



**August 24**

## **Fr. FRANCIS FOSSATI**

**1897-1972**

Birthday: 05-03-1897  
First Profession: 25-12-1925  
Ordination: 26-04-1931  
Died: 24-08-1972

At the time of his death, Father Francis belonged to the ING, but as a young priest he had worked for some years in INM.

### **EARLY LIFE**

Francis was born at Monza, Italy, on March 5, 1897. The seeds of a missionary vocation were already sown in him in his boyhood days as a member of the Catholic Action. After serving in the army in the World War I, he joined the aspirantate as a late vocation. He came to India, began his novitiate in Shillong on December 24, 1924 and made his first profession on 25 December 1925. He was ordained a priest at Shillong, on April 26, 1931.

### **MINISTRY**

As a young priest, Francis started his priestly ministry in North Arcot in 1931. Later he worked also in Vellore and Pattiavaram in the South and at Krishnagar, Bandel, Roorkie and Digboi in the North. He died at Kurla, Bombay, where he spent the last four years of his life.

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

1. **A man of prayer:** He was regularly found in the chapel at various hours of the day to pray the Breviary as well as the rosary. Meticulous in the practice of liturgical rules, he rarely missed his daily celebration of the eucharist. Even while on a journey, he managed to fit it into his programme.

2. **A good religious:** He was very respectful toward his superiors and corresponded regularly with them. The Salesian Constitutions, Salesian traditions and even the wishes of Superiors were the rule of life for him.