



Rev. Bro.

ISIDORE FIOREDDA

S. D. B.

BORN : 23. 8. 1909 (Tempio Luogosanto – Sassari – Italy)

DIED : 8. 2. 1978 (Don Bosco Park Circus – Calcutta – India)

Bro. Isidore Fioreda was born at Tempio Luogosanto (Sassari - Italy) on August 23rd 1909. He joined the Salesian Novitiate on 1938 and made his first Profession on December 22nd 1939, and the Perpetual Profession on 6th January 1944. He lived 33 years of his religious life in the Mission of Barpetta, as a humble Salesian, carrying out the tasks of an indispensable Factotum; a Farmer, Infirmarian. His was a life of service, dedication, and sanctification.

Then came all of a sudden his great sorrow with the 'Quit Assam Order' given him in April 1977. He had to leave the Province overwhelmed with grief because he wanted to die in the missions he loved so much. But he accepted the Holy Will of God and set to work in the new assignment given him. He was sent to Don Bosco, Ranchi in Calcutta Province, where he began to feel ill. A careful medical check up revealed the staggering reality that he was suffering from an advanced Cancer of the stomach. He succumbed to the disease, and passed away in the late hours of Ash Wednesday, February 8th 1978, in the house of Don Bosco, Park Circus, Calcutta.

The funeral was held on February 9th at Bandel. At the funeral Mass at 5.00 p.m. seventeen Priests celebrated with Fr. Luciano Colussi, the then Acting Provincial of Calcutta. The confreres of Don Bosco, Ranchi, made a non-stop jeep-drive to Bandel to be present at the last rites and to bid farewell to Bro. Fioreda. The Province of Gauhati was represented by Fr. John, the Provincial Economist. At this last moment, Bro. Fioreda was remembered for his simple and humble and unassuming life spent in the service of others.

AS A SALESIAN :

Bro. Fioreda was a man of few words, a silent and indefatigable worker and a very observant religious. He certainly had no complexes nor did he suffer any

sort of identity crises. He found fulfilment in his Salesian vocation. What characterised Bro. Fioredda was the exactitude with which he carried out his tasks day in and day out for the last 33 years in the same house. He was a man of extraordinary fidelity in the discharge of his ordinary duties. Truly, he sanctified himself in the Farm, in the Kitchen, in marketing, in caring for the Sick, just as Bro. Simon Srugi sanctified himself as a Baker and an Infirmarian.

Bro. Fioredda had a deep sense of Poverty. He could be seen daily making his way to the market on his old Cycle to make the necessary purchases. Though he handled much money daily, he never presumed to purchase anything for personal use without permission. His dress was simple and not showy. In fact, Don Bosco would have desired nothing more from Bro. Fioredda in the practice of Poverty.

He was a man of prayer. He was very exact in his religious practices and faithful to the community exercises of Piety. He could be seen in the Church, praying in the silent darkness of the evening hours, making his long visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Bro. Fioredda had a great love for Don Bosco and for his Salesian Vocation. Being a man of silent and meditative mood, he was told that he could have joined the Trappists. Without a moment's hesitation he said that if Don Bosco had founded a Trappist Order he would have no hesitation in joining it. What mattered him most was to be with Don Bosco.

Thus, he naturally loved to be with the boys. In spite of the numerous works and responsibilities, he found time to teach them Catechism, teach ceremonies of the Mass, the Latin responses until the time of the liturgical reform.

He used to look after the Infirmary, but on the death of a boy, he asked to be relieved of the respon-

sibility of the sick. He was convinced that the boy died because he had not looked after the boy sufficiently.

Bro. Fioredda desired to work in the missions as the choicest field of apostolate. He wanted to lay down his life for his people and when he was given the quit order, he was utterly disappointed. "I wanted to die in the Missions, but it is not granted to me." As he left the Province, he said: "It is as if I am dying. Pray for me; it costs me much, but may God's will be done."

He then resigned himself to God's will, to carry out whatever task was assigned to him in the new house. Nevertheless, a profound sadness permeated his life, and when he learned of his sickness and of its nature, he gave up fighting for life. Perhaps he died on the day he bade farewell to Assam. His return to the Father was only a matter of time.

This humble confrere had been a great example of religious life and apostolic zeal and total self-forgetfulness. His memory will live in the hearts of all those who knew him.

Now that he is no more amongst us, let us continue to love him and to pray for him that God may abundantly reward him for all his labours and toils for souls.

May Bro. Fioredda interceded for us so that more and more generous Salesians come forward to carry on the work for boys and souls in the same spirit of total and unreserved gift of themselves.

And in your charity do pray also for

Yours affectionately in C.J.

FR. MATTHEW PULINGATHIL, S.D.B.
Salesian Provincial.