



FR JOSEPH FONDE SDB

1927 - 2014

*"I leave you here on earth but only for a short time.
I hope the Infinite Mercy of God will enable
us all to meet one day in Heaven."*

St. John Bosco's spiritual testament

Fr Joseph Fonde SDB

Fr. Fonde, much loved and revered by all who came in contact with his gentle self, died in the Karen Grech hospital, Malta, on 4th November 2014 aged 87. Born in Sliema to Richard and Carmen on 24th March 1927, he attended the Sliema Oratory where before going to Shrigley he was the sacristan in the Oratory chapel. His first school was the St. Alphonsus Salesian Primary before moving to the Archbishop's Seminary for his secondary schooling. Joseph went to Shrigley as an aspirant in October 1946 before entering the novitiate at Beckford in September 1948 where he made his first profession a year later.

Bro. Joseph returned to Shrigley for his philosophical studies after which he was assigned as teacher and assistant to St. Patrick's School in Sliema, Malta. He returned to England in 1954 for his theological studies at Melchet Court, Hampshire, where he was ordained priest on 13th July 1958. Fr. Joe returned to Malta to serve as Catechist at St. Patrick's until 1965 when his presence on the Island was interrupted for a year when he was Socius to the Novice Master at Burwash, Sussex. He returned to Malta this time as catechist at St. Alphonsus for the school year 1966 – 1967. He was then again on the move, this time to Warrenstown in Ireland where he served the first of his many terms in different houses as community bursar. 1968 – 1969 found Fr. Fonde at Pedara in Sicily before he returned to Malta, first of all to Sliema and then in 1971 as Rector at Savio College, Dingli until 1976. Fr. Joe was then appointed as Director of the Salesian Oratory in Sliema and subsequently once again catechist at St. Patrick's.

Before leaving for Swaziland in 1989 he spent another two years at Savio College as bursar. Fr. Fonde spent the next twenty-six years in Southern Africa (AFM) where he was bursar in Swaziland and houses in South Africa. He returned to the Irish Province and St. Patrick's School in 2005 where he spent the last years of his life as confessor, assistant to the Church chaplain, and many hours in recreation with the boys in the playground.

Fr. Joe will be remembered fondly and greatly missed by many in Sliema whom he visited to bring Holy Communion and words of comfort on a daily basis. His funeral was celebrated on 6th November in the St. Gregory Sliema parish church whence he was taken to be interred in the Salesian grave at the Addolorata Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

NECROLOGY FR JOSEPH FONDE:

D.O.B: 24.3.1927
Ordained: 13.7.1958

Professed: 8.9.1949
Died: 4.11.2014



Irish Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco

Maltese Delegation