat to the Salesian Sisters, when he contracted typhoid fever and died a very edifying death on the 26th.

Father was a man of duty, of zeal for souls and of intense devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He possessed the gift of attracting people not to himself but to Jesus Christ.



FR. VINCENT RANDI

b. Voltana (Italy) 10.6.1908
p. Castel de' Britti (Italy) 21.9.1924
o. Hong Kong 15.7.1934
d. Macau 27.8.1980

Fr. Randi was born in the Romagna Region of Italy in 1908. The only child of the family, like Don Bosco at an early age he lost his father. He was, however, well brought up by good mother Emma, a strong and honest woman. The Italian edition of the Salesian Bulletin dated April 1st 1979 carries an interesting article about this outstanding mother, who forged the remarkable personality of Fr. Randi.

Young Vincent enrolled in the Salesian School at Bologna with the help of the mayor of his town. It was in that School that he decided to follow Don Bosco and to be a Salesian.

After his first profession at Castel de' Britti in 1924 and his study of philosophy at Valsalice, Brother Vincent graduated as a qualified high school teacher.

He was 24 years of age and had already gone through his practical training as a young Salesian, when Brother arrived in China in December 1930 and started his study of theology and of the Chinese language in Hong Kong; he soon showed great interest in things Chinese and used his many skills to benefit the many people he worked for during his long years of apostolate in China.

Brother Vincent received holy priesthood in Hong Kong in 1934. His priestly apostolate was exercised in our mission of Shiu Chow and on behalf of our aspirants in Hong Kong and Macau.

During the second world war Fr. Randi worked in Shanghai as a spiritual director of several religious communities as well as a teacher in our Juniorate there. During air-raids in the final years of the war, Father showed remarkable courage when trying to assist people in danger and need. After the war Father Vincent worked for some time in Macau at our Yuet Wah College, very much appreciated as a teacher of history.

Later he was assigned to our Tang King Po School in Hong Kong where for eight years he served competently as prefect of studies.

His next assignment was the Salesian Primary School at Shek Yam (Hong Kong) where he was much esteemed and loved by both students and teachers. The latter used to invite him to their parties even after he had left the School.

The last six years of Fr. Randi's lifetime were spent again at Macau in Yuet Wah College where he taught with his wellknown competence and supervised the School's library with great interest.

As a true Salesian, Father spent much time in the confession box as well as in the playground, where he enjoyed remarkable popularity with the students. As a delegate to the College's Old Boys, Father did a lot of good to them and to their families.

Fr. Randi was an intelligent, dynamic, outspoken and generous confrere, popular with both confreres, students, teachers and religious Communities, which he served with great perseverance.

In the final years of his lifetime Father was affected by diabetes and high blood pressure. On August, 24th 1980 he suffered a stroke which brought about his demise a few days later at the Government hospital of the city. He was seventy two years of age.

Fr. Randi has left a deep impression of a zealous Salesian priest in the many who knew him and appreciated his unfailing interest in their welfare.



FR. JOHN CAVADA

b. Bues (Austria) 1893
p. Wernsee 8.10.1915
o. Turin 17.3.1923
d. Shiu Chow 29.8.1931

Fr. John was born in 1893 at Bues (Austria) in the Province of Trento, then part of Austria. On completion of his novitiate at Wernsee (Stiria), Brother made his profession in 1915.

During the war he worked at Wien under the direction of Fr. A. Hlond, the future cardinal Primate of Poland. He studied philosophy at Foglizzo and received holy priesthood in 1923. In July of the same year Father came to China and worked in our mission in the districts of Ying Tak and Lin Chow with great zeal and abnegation.

In the district of Ying Tak, which was extensive and difficult to look after because of the poverty of the people and the scourge of piracy, he exerted himself with tenacity for several years, visiting his christians who were few and far between, while trying to win over the pagans to Christ.

In those years he never had the consolation of seeing more than thirty faithful present at his holy mass even on the greatest occasions. In 1929 Father contracted malaria, which affected his kidneys and his liver. It was suggested that he could be repatriated, but he asked to be allowed to recuperate in Macau. Only three months later he was back at work in the district. Because missionaries were few in those days, Father had to live and work alone most of the time. Eventually in 1931 young Fr. Schutzdeller joined him but his joy was to be short-lived. On the occasion of the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady Fr. Cavada went to Sui Pin to spend the day with his christians. It was there that he was stricken with typhoid fever. He was promptly taken to Shiu Chow, where it was hoped he would be taken care of and restored to health, but all efforts proved vain and Fr. Cavada passed away on August 29th 1931 at only 37 years of age. He was an exemplary religious and priest. Busy as he was spreading the Gospel message, he never neglected his own spiritual life. His spirit of piety was remarkable, he prayed his breviary devoutly and without haste; he was keen on the study of theology and on the reading of sacred texts. Father loved Don Bosco and our Society dearly and such love increased his love and zeal for souls.



BRO. ROBERT VERONA

b. Retignano di Stazzena (Italy) 16.9.1903
p. Este (Italy) 18.9.1923
d. Pisa (Italy) 31.8.1957

Bro. Verona was born at Retignano di Stazzena (Italy) in 1903. At 18 young Robert gave up the hard work at the caves and joined his uncle at the "Coletti" Salesian House in Venice. He made his novitiate at Este and professed in 1923. Later he served at Milan as assistant-supervisor of the cabinet-making shop and in 1925 sailed for Australia (Kimberley). When the Salesians left that mission in 1926, Bro. Robert came to work in China (Macau). After a short stint in Dily (Timor), he returned to Macau whence before long he was sent to Shanghai.

This is what his Superior in the latter city wrote about him: "Bro. Verona was a remarkable worker. I had him in my community at the Don Bosco Institute in Shanghai during the war years. He had to put up with much hardship in order to carry on our work. Brother knew the city well and was able to purchase all the food we needed to keep our orphans alive. He loved our Society dearly and in order to make himself useful he put up with all sorts of work: cabinet-making, driving, type-setting and printing, providing for the various needs of the house, accounting, supervising building construction. He put up with all kinds of hardships in order to be helpful to the community.

The change of government in China compelled Brother to leave the country but he always kept dreaming about returning to China!"

Repatriated in 1950, Brother served in several capacities in various houses of the Province of Genoa. In 1957 Brother was invited to stand in for the cook of the community at Pisa. Here the angel of death called him. On the evening of August 30th while standing at a balcony, he leaned forward to speak with a friend down below, lost his balance and crashed to the ground. All efforts to save his life were useless and Brother Robert passed away on August 31st 1957 at 54 years of age.



FR. ALOYSIUS MONTINI

b. Brescia (Italy) 25.7.1906
p. Villa Moglia (Italy) 18.9.1931
o. Macau 21.9.1940
d. Barcelos (Brazil) 2.9.1963

Fr. Luigi was born at Brescia (Italy) in 1906. He was a cousin of the late Pope Paul VI, who as a priest trained him in Latin, Greek and composition. He must not have been a very brilliant student, because in later years His Holiness humbly said that he had not been an outstanding teacher, because results were not too good!

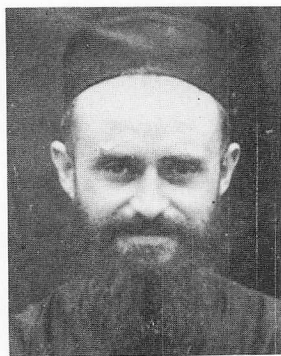
Luigi went through military training at Bressanone in 1925-27 and while there he attended the Don Bosco Club for military recruits. It was there that his vocation for the Salesian way of life was born. In 1930 his cousin Mons. Giovanni Battista introduced him to the Superiors of our house for aspirants at Ivrea, where young Luigi cultivated his missionary vocation. He made his first profession at Villa Moglia (Chieri) in 1931 and then sailed for China. After his practical training at Hong Kong – St. Louis School and his theology at Hong Kong – Shaukiwan, he received holy priesthood at Macau in 1940.

Later he served at the newly established agricultural school at Coloane Island (Macau), where he unluckily contracted malaria, which ailment was to affect him throughout life.

After a short leave in Italy Father returned to China and worked at the Colegio Don Bosco in Macau until 1956. Then he made his way back to his native Italy where he served for several years as a teacher of religious knowledge and chaplain to the Salesian Sisters. In 1961 he was sent to our house for aspirants to the missions in Bagnolo Piemonte. It was there that he met Fr. Bellido and asked him to be sent to our missions. His application was accepted and he left for Brasil.

In the latter country he exerted himself zealously and eventually went to his reward on September 2nd 1963.

Father loved missionary work dearly and used to say “The missions are my life!” He was 57 years of age.



MONS. GAETANO PASOTTI

- b. Pinarolo Po (Italy) 5.2.1890
- p. Foglizzo (Italy) 15.9.1906
- o. Udine (Italy) 18.3.1916
- c. Bangkok (Thailand) 24.6.1941
- d. Bangkok 3.9.1950

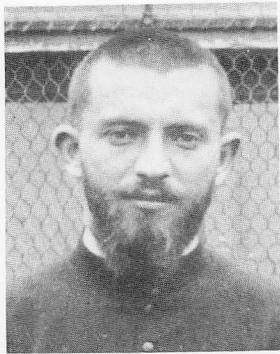
Mons. Pasotti was born at Pinarolo Po (Pavia - Italy) in 1890. He joined our Society in 1908, received holy priesthood in 1916 and came to China in 1918.

At first he worked in the district of Ying Tak and then moved to Lin Chow where for a time he was also dean and rector.

In 1926 Father was appointed master of novices at Macau. The following year he led the group of confreres who were sent to start Salesian work in Thailand.

For several years Father served in the latter mission as both religious and diocesan superior. Later he became the first Prefect Apostolic of the new mission of Ratburi and in 1941 the first Vicar Apostolic of the same, for which he founded the Congregation of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The times were difficult especially because of the war that was raging in the area. The Vicar's health soon deteriorated and he passed away in Bangkok on September 3rd 1950 aged 60.



BRO. VICTOR SUFFIA

b. Vallecrosia (Italy) 21.2.1906
d. Macau 5.9.1926

Bro. Victor was born at Vallecrosia (Italy) in 1906. From our house at Ivrea he came to China in 1926 and started his novitiate at Macau. He showed great enthusiasm as well as great zeal and proved himself a cheerful, pious, and co-operative novice, well liked by superiors and companions alike. In August 1926 he was affected by typhoid fever which proved rebellious to all remedies and Brother passed away on September 5th 1926 at 20.

During his illness Brother came to know that a confrere of his, cleric Mario Acquistapace, was seriously ill and offered up his own life in exchange for his. The Good Lord accepted the generous offer and Bro. Mario recovered. Today (1987) the latter is still with us working zealously in Macau (Coloane Island). When young Victor was studying at Ivrea, his family used to send great quantities of lilies from Liguria to bedeck the altar of Our Lady on the feastday of the Immaculate Conception. In the following years the Suffia family kept sending lilies for the feastday of Our Lady in memory of saintly Bro. Victor.



FR. LOUIS OLIVE

b. Marseilles (France) 2.2.1867
p. Marseilles 31.5.1888
o. Marseilles 16.9.1892
d. Canton 17.9.1919

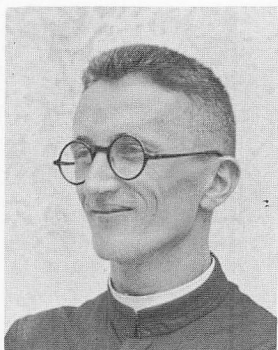
Fr. Olive was born at Marseilles (France) in 1867, the youngest son of a very pious family of Salesian co-operators. While on a visit to the family, St. John Bosco foretold that young Louis would one day be a Salesian. During his novitiate at Foglizzo he fell gravely ill. It was then that Don Bosco prayed to Our Lady on his behalf and the Blessed Mother in a vision assured the Saint that the young man not only would recover but also that one day he would be a missionary.

After his recovery Bro. Louis was sent to France to conclude his novitiate and on that occasion Don Bosco told him that one day he would be sent to China. Louis professed in 1888 and received holy priesthood in 1892. After spending several years as a young priest in his native country, Father had to solve a very painful dilemma: either to join the secular clergy or to leave France (it was the time when the government passed severe laws against religious Institutes). Father preferred to stay with Don Bosco and left his country.

At Turin the first group of confreres were getting ready to sail for China and Fr. Olive was happy to join them. He left with Fr. Versiglia in 1906 and served for several years as prefect of religious education at the Orphanage in Macau. Those were difficult years. On the occasion of the revolution in Portugal Father was expelled from Macau and worked in the district of Heung Shan until 1918 when he moved to serve in the mission of Shiu Chow, district of Nam Yung where he spent the rest of his missionary life.

The following year he went to Macau for his spiritual retreat. From the latter place he travelled to Heung Shan to visit his former christians and then to Canton on his way back to the mission.

While in Canton Father was struck with cholera and passed away at 52 on September 17th 1919.



BRO. SEVERINO RIGODANZO

b. San Giovanni Illarione (Italy) 28.8.1915

p. Hong Kong 8.12.1937

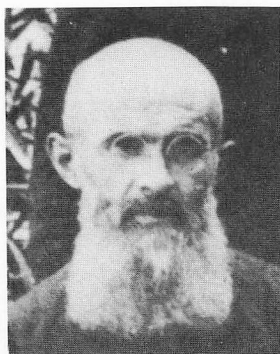
d. Macau 29.9.1943

Bro. Severino was born at San Giovanni Illarione (Italy) in 1915. He arrived in China in 1936 and professed at Hong Kong (Shaukiwan) in 1937.

After completing his study of philosophy, Brother was sent to Instituto Salesiano (Macau) for his practical training. During this period of time he showed himself very dutiful, hard working, and zealous in promoting the religious sodalities and keen on cultivating vocations.

Unfortunately he soon showed signs of TB, brought about by a heavy work-load and the hardships of war-time. Brother was already dreaming of his approaching study of theology and holy priesthood, but as soon as he became aware of the seriousness of his ailment, he accepted it from the hands of God as a sacrifice for the sake of vocations.

Saintly Brother Severino completed his earthly journey on September 29th 1943 at 28 years of age.



FR. BARTHOLOMEW FOCESATO

b. Monte di Malo (Italy) 28.12.1886

p. Lombriasco (Italy) 29.9.1909

o. Turin 7.11.1915

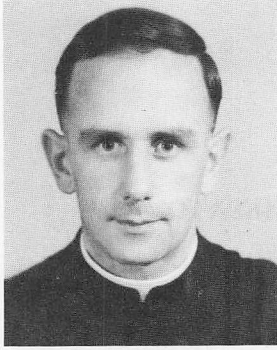
d. Turin 29.9.1952

Fr. Bartholomew was born at Monte di Malo (Italy) in 1886. He joined our Society in 1909 and received holy priesthood in 1915.

During the first world war from 1915 to 1919 he served in the army's medical corps. This was really a godsend because later on in his missionary life he was able to put to good use a great deal of experience in the medical field he had gained. Discharged from the army he came to China and served in the mission of Shiu Chow, district of Yan Fa, for three years. Subsequently he was for another three years in Macau as spiritual director, teacher and infirmarian. Later on he moved to Shanghai, where for two years he made himself useful to confreres, students, christians and pagans alike. After his return to our mission, Father worked for three years as administrator at the Bishop's house. From 1930 to 1938 he was rector of the minor seminary at Ho Sai. This period was followed by a stint as dean at Lok Chong where Father worked until 1947. Those turned out to be hard years because of the war and the Japanese occupation; yet Father went on exerting himself with zeal and generosity taking good care of bodies and souls alike. He indeed was "the physician of the poor" and enjoyed high reputation as a result of cures, some of which looked almost prodigious!

In 1947 Father made his way back to Ho Sai, where, however, in 1951 his health deteriorated to such an extent that the authorities suggested that he should be repatriated.

Father spent a few weeks in Hong Kong where he was taken care of by capable physicians who, however, concluded that there was no more hope for him. Yet he did not lose hope: he invoked the intercession of St. Dominic Savio and to everybody's surprise improved to such an extent that he was allowed to leave for his native Italy. In the latter place he made himself useful as spiritual director at the house of Novi Ligure for some time. Eventually he fell ill again. This time all efforts to save his life proved useless and Father passed away on September 29th 1952 at 65 years of age.



FR. PATRICK CORCORAN

b. Limerick (Ireland) 10.6.1928
p. Beckford (England) 15.9.1950
o. Melchet Court (England) 2.7.1960
d. Hong Kong 5.10.1971

Fr. Patrick was born at Limerick (Ireland) in 1928 and joined our Society in 1950. On conclusion of his study of philosophy, Brother was sent to the Philippines where he went through his practical training at Tarlac and Mandaluyong. He studied theology in England and received holy priesthood in 1960.

Back in the province Fr. Patrick taught with great enthusiasm at Salesian School (Hong Kong) where he was highly esteemed by pupils and fellow teachers alike. After a short break in his native Ireland for health reasons, in 1965 Father made his way back to Salesian School where again he was very popular as a capable teacher.

However his heart started giving him trouble. In spite of this, even after moving to Hong Kong Tang King Po College, he went on working hard for the sake of his students, who loved him dearly.

The end came suddenly on October 5th 1971, when his boys waited in vain for him to turn up for his lesson. Father had already left this world stricken by a heart attack. He was only 43 years of age.



FR. JOHN BUTTERFIELD

b. Dulavin (Ireland) 6.9.1919
p. Beckford (England) 31.8.1939
o. Shanghai 29.6.1949
d. Ballinakill (Ireland) 6.10.1968

Fr. John was born at Dulavin (Ireland) in 1919. After his profession in 1939 he came to China where he studied philosophy partly in Hong Kong (Shaukiwan) and partly in Shanghai. He went through his practical training at Shanghai and there he studied theology and received the priestly ordination in 1949. Fr. John soon became known as a capable teacher. He exerted himself with zeal, generosity and humility in Shanghai first and then in Hong Kong until 1962. In both places he was quite popular for his teaching skills and for his pleasant personality which endeared him to the many pupils he taught at St. Louis School.

He suffered a nervous breakdown in 1962, which brought about his repatriation. In the last few years of his life-time Father put up patiently with the ups and downs of his ailment, setting a great example of christian resignation to God's will.

Father passed away on October 6th 1968 at Ballinakill (Ireland) at 49 years of age.



MONS. IGNATIUS CANAZEI

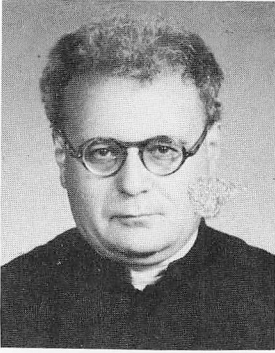
b. Brixen (Tyrol) 8.6.1883
p. Ivrea (Italy) 5.10.1901
o. Foglizzo (Italy) 18.9.1909
c. Shiu Chow 9.11.1930
d. Ho Sai 9.10.1946

Mons. Canazei was born at Brixen (Tyrol) in 1883. After his aspirantship at Cavaglia' and his novitiate at Ivrea he professed in 1901; he received holy priesthood in 1909. Subsequently in Turin he gained his doctorate in theology. Then he was for a time prefect of studies at Penango and administrator at San Benigno until he arrived in China in 1912. Father worked zealously in the Heung Shan district near Macau. In 1923 he was appointed visitor and in 1926 provincial superior of the newly erected province of China.

Following the glorious death of Blessed Bishop Versiglia, he was appointed to succeed Him as Vicar Apostolic of Shiu Chow; his episcopal ordination took place on November 9th 1930. One of his many enterprises was to bring to reality the project conceived by Bishop Versiglia to found the Congregation of the Sisters Announcers of the Lord.

Mons. Canazei was wellknown as a learned sinologue and a zealous missionary. His episcopate, however, turned out to be a veritable martyrdom: the small number of his fellow missionaries and the hardships of all kinds in the troubled war period were a heavy cross to him.

When at last peace dawned, Monsignor set about rebuilding his mission with great zeal but the Lord soon came to call him to his reward on October 9th 1946. He was 63 years of age.



FR. RICHARD MUSSO

b. San Maurizio Conzano (Italy) 1.5.1906

p. Foglizzo (Italy) 18.11.1924

o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931

d. Hong Kong 12.10.1978

Fr. Musso was born at San Maurizio Conzano (Italy) in 1906. He joined our Society in 1924. In the same year he left for China and made his perpetual profession at Shiu Chow.

After his theology he received holy priesthood in Hong Kong in 1931. As a result of meningitis he suffered in his infancy Father never enjoyed good health. Yet he served for several years in the mission of Shiu Chow at Nam Yung, Chi Hing and Ho Sai.

While on leave back in Italy, he was prevented from returning to the mission by the war. So he spent this period serving as spiritual director at Novi Ligure and at Ulzio.

Back in the East, Father worked as administrator at Macau. Subsequently he was sent to Vietnam where he was spiritual director for eleven years, although in the last few years he suffered from semi-blindness and Parkinson's disease.

After spending some time recuperating in Macau, Fr. Musso returned to Hong Kong, where he would be taken better care of. He spent the last period of his life-time, just over a year, at the Little Sisters of the Poor's Home for the Aged at Hong Kong. There he found himself very much at home. His blindness prevented him from reading books, which had always been his hobby; unable to pray his breviary, he made up by praying the rosary with devotion using a set of strong and heavy rosary beads. Since he knew the prayers of the mass of Our Lady and of the dead by heart, he had the great consolation of celebrating every day until he went to his reward well prepared, after so long suffering, on October 12th 1978 at 72 years of age.



FR. UMBERTO DALMASSO

b. Cuneo (Italy) 24.1.1889
p. Valsalice (Italy) 18.3.1905
o. San Benigno (Italy) 23.3.1913
d. Turin 21.10.1950

Fr. Dalmasso was born at Cuneo (Italy) in 1889. He joined our Society in 1905 and received holy priesthood in 1913. After serving in the army as a chaplain in the first world war with the mountain troops, Father came to China in 1919 and worked in the district of Nam Yung.

In 1928 he accompanied Blessed Bishop Versiglia on a very tiring trip on horse-back to Kan Chow in Kiang Shi to attend the episcopal consecration of Lazarist Mons. John O'Sea, who was his neighbouring "colleague". The following year Father was captured by a band of pirates who had sneaked into Nam Yung and was forced to follow them for two long weeks on foot on bad road until he was released. He attributed his liberation to the help of Bl. John Bosco whom he had invoked during his ordeal.

After his leave in Italy Father was assigned to St. Louis School, Hong Kong, as administrator and served there from 1931 to 1935. Then he was sent to the U.S.A. where he took care of Chinese catholics in a New York parish. Here Father suffered a stroke which affected his health quite seriously. Back in Italy he was a much appreciated spiritual director at our church of St. John the Evangelist in Turin. A second stroke eventually overcame him and he passed away on October 21st 1950 at 61 years of age.



BRO. PAUL DOLDI

b. Ombriano (Italy) 4.9.1904
p. Villa Moglia-Chieri (Italy) 1.11.1932
d. Rome 22.10.1973

Bro. Doldi was born at Ombriano (Italy) in 1904. After his aspirantate at Ivrea and his novitiate at Villa Moglia he professed in 1932 and arrived in China in the same year.

A humble, simple, pious and hard-working confrere, Brother was dear to all those he met at Instituto Salesiano (Macau), St. Louis (Hong Kong), Aberdeen (Hong Kong), Yuet Wah (Macau) and Coloane (Macau).

He gladly served as supervisor of the boys, wardrobe attendant, administrator and even white-washing worker.

In 1951 Brother returned to Italy and was assigned to the catacombs of St. Callistus in Rome. There his apostolate was that of setting a remarkable example of humble and cheerful service to confreres and visitors alike. In 1967 he was sent to Sardinia to work there.

After six years he was back in his old community in Rome where he spent the final year of his life-time. There he concluded his edifying and modest apostolate as a Salesian lay brother on October 22nd 1973 at 69 years of age.



FR. JOSEPH LUCAS DA SILVA

b. Cabanelas (Portugal) 28.3.1888

p. Lisbon (Portugal) 8.11.1904

o. Foglizzo (Italy) 14.7.1912

d. Lisbon 26.10.1951

Fr. Joseph was born in 1888 at Cabanelas (Portugal). As a boy he lost his father and so grew up as an orphan in our houses and there in an atmosphere of fervor and poverty heard the Lord's call. He took his first vows in 1904. He was studying his second year of theology at Oporto when his superior Fr. L. Sutura was expelled from Portugal by the revolutionary government because he was a religious as well as an alien. Then it fell to Bro. Lucas to take charge of the house for a time. Yet his identity as a religious was soon discovered by the authorities who expelled him from the country as well. He ended up in Italy where at Foglizzo he was able to continue his study of theology: eventually he received holy priesthood in 1912. In the same year he departed for China. After a short stint in the Heung Shan district he served at our house in Macau as a supervisor of the boys, as band master, choir master, prefect of religious education, administrator and finally rector.

He was quite slim and never enjoyed good health, yet he was a dynamic and active worker. In 1927 he returned to Portugal on leave and was kept there because the province lacked personnel. In spite of his poor health he went on working hard for a good number of years as rector in several houses. Eventually it was discovered that he was suffering from leukemia. In spite of all efforts to save his life at Estoril and Lisbon, his illness brought about his demise on October 26th 1951. He was 63 years of age.



FR. ALOYSIUS ROTTMAYR

- b. Grosshohenrain (Germany) 26.3.1892
- p. Mosquera (Colombia) 21.1.1915
- o. Bogota' (Colombia) 3.2.1924
- d. Puerto Ayacucho (Venezuela) 26.10.1954

Fr. Aloysius did not serve long in China yet the figure of this zealous missionary deserves remembering. He was born in Germany in 1892, joined the local seminary in 1901 but had to withdraw in 1903 because of illness. In 1912 he applied to join the Society of Jesus but failed to be admitted because of his poor health conditions.

In the same year by chance he noticed on a piece of paper (a sheet from the Salesian Bulletin) that at Verzej in Yugoslavia the Salesians had opened a house for late vocations. He applied at once and was accepted. In 1914 he moved to Mosquera in Colombia where he made his novitiate and took his first vows in 1915 as well as the perpetual ones in 1918. He was remarkable for his knowledge of technical things which he had acquired by self-study.

He received holy priesthood in 1924 and arrived in China in the following year.

Fr. Aloysius was very dear to Mons. Versiglia who admired his technical knowledge. Unluckily Father was affected by some sores in his legs, which in the climate of Shiu Chow would not heal, so that he eventually had to leave China.

Subsequently Father worked at Foglizzo as prefect of religious education and later at the house of formation at Astudillo in Spain. In 1932 he moved to Venezuela where he worked in several houses until 1941, when he transferred to Puerto Ayacucho, the centre of our mission in Alto Orinoco. There he spent the rest of his life-time helping the Prefect Apostolic Mons. De Ferrari in the apostolate on behalf of the Indios for whom he founded the colony of Our Lady of Coromoto. In 1954 Mons. Garcia appointed him as his own pro-vicar.

Shortly later Fr. Aloysius suffered a stroke which eventually brought about his demise on October 26th 1954. He was 68 years old.



FR. JOSEPH FU YUK TONG

b. Macau 10.3.1917
p. Hong Kong 28.10.1939
o. Shanghai 24.5.1950
d. Shanghai 10.1961

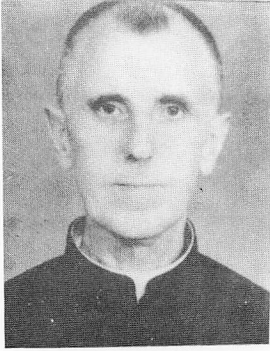
Fr. Joseph was born in Macau in 1917. He joined our Society in Hong Kong in 1939 and received holy priesthood in Shanghai in 1950. Young Fr. Fu worked zealously at our house of St. Joseph in Shanghai. When the new authorities set in motion the wellknown three-self campaign to promote the setting up of a catholic church independent of the Pope throughout China in the early fifties, there arrived for Fr. Fu the hour of God.

Meetings were held in Shanghai in February 1951 to promote the idea of the so called "patriotic catholics". In the meetings paid people and self-styled christians did their best to discredit the catholic religion and its missionaries. The meeting held on February 23rd was expected to conclude with the signing of the agreement to the official policy.

The participants wavered: Fr. Beda Tsang, S. J., declared that a compromise agreement with the government had been formulated and awaited the approval of the authorities. At that time Fr. Fu felt that he had to intervene to warn those present against any form of compromise and said in a loud voice: "No signature against the Pope and the Church!"

The meeting broke up in noise and confusion. The same day in the afternoon meeting Fr. Fu was accused of being a spy, a reactionary element and a tool of the imperialists. He was arrested and to make matters worse a compromising document was found on him, i.e. a copy of the letter by the Bishops of China warning the faithful against the danger of signing the three-self document. This proved to be his chief crime.

Little is known of the suffering Father Fu had to bear in jail. Only years later the news leaked out that Fr. Joseph had heroically gone to his reward while in jail in October 1961. A veritable martyr of loyalty to the Church and to the Pope.



FR. WILLIAM SCHUTZDELLER

b. Essen-Steele (Germany) 8.2.1898
p. Ensdorf (Germany) 15.8.1924
o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931
d. Jünkerath (Germany) 1.11.1985

Fr. William was born at Essen-Steele (Germany) in 1898. In his youth he worked as a chemist and served in the army for three years. On completion of college studies at Underwaltersdorf he started his novitiate at Ensdorf, where he professed in August 1924. He then left for China with his confrere Francis Pyka.

The first few months in Macau were difficult for the Brothers because of the language barrier. Fr. Provincial then sent them to Ho Sai where they would be trained to communicate with the local people in their own language. Unfortunately the situation in China in those days was far from peaceful and so the superiors decided to move the House of Formation to Macau. It was in the latter place that Bro. Pyka got so seriously affected by a tropical disease that he had to be repatriated.

To encourage Bro. William who felt the loss of his friend very keenly, Fr. Provincial sent him to Siu Lam (in Heung Shan district) to work in the modest boarding school which Fr. Wiczorek had opened.

For Fr. William this was a godsend indeed because he was able gradually to forget his loss and to gain experience.

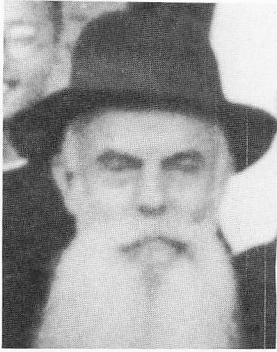
In 1927 Brother started his theology at our house in Macau and concluded it at St. Louis in Hong Kong where the students had moved. He received holy priesthood on May 30th 1931 in Hong Kong.

The young priest was then sent with four newly-ordained fellow priests to work in the mission of Shiu Chow. Fr. William was assigned to the district of Ying Tak to assist Fr. Cavada. The latter, however, died shortly afterwards leaving Fr. William to fend for himself alone in a district which was both extensive and difficult to evangelise. He worked there with alacrity for four years until Bishop Canazei invited him to move to Shiu Chow to be his own secretary. After spending three years in the latter place, Father served for another two at Yan Fa and then was back again at Shiu Chow this time as parish priest of the pro-cathedral.

During the second world war he was interned by the authorities with his German and Italian confreres. After liberation he worked again at Yan Fa and Lok Chong for a few years. Subsequently he spent some time on leave back in his native Germany but on his return to China he was prevented from going back to the mission, because the latter was now already under the control of the new government.

However, Father did not let himself down and with zeal and optimism spent the rest of his life-time in several of our houses in Macau and Hong Kong as spiritual director of confreres, sisters and students.

In 1979 Father felt that at his age of 81 his health would no longer stand the climate of the place and reluctantly returned to Germany. Here he spent the last few years of his life-time in the novitiate house at Jünkerath setting edifying examples of piety and brotherly love to his confreres. There he passed away on November 1st 1985 at 87 years of age.



FR. ALOYSIUS BOCCASSINO

b. Valfenera d'Asti (Italy) 31.10.1886
p. Valsalice (Italy) 27.2.1904
o. Foglizzo (Italy) 20.5.1913
d. Bologna (Italy) 7.11.1969

Fr. Boccassino was born at Valfenera d'Asti (Italy) in 1886. He joined our Society in 1904 and received holy priesthood in 1913.

Father spent the war time as a military chaplain and as soon as he was discharged he came to China in 1919.

Father was a zealous missionary in Heung Shan (1919-1923) and then in the mission of Shiu Chow (1923-1927). Later he served in several capacities in Hong Kong, Macau and Shiu Chow.

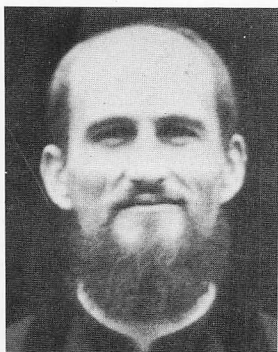
Father Boccassino was gifted with a beautiful baritone voice which he was glad to let people enjoy! Once he asked Fr. Braga to accompany him at the organ. Fr. Braga asked to be paid for his service with the fee of \$5 (which in those days was a fair sum of money!). Fr. Luigi grudgingly accepted the deal and paid up. When he was working in the mission, at his residence there always was a special room with the label: "H.E. the Bishop", which, however, was always occupied by himself! "Anyway," he used to say, "if the Bishop turns up, it is only once a year!"

Father was a remarkable preacher and when preaching he made skilful use of his voice, eyes, beard and gesticulation. It always impressed his hearers intensely, particularly when the topics of his sermons were the last four things.

One retreat he preached to the confreres in Shanghai is still remembered today, because his material was entirely taken from the Biographical Memoirs of St. John Bosco.

In 1949 he returned to his native Italy, where he made himself useful in several houses as a spiritual director and as an enthusiastic propagandist for the missions. In 1963 he enjoyed the consolation of celebrating his golden jubilee anniversary of priesthood.

Eventually he passed away serenely as a patriarch heavy with years on November 7th 1969. He was 83 years old.



BRO. FRANCIS PYKA

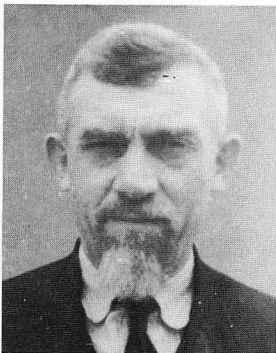
b. Lomnitz (Germany) 28.1.1891
p. Ensdorf (Germany) 15.7.1924
d. Innsbruck 9.11.1930

Bro. Francis was born at Lomnitz (Styria). He joined our Society in 1924 and soon afterwards came to China, where he served at Macau and later at Shiu Chow. Before joining the Salesians Francis had been a baker, so his expertise came in very handy in the mission, so that the Brothers at Ho Sai and the Sisters at the nearby orphanage were always supplied with fine bread which was hard to come by in those days and places.

Unfortunately Brother contracted a rare tropical disease which, according to physicians in Macau, could be cured only by repatriation.

Brother reluctantly left China and returned to his native country, where he recovered and managed to start his studies again.

He was already approaching holy priesthood, when a brain tumour struck him. He was duly operated on but to no avail and Brother passed away on November 9th 1930.



BRO. PETER MONTI

b. Paderno Bugnano (Italy) 31.10.1895
p. Este (Italy) 21.9.1922
d. Macau 9.11.1963

Bro. Monti was born at Paderno Bugnano (Italy) in 1895. He joined our Society at 26 in 1922 after concluding his military service in Macedonia. As a cabinet-maker he was indeed an artist and, besides, he was skilful at accounting. His military service in Macedonia, however, had mined his health threatening to render him entirely unable to work. Then he promised that if he ever regained his health, he would go to work in the missions. He did recover and came to China in 1926. Apart from four years at Hong Kong-Aberdeen and one at Shanghai, Brother spent his entire lifetime at Macau - Instituto Salesiano. His scanty knowledge of the Chinese language did not prevent him from being very useful to our Society through his technical skill, his great ability at drawing and his whole-hearted dedication to duty.

Brother Monti was highly esteemed by his pupils because out of his workshop there emerged not only skilfully made furniture and artistic altars but also remarkable pupils well versed in their art and well formed in their character. Bro. Peter was also great help to the School for his ability as an accountant. The final years of his lifetime were hard for him to bear, yet he went on working to the last.

After spending a few days in hospital at Macau, he died an edifying death on November 9th 1963.



FR. JOSEPH GEDER

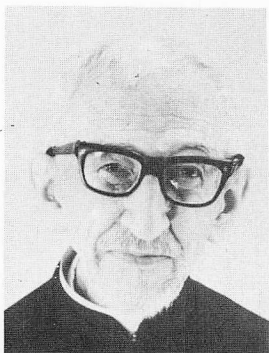
b. Vizlandva-Szarvarsal (Yugoslavia) 17.2.1901
p. Klecza Dolna (Poland) 8.8.1920
o. Turin (Italy) 7.9.1929
d. Hong Kong 10.11.1972

Fr. Geder was born in Yugoslavia in 1901. After his novitiate in Poland he professed in 1920. He studied philosophy at Cracow, went through his practical training at Lubiána and on completion of his theology received holy priesthood at Turin in 1929. That very same year Fr. Joseph joined our province. He spent 22 years in our mission of Shiu Chow, seven at Tung Pi, nine at Lin Chow and two at Shiu Chow during the vacancy of the See following the death of Bishop Canazei. Later he worked for four years at Nam Yung as long as the authorities allowed him to stay.

After leaving China, Father was assigned to serve at Hong Kong - Tang King Po School as administrator, prefect of religious education, prefect of the aspirants and for 12 years as spiritual director.

In 1969 he went home on leave and on his return, to his great disappointment, he discovered that he had forgotten all the languages he knew (he had always been at home with seven of them!) except his own mother tongue.

Because of his lack of memory he had to be assisted all day long for fear he might leave the house and get lost. Unfortunately one day he managed to slip out and cross the harbour to Hong Kong, where 24 hours later he was found lying on the pavement of a road. Carried back home, he did not recover from his shock and taken to hospital died of pneumonia a few days later on November 10th 1972 at the age of 71.



FR. GALDINO BARDELLI

b. Angera (Italy) 28.10.1883
p. Schio (Italy) 15.9.1905
o. Pinerolo (Italy) 20.9.1913
d. Hong Kong 10.11.1982

Fr. Bardelli back in 1919 was about to sail for China and Rev. Fr. P. Albera the Rector Major expressed doubts whether the thin confrere would ever be able to cross the seas and reach the mission land assigned to him. However, against all expectations, Father Galdino, who all his lifetime was lean, weak and sickly, endowed with an almost inaudible voice, managed to live on to 99 years of age (100 according to Chinese reckoning!)

Fr. Bardelli was born at Angera (Italy) in 1883 of a poor family. On completion of his primary schooling, young Galdino was apprenticed at Arona and then worked at Milan. In the latter city God was waiting for him and through the good offices of a zealous spiritual director enlightened him on his way to the religious and priestly life. He went through his secondary studies at Schio as a late vocation and in the same city made his novitiate and professed in 1905. After receiving holy priesthood in 1913, Father served in the army during the first world war and eventually arrived in China in 1919. In our mission of Shiu Chow he served nine years in several stations and amid considerable difficulties. After a short period of time in Macau, Father spent three years as pastor of parish of St. Anthony in Hong Kong, one year as rector of the house of formation in Hong Kong - Shaukiwan and three as master of novices in Macau.

For the rest of his lifetime he was known as an appreciated spiritual director. Fr. Galdino went back to his native Italy only once, when he took part in a general chapter as a delegate of the province.

Later he spent many years at the house of formation in Shaukiwan (Hong Kong) as spiritual director. He never enjoyed good health until a young doctor diagnosed his ailment as a hardened pylorus which interfered with digestion. Eventually Father was operated on and recovered his good health completely and spent the last two years of his lifetime at the St. Mary's Home for the Aged in Hong Kong, frequently visited by our confreres and assisted with great care by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Fr. Galdino's 99th birthday was celebrated amid great rejoicing by many confreres, friends and admirers of his.

Shortly after the event, however, following a sudden change of the weather, Father contracted bronchitis, which given his old age before long took a turn for the worse. With fervour Fr. Galdino received the Anointing of the sick on November 8th and at 2.35 a.m. of the 10th assisted to the last moment by Fr. Provincial, after a short agony, concluded his long earthly pilgrimage like a patriarch of Bible times.



FR. WILLIAM HAUGHEY

b. Glasgow (Scotland) 28.5.1908
p. Cowley (England) 1926
or. Shillong (India) 29.4.1933
d. Blaisdon (England) 12.11.1984

Fr. William was born at Maryhill, Glasgow in 1908. A fifteen years old boy, he applied to join the Salesian Society as a priest and missionary. Having made his novitiate and professed at Cowley, Oxford, he left for India where he went through his initial formation at Shillong and Bombay. He received his priestly ordination at Shillong in 1933.

In 1936 Father returned to Great Britain and just before the outbreak of the war moved to Turin as the editor of the English edition of the Salesian Bulletin.

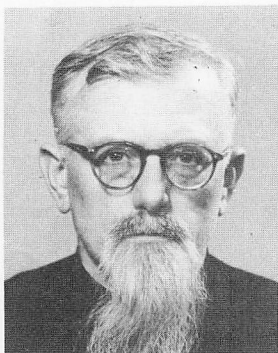
In 1941 at the request of the Colonial Office Father was put in charge of Salesian affairs in Hong Kong. When the Japanese army took over the latter territory, he was interned for a while but was soon released and allowed to continue his work because of his Irish family connections. After the war Fr. William returned to Britain. He was appointed to the Salesian Missionary College at Shrigley in 1947 where he spent 13 fruitful years as a teacher and promoter of vocations.

From 1960 to 1970 we find Fr. William at St. John Bosco School, Aberdour, Scotland, in charge of the Salesian co-operators. At the same time he used to preach retreats and was also a ready helper with the community's book-keeping and accounts.

After a short stint at Chertsey as bursar, he spent another eleven years at Shrigley as spiritual director. In 1983 he moved to Blaisdon where he was to spend the rest of his life-time.

An exemplary Salesian. Fr. Haughey was a man of prayer and outstanding brotherly love. He always made great efforts to be with the community for prayers, meals and moments of relaxation and always went out of his way to make visitors welcome.

Father passed away in 1984 the way he had lived, a pious and loyal son of the Church and of our Society, at 76 years of age, 59 of religious life and 52 of priesthood.



FR. MICHAEL SUPPO

b. Pianezza (Italy) 20.10.1902

p. Macau 8.12.1925

o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931

d. Hong Kong 13.11.1972

Fr. Suppo was born at Pianezza (Italy) in 1902. On completion of his primary schooling he expressed the desire to study for the priesthood but meeting with strong opposition on the part of his father, gave up his plan for the time being, pursued his studies and graduated as an accountant. Subsequently the young man worked with success in a bank and before long was appointed manager of one of its branches.

At 20 years of age, Michael underwent military training at Bologna and encouraged by the Archbishop set up a catholic military club for the welfare of his fellow soldiers. Discharged from the army and already of age, he left home and joined our aspirants at Ivrea; the following year he came to China, where after his novitiate he made his profession on December 8th 1925. Then he was sent to Shanghai where teaching his students he also attended to the study of philosophy and of the Chinese language. In 1927 he started his theology at Macau and concluded it in Hong Kong (St. Louis) in 1931 with the priestly ordination.

Young Fr. Michael then worked with alacrity in several capacities in Macau, Shanghai and Shiu Chow. Subsequently he taught for a number of years and was prefect of studies at the house of formation in Hong Kong - Shaukiwan and later in Shanghai where the community had moved at the breaking out of world war two. At the 'house of formation he taught several subjects and was much appreciated for his learning and wisdom. He was also well versed in Chinese history and literature of which he composed a useful manual for the use of his students.

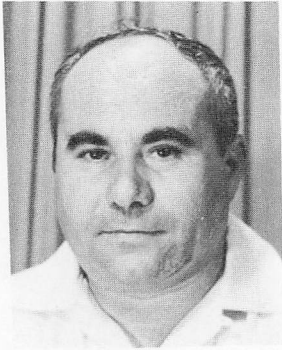
In 1942 the Salesians took over the management of Yuet Wah College in Macau and Father, put in charge of it, before long brought it up to a high standard and gained a good name for it in the city.

Later Father moved to Shanghai again as rector of the Don Bosco Technical School: his leadership brought new vitality both to the school and to the parish, also entrusted to our Society (St. John Bosco's).

After the new regime took over in China in 1949, the authorities in Shanghai set their eyes on the school and on the Salesians who were running it. Before long Father was arrested on trumped up charges and imprisoned for 15 months. He bore his trials with heroic patience and set a remarkable example of christian fortitude. After his eventual release and expulsion from China, Fr. Michael was assigned to look after the Hua Ming Press in Taipei (Taiwan) which was by then administered by the Salesians. Later he worked for three years as provincial economist in Hong Kong and subsequently as rector at the Tang King Po School in Kowloon for six years. Today he is still remembered with gratitude by the many youngsters he helped in those days.

On completion of his term of office, Father was assigned to St. Louis School as teacher and spiritual director; there he made himself very useful in spite of the fact that he was already being troubled by diabetis. In the morning of November 13th 1972 Fr. Suppo did not turn up, as it was his habit, for meditation. The rector of the community rushed to his room and discovered that Father during the night had quietly passed away.

His memory has left such a strong mark on the life and spirit of the province that the late Fr. Suppo can rightly be regarded as one of the greatest pioneers of Don Bosco's work in China.



BRO. NICOLINO TAMBASCIA

b. Benevento (Italy) 14.2.1916

p. Hong Kong 8.12.1937

d. Cebu City (Philippines) 13.11.1979

Bro. Nicolino, as he used to be addressed familiarly, was a very popular member of our communities wherever he happened to live and work, whether in China or in the Philippines. A man with a typical sense of humour, hard-working and patient, he was notably loath to cause any uneasiness in dealing with confreres, boys and people at large. His simplicity was charming and his optimistic approach to people and problems made him popular wherever he happened to be.

At 16 young Nicolino joined our missionary juniorate at Gaeta in Southern Italy in 1932. In 1936 he left for China where he made his novitiate and professed on December 8th 1937.

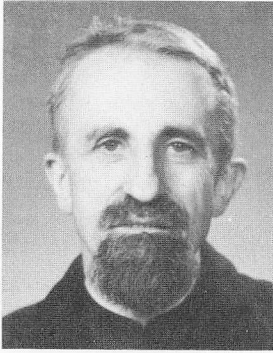
Throughout his life as a Salesian Bro. Nicolino was fond of his important role in our communities as a cook and served with outstanding commitment in our houses of formation in Hong Kong and Shanghai during the difficult times of the world war and the civil war in China.

In 1954 Brother moved to the Philippines where he carried on his humble apostolate, much appreciated by confreres and boys alike at Victorias, Canlubang, Makati, Mandaluyong, Montinlupa and for his final 13 years of life in Cebu City's boystown.

Brother Nicolino always lived in exemplary spirit of poverty, docile and obedient to his superiors, co-operative with confreres and quite careful in matters of modesty. He possessed a simple, serene and single-minded outlook on life. His typically salesian spirit of piety edified the people who lived with him, particularly his devotion to our Lady Help of Christians.

Bro. Tambascia passed away in an edifying manner, as he had always lived, at 63 years of age and 42 of religious life.

He will indeed live on in the memory of many confreres and boys as a worthy son of St. John Bosco.



FR. VINCENT RICALDONE

b. Mirabello (Italy) 27.2.1897
p. Foglizzo (Italy) 13.9.1918
o. Penango (Italy) 19.2.1923
d. Turin (Italy) 14.11.1975

Fr. Ricaldone is a wellknown personality in the history of our province: he was a nephew of the former Rector Major Fr. Peter Ricaldone.

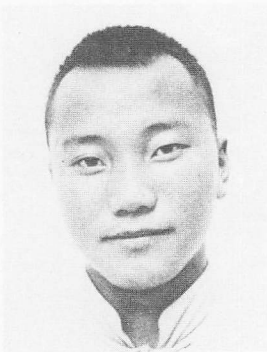
Born at Mirabello (Italy) in 1897, on completion of his novitiate at Foglizzo, he made his profession in 1918. From that year to 1923 Bro. Vincent studied and worked at our house in Penango as it was the custom in our Society in those days. He received holy priesthood in 1923 and in January of the following year he left for China. For twelve years he served in several capacities in our mission of Shiu Chow. After a short leave in Italy, Father was assigned to work at our house of formation at Shaukiwan (Hong Kong) and later in Shanghai. Those were indeed the most remarkable years of his salesian life in China, during which he exerted himself with great zeal for the formation of our junior confreres.

After the war Father moved to Hong Kong and was again put in charge of the house of formation. It was during this period of time that he patiently carried a heavy cross caused by calumnies spread by malevolent persons in his regard.

When the Salesians started their work in the Philippines in the early fifties, Father was sent there and served as spiritual director, as administrator and for six years as master of novices. Subsequently he made himself useful as spiritual director at our school in Makati as well at the San Ildefonso parish. He always gladly accepted invitations to give talks, lectures and sermons; for the latter he possessed plentiful material from the lives of Saints and the Biographical Memoirs of St. John Bosco, which he used to quote with remarkable ease.

When the centenary celebrations of the salesian missions took place in Turin in 1975, Father was invited to travel back to Italy to participate. However, the climate in the northern part of the country proved quite harmful to his health, which was already being affected by cancer.

He was promptly hospitalized and looked after with care but eventually his ailment had the upper hand and good Fr. Vincent peacefully passed away on November 14th 1975 after devoutly receiving the sacrament of the sick. Fr. Vincent is gratefully remembered by the many Salesians he formed in China and in the Philippines by his teaching and holiness of life. God rest his holy soul.



FR. BARNABAS LY

b. Hyang Shu Tung (China) 16.2.1917

p. Hong Kong 29.10.1939

o. Shanghai 29.6.1949

d. Sü Chow 15.11.1953

Fr. Ly was born at Hyang Shu Tung (Yun Nan Province) in 1917. After his elementary schooling, he entered the minor seminary at Yun Nan Fu, which he left shortly afterwards to attend our school in that city. During the six months he spent there he felt so much at home that he asked to be allowed to join our Society. Therefore he was sent to join our aspirants at Aberdeen (Hong Kong).

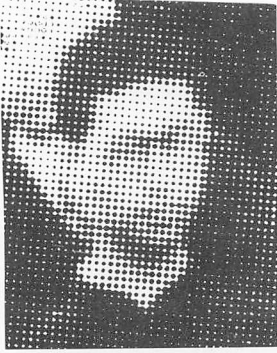
He made his novitiate at Shaukiwan (Hong Kong) and professed there in October 1939. His studies posed the greatest challenge to his vocation, but he met it with patience, humility and determination. His practical training provided him with the occasion to prove his love for Don Bosco and for his own vocation when put in charge of lively and at times also troublesome boys. Again his humility, kindness and patience won over their hearts and they ended up by loving him and gladly co-operating with him. Bro. Ly eventually was ordained a priest in 1949 at Shanghai hardly a month after the Red Army had taken over the city.

Süchowfu in northern Kiang Su Province was then his first field of apostolate at the newly established trade school there. Fr. Ly served with zeal in several capacities putting up gallantly with privations and hardships of all kinds.

It was the very authorities of the city that compelled him to travel to Shanghai to seek medical treatment. In the latter city a doctor discovered the nature of his complaint and prescribed suitable medicines, which unfortunately because of bureaucratic hurdles never reached the poor patient. The latter, however, managed to recover somewhat and to make his way back to Suchowfu.

Later on, following the departure of the non-Chinese confreres from the country, Fr. Ly was left to fend for himself in the company of a local lay brother. Before long his trouble propped up again worse than before. A confrere who happened to pass by suggested that he should be hospitalized. Fr. Ly was then taken to hospital, where he spent the last three days of his life on earth. Thank God he was able to receive Holy Communion two times before his demise which occurred on November 15th 1953.

Fr. Ly was wellknown for his love for youth.



BRO. JOHN B. TSIANG

b. Fat Wa Kiu (China) 26.6.1917
p. Hong Kong 11.1.1935
d. Po Gio (Shanghai) 16.11.1950

Bro. John was born at Fat Wa Kiu (Kiang Su Province) in 1917. After his novitiate at Hong Kong he made his profession in 1935. While studying philosophy also at Hong Kong, Brother had to struggle hard to cope with the textbooks and the teaching which in those days were all in Latin or in Italian for all the subjects of the curriculum.

Instituto Salesiano - Macau saw Bro. John as a practical trainee, who because of his poor preparation and his weak health soon found himself in hot water. He struggled hard but before long his physical and mental health grew into an alarming problem. Thus he was sent back to the house of formation in Hong Kong, where the superiors did their best to look after him. Yet, since his condition did not show any signs of improvement, it was decided to send him to the mental hospital at Po Gio near Shanghai, managed by a community of German Hospitaller Brothers.

After the house of formation moved to Shanghai, occasionally the clerics were able to go and visit him. It was during one of those visits that he said, "I hardly ever was able to live near my Salesian Superiors on earth, but I am sure I shall be forever with them in heaven!" This hope of his came true for him on November 16th 1950 when his blessed soul purified by so much suffering at last entered heaven to stay with Don Bosco forever.



FR. JOSEPH NOEL AVALLE

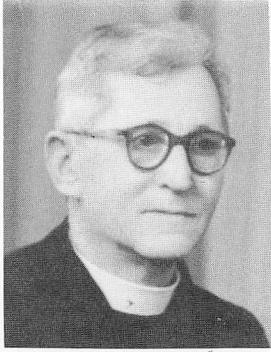
- b. Quargnento (Italy) 19.12.1899
- p. Ho Sai 29.1.1925
- o. Hong Kong 30.5.1931
- d. Alessandria (Italy) 23.11.1974

Fr. Avalle was born at Quargnento (Italy) in 1899. After his aspirantate at Penango he came to China in 1923. Here he made his profession in 1925 and after his study of philosophy at Macau and theology at Macau and Hong Kong, received holy priesthood in 1931.

Newly ordained Fr. Joseph worked with zeal for six years in the mission of Shiu Chow. Later he had to leave it for health reasons (actually his whole life-time was troubled with weak health). Kunming in south western China was his next destination, because it was hoped that there the climate would be favourable to him. There he worked for two years as spiritual director and as accountant: actually in all the houses where he served he was wellknown for the spiritual help he extended to both confreres, boys and outsiders as well as for the assistance he gave to the local administrators through his accounting ability. After a short leave in Italy he was sent to serve for a while at Süchowfu in Kiangsu province and then to the mother-house in Macau where he exerted himself in an exemplary way, always active and appreciated. Besides his ordinary duties in the house, Father extended his services to several communities in the city. He was also wellknown as spiritual director of the local clergy. The leper colony at Coloane was also visited by Father every week for confessions.

In those years he suffered from TB of the bones, so that one of his arms was permanently paralysed. It was indeed providential that one day while pruning a vine he lost his balance and crashed to the ground off his ladder. Taken to hospital with a broken leg, he received a transfusion of very good blood, which to the utter surprise of many solved the complicated problem of Father. He eventually was discharged from hospital with no signs of paralysis any more.

In 1974 Father was repatriated because of failing health and spent the last few months of his life-time at our house in Alessandria (Italy), where on November 23rd he peacefully passed away aged 75.



FR. ERMINIO ROSSETTI

b. San Martino di Conegliano (Italy) 20.9.1874

p. Valsalice (Italy) 10.1892

o. Milan (Italy) 1.4.1899

d. Lisbon (Portugal) 27.11.1971

Fr. Rossetti was born in 1874 at San Martino di Conegliano (Italy). Following the loss of his mother, young Erminio in 1887 entered the House of Don Bosco at Valdocco. He hardly knew the Saint but was deeply impressed by the remarkable Salesians of the time, Fr. Rua, Fr. Barberis, Fr. Bonetti etc. Brother took his perpetual vows at Valsalice in 1892, received the priestly ordination at Milan in 1899.

After spending twenty years as a young priest in various capacities in Italy, Fr. Rossetti in 1922 travelled to Kimberley (Australia) to work with Mons. Coppo. Three years later he arrived in Macau where he served as administrator and teacher of philosophy at the fledgling house of formation in that city.

In 1927 he moved to the House of Dily (Timor) and thence to Portugal where he impressed both confreres and pupils by his holiness of life. Father was a much sought after spiritual director, wellknown for his profound interior life and spirit of prayer. Temperance seemed to be his favourite virtue. To a young lay brother who used to assist him during the last few months of his lifetime one day he confessed, "I have always practised the virtue of temperance as well as I was able to!"

His predilection was for poorer boys: he used to teach the little ones how to wash themselves, to make their beds and to look after their small possessions. He was a cheerful man, endowed with plenty of good humour, which made him welcome wherever he went.

His passion was supervising the boys: he took great pleasure in spending as much time with them as possible. As a reward the Good Lord granted him the gift of a long life, which he concluded at Lisbon on November 27th 1971 at 97 years of age.



BRO. PAUL PROKOPOVICZ

b. Czerwinsk (Poland) 25.1.1910

p. Czerwinsk 27.7.1931

d. Czerwinsk. 27.11.1983

Bro. Paul was born in Poland in 1910, joined our Society in 1931 and arrived in China in 1936. For a good number of years he served at the Aberdeen Technical School (Hong Kong) as a secretary to the workshops, assistant to the administrator of the house and helper to the late Fr. Wiczorek for the latter's work of correspondence with his benefactors abroad.

Brother was endowed with learning and plenty of good humour; he always expected to be addressed by the boys as "teacher" not simply as "brother" as the other lay brothers.

He was fairly conversant with the English language which made him quite helpful to the communities wherever he worked.

In the early 1950's Brother was sent to the Philippines where he served for another twenty years before returning to his native Poland for good. In 1983 on the occasion of the beatification of our Salesian protomartyrs Mons. L. Versiglia and Fr. C. Caravario, Brother visited Italy and was glad to be able to meet his confreres, past-pupils and friends from China. He spent a few happy days with them and surprised them with an address in Cantonese after so many years of absence from China. On November 27th 1983 Brother concluded his pilgrimage on earth aged 73 years.



FR. CLEMENT BENATO

b. Zovon di Vo (Italy) 10.8.1882

p. Ho Sai 29.1.1925

o. Shiu Chow 7.12.1930

d. Verona (Italy) 6.12.1959

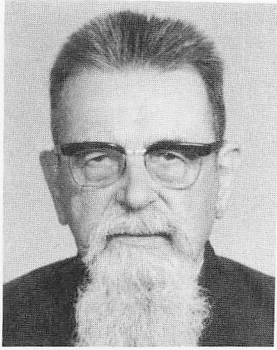
Fr. Benato was born at Zovon di Vo (Italy) in 1882. On concluding his primary studies he was trained as a tailor and later became post-master in his own village. In those days he joined the movement of Catholic Action in its struggle with the Socialists, who opposed the clergy and Catholic organizations whenever they could.

During the first world war young Clement served in the army as telegraph operator. Following his discharge he decided to join the Salesians and was sent to our Juniorate at Penango. In 1923 he left for China where he made his novitiate at Ho Sai and professed in January 1925. The studies for holy priesthood posed a serious problem to Bro. Clement who was already advanced in age. Yet he bravely struggled on and eventually received holy priesthood at Shiu Chow in 1930.

Father spent the next six years at Macau and Shanghai as spiritual director, administrator or secretary to the administrator. For two years he was also chaplain to the large St. Joseph's Hospice in Nantao (Shanghai).

From 1936 he was the hard-working and faithful secretary to the Provincial first in Macau and then in Hong Kong. His contribution was indeed valuable, particularly because he collected ample material about the history of the province.

Towards the end of 1959 he was repatriated because of his weak health. On December 6th of the same year he died of heart failure in our house at Verona aged 77.



FR. ANTHONY CHARLES KIRSCHNER

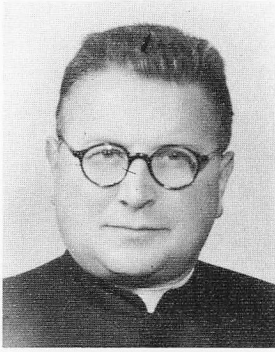
b. Zagreb (Hungary) 12.4.1898
p. Szentkereszt 11.6.1920
o. Turin 8.7.1928
d. Macau 8.12.1984

Fr. Kirschner was born in Hungary in 1898. As a young man during the first world war he fought on the Russian front. He already had in mind to be a priest and trusting the assistance of Our Lady he successfully faced dangerous situations on the battlefields. He was wounded in action and awarded a medal for his gallant service.

After the war he joined our Society as a novice at Wernsee and in 1920 came to China with three other confreres (the first batch of clerics to come to our province).

In 1925 the Provincial Fr. Canazei sent him to Turin (Crocetta) to study theology. In the same city he received holy priesthood in 1928.

Back in China, Fr. Anthony worked with zeal in several capacities at Macau and in the mission of Shiu Chow, during a difficult period of the history of our mission. In 1952 the political situation forced him to leave his beloved diocese. He spent the rest of life-time at Yuet Wah College in Macau. Here he would be wellknown for the next 32 years as a zealous spiritual director, teacher and untiring researcher into the history of the Church and of the Congregation in China. His endeavours produced a valuable work "Dom Bosco e a China" in Portuguese, of which he used to feel justly proud. A revered veteran of 86, Father was called to his reward on December 8th 1984.



FR. JOHN BERTOLDI

b. Loreggia (Italy) 13.12.1904

p. Este (Italy) 21.9.1922

p. Modena (Italy) 25.4.1930

d. Novara (Italy) 13.12.1966

Fr. Bertoldi was born at Loreggia (Italy) in 1904. He joined our Society in 1922 and received holy priesthood at Modena in 1930.

Father came to China in 1935 and spent the next 15 years at Shanghai in several capacities in our Schools at Nantao, Yangtsepoo and Ne Ziang. He was also for a time chaplain to the St. Joseph's Hospice in Nantao. Forced to leave China in 1950, Father returned to his native Italy where he worked for the next sixteen years in the province of Novara.

In 1964 he suffered a stroke which caused much physical and moral pain. He put up with it with christian patience until the Lord came to call him to his reward on December 13th 1966. Fr. John was wellknown for his untiring activity on behalf of youth.



FR. ACHILLE COTTA

b. Milan (Italy) 22.9.1923
p. 24.9.1939
o. Hong Kong 29.6.1949
d. Macau 13.12.1970

Fr. Cotta was born at Milan in 1923, joined our Society in 1939 and arrived in China (Shanghai) in 1948 as a student of theology. In the latter city he pursued his studies and received holy priesthood in 1949.

The newly ordained Fr. Achille spent the next two years as a capable teacher at the house of formation in Hong Kong and after a year at Instituto Salesiano in Macau, moved to Yuet Wah College in the same city, where he was to spend the rest of his life-time as a much appreciated teacher, prefect of studies and administrator.

Held in high esteem by his pupils, Father was able to do them a great deal of good both in the scientific and in the moral and religious fields.

Today his lectures as well as his well prepared sermons are still remembered with admiration and gratitude.

On December 4th 1970, although he was not feeling well, he travelled to Hong Kong on the occasion of the visit of the Holy Father Paul VI to the city. The journey as well as the celebration of Founders' Day at the College on the 7th tired him so much that in the evening he suddenly collapsed in his own room and had to be hospitalized without delay. In the next few days he received the sacrament of the sick as his condition worsened considerably. It was December 13th when the Lord came to call his faithful servant to his reward. He was 47 years of age.



FR. JOSEPH CUCCHIARA

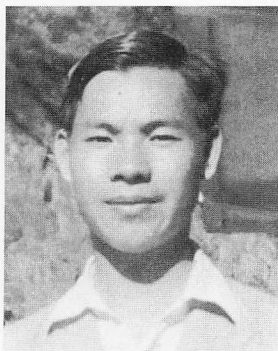
b. Girgenti (Italy) 19.12.1882
p. San Gregorio (Italy) 29.4.1907
o. Ivrea (Italy) 30.5.1915
d. Hong Kong 18.12.1966

Fr. Cucchiara was born at Girgenti (Italy) in 1882, joined our Society at Catania in 1907 and received holy priesthood in 1915. Father spent the next three years as a military chaplain in the war zone. Discharged from the army, he joined the group of our missionaries who were leaving for China in 1919. In our mission he spent his best energies to the year 1938 spreading the Gospel message amid great difficulties with untiring zeal. Father built a fine church at Tung Pi in honour of his own Patron St. Joseph and another in Lin Chow in honour of O. L. Help of Christians.

Back in Italy in 1938, he was prevented from returning to the mission by the breaking out of the war. Then he spent four years in Turin as spiritual director and two at Fiume as rector.

Back in Shiu Chow in 1948, he was made vicar general by the bishop Mons. Arduino and faced with the same the difficult times after the change of government as well as six months of imprisonment in the Bishop's house. After leaving China, Father was for four years spiritual director at the Aberdeen Trade School in Hong Kong. During this time he was able to help the eight "Sisters Announcers of the Lord" (a local congregation planned by Blessed Bishop L. Versiglia and formally founded by his successor Bishop Canazei) to leave the country and settle in Hong Kong.

In the latter city he exerted himself in helping the fledgling congregation in its mission to work in parishes and schools. At the time of his demise, the Sisters had already made remarkable progress both in numbers and quality. A malignant tumour eventually attacked his health and brought about his demise on December 18th 1966. He was 77 years of age.



BRO. PAUL TANG

b. Kowloon 27.11.1914
p. Hong Kong 8.12.1936
d. Hong Kong 19.12.1941

Bro. Paul was born at Kowloon in 1914 of a fervent christian family. He was one of the first pupils of St. Louis School (Hong Kong), where he received his primary education and professional training as a cabinet-maker.

His teacher was the wellknown Bro. C. Fino, who trained him not only in his craft but also in moral and religious education. When his department was shifted to the newly established school at Aberdeen, Paul followed his teacher to the latter place. The following year he began his novitiate and after his profession returned to Aberdeen where he was put in charge of the shop formerly managed by Bro. Fino who in the meantime had passed away. Bro. Paul was timid by nature and rather prone to discouragement, but on being reminded of his former teacher Bro. Fino, he would regain his confidence and optimism. When the war broke out in 1941, Brother Paul had to follow the confreres of the community and the group of boys still left in the school in their hectic adventures, moving from place to place to avoid the dangers of the fighting zone. One unhappy day while accompanying a group of boys he was kidnapped by a group of Japanese soldiers who had landed nearby during the night and was forced to follow them and carry their ammunition.

He was never seen again and all efforts to find him were useless. It is feared that poor Brother met the fate of many people who after helping the Japanese troops were unscrupulously slaughtered.

The date of Brother's demise, tentatively set on December 19th, is the most probable, although by no means certain. Brother was 28 years of age. He was a good confrere, pious, humble and co-operative. We believe that in heaven he has certainly joined his saintly teacher Bro. C. Fino.



BRO. BARNABAS MARCOS

b. Guadamiro (Spain) 29.3.1906
p. S. Jose' del Valle (Spain) 8.12.1929
d. Sevilla (Spain) 24.12.1984

Bro. Marcos was born in 1906 at Guadamiro (Spain). Following his professional training as a tailor, he started his novitiate at San Jose' del Valle and professed in 1929.

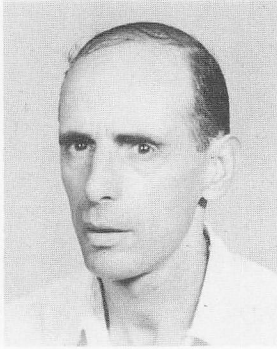
It was November 1933 when he arrived in Hong Kong where he spent the next three years at the house of formation at Shaukiwan, working as a tailor. Unfortunately during this period he was affected by a serious nervous breakdown, which confined him to hospital for almost one year.

Thank God, he eventually recovered when the superiors were already thinking of having him repatriated. He then spent one year at Macau and ten as a master tailor at the Aberdeen Trade School (Hong Kong).

A short chubby fellow, endowed with a terrific sense of humour, Bro. Marcos was a good friend of both confreres and boys, who enjoyed his company very much.

When Hong Kong was overrun by the Japanese army, Brother met with several adventures, which luckily never took a tragic turn. One day he was arrested by the Japanese and made to carry their baggage but fortunately later he was duly released. On another occasion he was again arrested by a military patrol but again released as he was found carrying the passport of a neutral nation. When the army eventually occupied part of the school premises Brother with his confreres was made to share the quarters of the community with the troops until the end of the conflict.

After the war Brother spent several more years at Aberdeen until in 1953 he moved to the Philippines with some other confreres. There he went on working as a master tailor, always very welcome by confreres, pupils and old boys alike. Eventually he retired to his native Spain where he passed away on December 24th 1984 aged 78.



BRO. JOSEPH MARONGIU

b. Sassari (Italy) 17.6.1910
p. Villa Moglia (Italy) 8.9.1938
d. Macau 24.12.1986

Bro. Marongiu was born at Sassari (Sardinia) in 1910. As a young man he was an active member of the Association of Catholic Action in his native place. Having completed a course in industrial arts, he joined our missionary juniorate in Gaeta (southern Italy) in 1934.

After his novitiate at Villa Moglia (Italy), he professed on September 8th 1938. Shortly later Brother sailed for China where he went through his philosophy course at Hong Kong and, after the outbreak of the war, in Shanghai. His practical training took place in Macau from 1941 to 1944. He started his study of theology at Macau in 1943, but had to give up because of ill health.

Brother accepted his new condition with whole-hearted resignation to God's holy will and went on, as he had always done, working for the welfare of his charges, whom he loved dearly.

After the war Brother spent some time in our house at Kunming where he left a lasting impression of devotion to duty and hard work.

His next and final stint as a committed Salesian brother took place at the Colegio Don Bosco in Macau, where he endeared himself to confreres and boys alike by his warm and cheerful personality.

The last few years of his lifetime were quite trying because of ill health, but he accepted his condition without complaining and went on faithfully working as much as he was able to until the Lord came to summon him in the early morning of December 24th 1986 in time to celebrate Christmas in heaven with the Blessed.

A man endowed with a strong temper, he tried hard to mould it into a pleasant personality, always ready to understand and to help.

It was a delight to watch him teach his class of restless young typists at Colegio Don Bosco: his pupils accepted him as a stern disciplinarian because they knew he loved them and cared for their welfare.

Bro. Marongiu drew his zeal and interest in his apostolate from a deep spirit of union with God, a filial devotion to Mary Help of Christians and a strong attachment to Don Bosco and the Salesian Congregation. May his examples move many youngsters to follow his steps.



FR. MARCO CAVALLIN

b. Solagna (Italy) 4.2.1914
p. Hong Kong 11.1.1935
o. Shanghai 29.1.1944
d. Hong Kong 28.12.1983

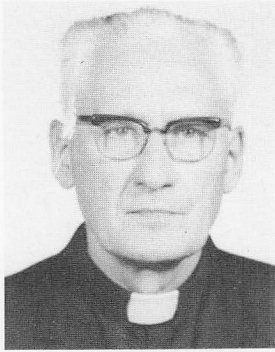
Fr. Cavallin was born at Solagna (Italy) in 1914. In his boyhood he had to put up with poverty, hard work and little schooling. At 15 he was admitted to our Juniorate at Ivrea. Subsequently he made his novitiate in Hong Kong and professed in 1935. His master described him as a pious, cheerful, hard working and generous teenager. After his philosophy at Hong Kong he received his practical training at St. Louis School in the same city. On completion of his theology at Shanghai he received holy priesthood there in 1944.

Young Fr. Cavallin then served for some time at the Don Bosco Technical School in Shanghai (Yangtsepo). On leaving the latter city, Father served for two years at St. Louis School (Hong Kong) and later for another eight at Colegio Don Bosco in Macau as prefect of studies, prefect of religious education and administrator.

In 1956 he moved to Salesian School (Hong Kong) where he set up a very successful Boys' Club which provided the local lads with honest amusement, religious instruction and sport. He was particularly skilful at obtaining gifts for his boys from the many benefactors he had and was able to keep with his charming manners.

In 1970 Father spent some time at the Lateran University in Rome and gained a diploma in dogmatic and pastoral theology. In 1972 he moved to the newly established Don Bosco Technical School in Kwai Chung, N. T., where he served as administrator, prefect of religious education and teacher as well as chaplain to the local community of Salesian Sisters. In that place Fr. Mark also set up a youth center which eventually grew very popular in the area. Boys' Clubs were really Father's passion!

His health, however, started deteriorating: diabetis, high blood pressure, a weakening eye-sight were his daily crosses. It was the evening of December 28th 1982 when Father suffered a serious attack. The physicians at the local hospital did their best to save his life, but at 11.30 p.m. the generous heart of Fr. Mark stopped beating. He was 68 years of age.



FR. SILVIO LOMAZZI

b. Milan (Italy) 24.4.1907
p. Hong Kong 8.12.1936
o. Shanghai 29.1.1943
d. Hong Kong 29.12.1982

Fr. Lomazzi is an outstanding figure in the history of our Province. Born at Milan (Italy) in 1907, he went through his elementary and secondary schooling, after which he took up technical drawing.

Meanwhile he attended the local parish youth center and was an active member of the Catholic Action Association. Meanwhile he worked as an electrician. Having completed his military training, he decided to go to the missions and applied to the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions (PIME), but was not accepted because of his age.

He was instead accepted by the Salesians at our juniorate of Ivrea which he joined in 1933. In the latter place he spent two years, very much admired not only for his application to study but also for his varied practical abilities and extra-curricular activities. After his novitiate at Hong Kong he professed in 1936 and then went through his college studies in the same place.

His practical training took place partly at St. Louis (Hong Kong) and partly at Instituto Salesiano (Macau). His first year was a difficult one because the boys (boarders) were rather unruly. His rector, Fr. J. Guarona advised him to establish a religious sodality for the pupils. Fr. Silvio managed to appoint the most unruly of his charges as the president of the new sodality. The choice was a good one, because the youngster, given authority and trust, changed his ways and became an exemplary lad.

Brother's second year was spent in Macau and was indeed a more peaceful one for him. For his theology Bro. Silvio moved to Shanghai, where he applied himself to his new duties with his usual determination. At the same time, however, he was quite active on the stage as an actor as well as a scenographer. In fact he was a very much appreciated painter of all kinds of sets, at which he worked strenuously, at time endangering his very health.

After his priestly ordination in 1943 he was entrusted with the pastoral care of a few hundred Italian seamen who at that time lived in an internment camp adjacent to the house of formation. He employed all his abilities to look after their welfare and to keep up their morale. He would entertain them, visit them when sick and encourage them in the fulfilment of their religious duties. On the occasion of air-raids he often risked his very life while assisting the injured and the dying. At the same time he kept fulfilling his duties at the house of formation.

After leaving Shanghai in 1952, Father served for some years as administrator at the house of formation in Shaukiwan (Hong Kong) and later in the same capacity at the Tang King Po School.

When the house of formation moved from Hong Kong to Cheung Chau, Father was sent to the latter place as teacher and administrator. Later on, when Bishop Bianchi of Hong Kong invited him to take care of drug addicts under treatment at a nearby centre, Father accepted with his typical enthusiasm and although he soon realized that he did not get many apparent results, he persevered in his efforts bravely repeating, "Love believes all and hopes all!"

Even when he was appointed provincial eonomer, Father continued in his apostolate and spent much time and energy on behalf of his charges. Fr. Lomazzi concluded his life and worthy apostolate heroically in the early morning of December 29th 1982 when he was strangled by one of his "friends" in the parlour at the Provincial House. The sacrifice of Fr. Silvio impressed the people of Hong Kong very deeply. His funeral was a real triumph for the "Apostle of addicts!"

At the Drug-addicts Rehabilitation Centre in Shek Ku Chau a monument has been erected to the memory of the heroic priest who loved his "sheep" to the very sacrifice of his own life.



FR. JOHN FERGNANI

- b. Aguscello (Italy) 16.7.1874
- p. Foglizzo (Italy) 2.10.1892
- o. Acireale (Italy) 12.1901
- d. Beit Gemal (Israel) 29.12.1932

Fr. Fergnani was born in 1874, made his profession in 1892 and received holy priesthood in 1901. As a priest he served at Borgo San Martino, San Benigno Canavese and in Sicily.

In 1906 he joined the first batch of Salesians who sailed for China, led by Blessed Fr. Versiglia. In our first house in Macau, Father served as prefect of studies, in which capacity he showed patience and ability. He taught his pupils who were not familiar with church music the "Missa de Angelis". They were indeed an object of admiration when they sang it during the first feastday of O. L. Help of Christians ever celebrated in Macau.

Circumstances in the new foundation were difficult, but Fr. John who possessed the stuff of a poet described them romantically in several letters which were published in the Salesian Bulletin.

When the house had to close down because of the revolution, Father moved with his confreres to Hong Kong. While Fr. Versiglia and Fr. Olive were looking for work in the latter city, Fr. John travelled to the Philippines, where there was some hope of being entrusted with the care of a parish. The idea, however, never got off the ground and Father, who was not feeling well, returned to his native Italy. When eventually he thought he had recovered enough to be able to return to the mission, he wrote to Fr. Versiglia, who discouraged him from returning.

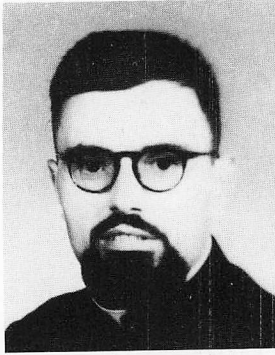
During the second world war Father served as assistant pastor at Marina di Pisa, where the good climate was great help to his weak health. Thus he applied to be sent to the missions again and was assigned to Assam (India), where, however, he was not able to work for long.

Subsequently we find him in the Oriental Province, where he served in several houses, particularly at Beit Gemal. In the latter city he became interested in the problem of St. Stephen's tomb and dedicated much time carrying on the research started by Fr. P. Gisler, O. P. .

He was convinced, in agreement with the dominican scholar, that the site of the tomb of the Martyr was indeed at Beit Gemal. Excavations carried out later on confirmed the truth of his hypothesis.

Fr. Fergnani spent the rest of his life-time spreading the encouraging news of the important discovery.

Eventually he passed away at Beit Gemal on December 29th 1932.



FR. GUERRINO BOSCARIOL

b. Banni (Italy) 23.12.1915
p. Villa Moglia (Italy) 8.9.1938
o. Shanghai 1.7.1948
d. Latina (Italy) 30.12.1976

Fr. Boscariol was born at Banni (Italy) in 1915. Young Guerrino entered our Juniorate at Ivrea, took his first vows at Villa Moglia (Italy) in 1938 and then left for China. After receiving his formation at Hong Kong and Shanghai during and after the war, Brother received holy priesthood in the latter city from Mons. M. Arduino in 1948.

Subsequently he served in Shanghai (Nantao) until March 1951 when circumstances forced him to leave the country he loved so much. After a one-year leave in Italy, Father was asked by the Rector Major to go and work in the Philippines. There he exerted himself with zeal in Makati (Manila) and later in Cebu, where he set up a school for street urchins, who used to spend their time pilfering around the port area. In 1963 he happened to be back in Italy on leave. It was then that Mons. Arduino, of late transferred to the diocese of Locri in southern Italy after his expulsion from China, asked Fr. Guerrino to be his secretary. Father at first was hesitant because he was afraid this might mean betraying his mission in the Philippines. Thus he got in touch with Fr. Braga, who encouraged him to accept the offer.

Fr. Guerrino then for ten years faithfully served the Bishop not only as a secretary but also as an intimate friend and consoler, particularly in his last illness.

Following the demise of the Bishop, Father joined the Roman Province and from September 1973 served in the community of Latina as a humble, plain, and hard working confrere.

During his last illness Father set shining examples of christian patience and died a holy death at 62 on December 30th 1976.