

**DON BOSCO COLLEGE  
NEWTON, N.J., 07860**



May 1, 1974

Dear Confreres,

On Friday, April 26, 1974, God called to himself, at the age of 33, after 14 years of profession,

**BROTHER JOSEPH RINALDO FERRARI**

known among us as Brother Rey.

While his sudden and unexpected death was a shock to our community, the postmortem examination helped us to realize that there was an organic and congenital basis to the mental illness that plagued him for a long time.



Brother Rey's funeral Mass took place in our chapel on Monday, April 29, 1974. Father Salvatore Isgro, our Provincial, was the celebrant. The concelebrants of the Mass included Father Harry Rasmussen, Provincial of the San Francisco Province, and 35 Salesian, Capuchin, Benedictine, and diocesan priests. In addition to our large community of 80 confreres, many Salesians from the neighboring communities, priests, brothers, and sisters from the area, seminarians, aspirants, and lay people, young and old, participated in the funeral Mass. Brother Rey's two sisters, both members of the Venerini Sisters, were greatly comforted by the outpouring of affection and esteem that so large an attendance at the funeral indicated. In the evening our entire community accompanied Brother Rey's remains to the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, N.Y., where he was laid to rest as a spring day came to an end.

Brother Rey was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on July 10, 1940. In 1955 he entered Don Bosco Technical High School, Paterson, N.J., as an aspirant. He began his novitiate in Newton, N.J., in 1958, and one year later, on September 8, 1959, he made his vows. His perpetual profession took place in Newton, N.J., on August 16, 1965. Brother Rey carried out the Salesian mission in the communities of Goshen, Marrero, Paterson, Tampa, and West Haverstraw. Since 1967 he has been a member of the Newton community.

Brother Rey will be remembered for his goodness and simplicity. He loved artistic expression, whether in song or in painting. He found delight in being with children. Desirous to be of service to others, he was distressed not to find opportunities for his zeal, due to his mental condition, which no doubt he did not fully understand. In spite of this, Brother Rey was ever faithful to his religious and community obligations.

While we thank God for the Christian, religious, and Salesian vocation of Brother Rey, for his being a member of our community, and for his perseverance to the end, let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul.

Sincerely yours in Our Risen Savior,

Fr. Bernard Justen, S.D.B.  
Director