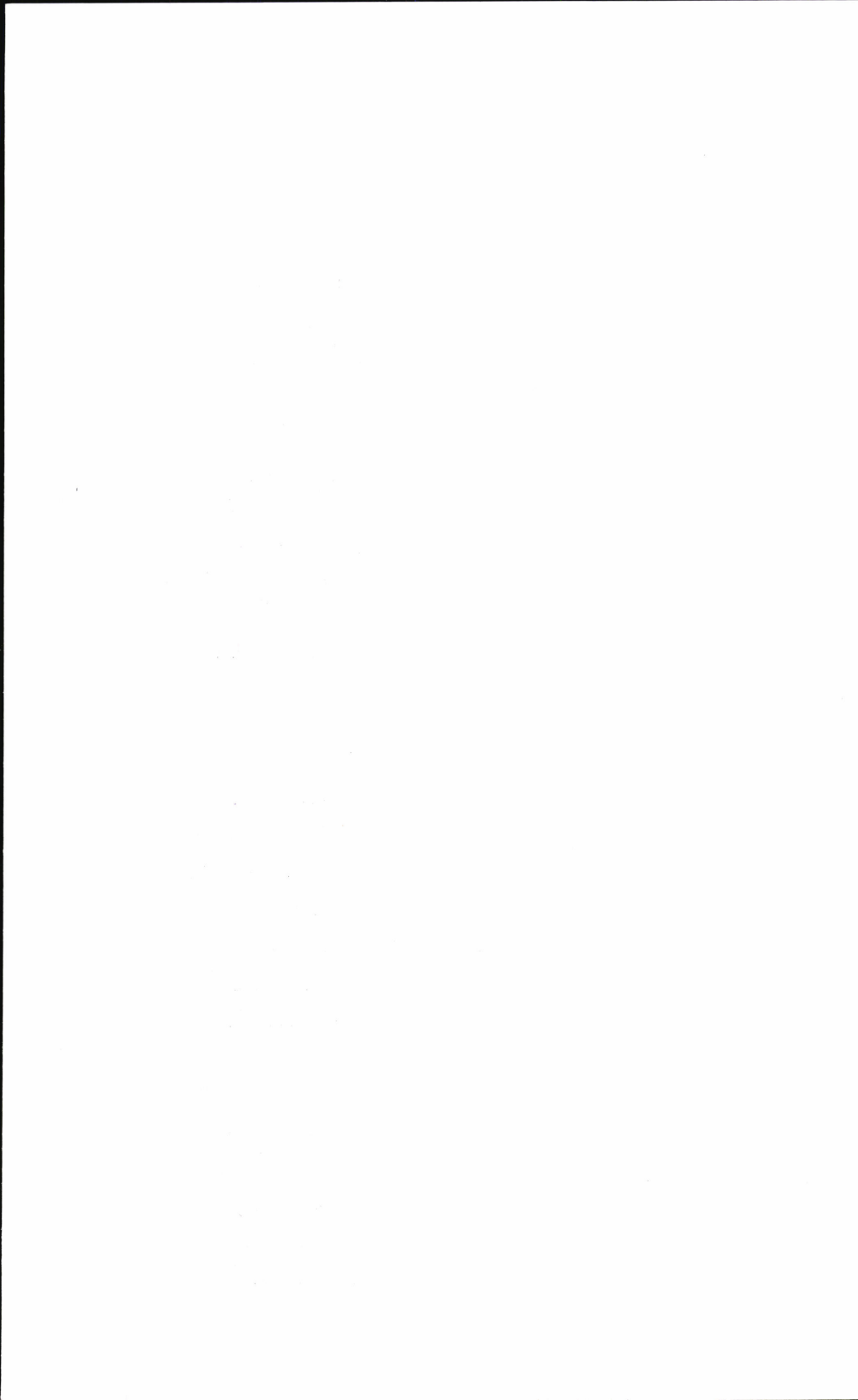




Fr. Edward J. Frizzell

**Salesian of St. John Bosco
Province of St. Philip the Apostle
New Rochelle, New York, USA**

**Born on June 29, 1944
Salesian Profession on August 16, 1964
Ordained a Priest on June 29, 1975
Died on August 5, 2003**



October 1, 2003

Dear Confreres:

A little over a year ago, in June 2002, Father Ed went to live with his sister Rosemary Reed and her husband Earl in Saugus, Massachusetts. The cancer, diagnosed a year earlier, had progressed so much that we could no longer provide him with the proper care at Corpus Christi Church. He was losing weight steadily and was in pain most of the time. Daily, he was getting weaker. He insisted on publicly celebrating Mass. But it became obvious that this too was coming to an end, when, on one day in April 2002, Father Peter Granzotto had to finish a Mass that Ed had started, but could not complete.

Ed would spend the next 13 months with his sister. He could have received no better care, concern and love than what was provided by Rosemary, Earl and his mom, Rose, now 87 years old. He was also surrounded by his confreres through the many visits by myself, our Father Provincials: Fr. Pat and Fr. Jim; Fr. Dominic DeBlaise and many of his brother Salesians from his alma-mater, Savio High School.

As many of us know, Ed was a very private person. And I suppose I can narrate some moments when his true sensitive self shown through. Like when, just before surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital, as we waited together in the preparation-room, I saw a tear rolling down his face. When he had seen that I noticed it, he

wiped it away, and said "everything will be ok", as if he were trying to console me.

Another time, we said the rosary together. It was the last time I saw Ed. It was on July 26th at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital. I was there with Ed, a past student of Ed's and a nurse. With his illness and pain, Ed's attention drifted back and forth. At the end of the rosary, his student took Fr. Ed's hand and prayed out loud: for peace during this journey and for strength of spirit. When the student left, Father Ed looked at me and said "that boy prays well; I like that".

Just prior to leaving the hospital, I asked Ed if there was anything he needed. "Do you need to tell me anything? Would you like me to tell something to anyone? Do you want anything? To see another priest? Or maybe a certain confrere?" "No, no," Ed said. "I'm all ready". And that was the only time I heard him speak about his journey home to God. But it was, for Ed, a sensitive sharing of his private self.

His Journey Toward Don Bosco

Edward Joseph Frizzell, Jr. was born to Edward and Rose Garceau Frizzell on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul in 1944, in Boston. His elementary education took place in Boston, and later in Swampscott. But it would be his high school education that would have a profound bearing on his life. Ed was a member of the first graduation class of St. Dominic Savio High School in East Boston. And the Salesian influence upon Ed

was evident. He embraced that influence, and its spirit, and entered the Salesian seminary at Newton, NJ in September 1962.

On August 16, 1964, Ed made his first profession in Newton. He would later spend his practical training years at Salesian High School in New Rochelle, NY, and then go on to study theology at the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.



Father Ed with his mother Rose and father Edward on the day of his first mass. (1975)

Ed's ordination class would be distinguished among others. During the Holy Year 1975, all theologians that would be ordained to the priesthood were called to Rome where the ordination took place by the Holy Father in The Church of St. Peter. He was ordained on his birthday, June 29th. Ed was privileged to have his family present for this joyful event.



Father Ed is ordained by Pope Paul VI. (1975)

Ed's first assignment as a Salesian priest was at Cedar Lake, Indiana, where he served as the principal at the high school preparatory seminary. Later, in 1978, he returned to Salesian HS in New Rochelle and then, in 1980, to Don Bosco Tech High School in Boston as financial administrator.



Father Ed with his ordination class. (1975)

His Journey Toward the Missions

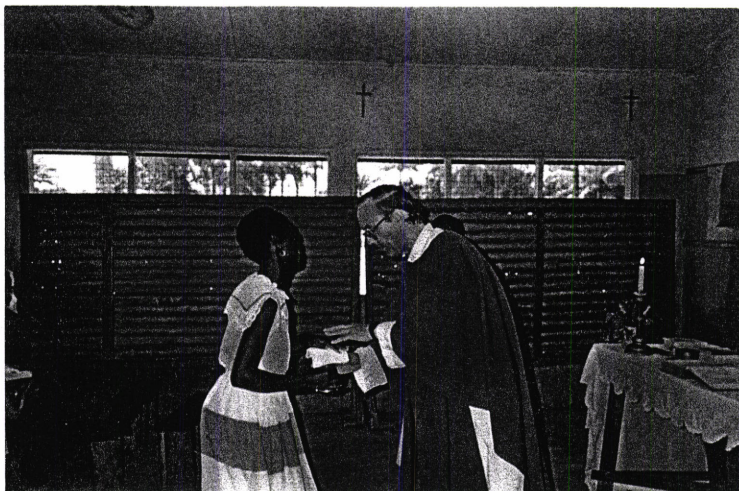
When Ed came to Don Bosco Tech in Paterson in 1982, his desire to go to the missions became quite vocal. Ed, again - a very private person - only dropped hints about his dreams to serve God's poorest in foreign lands. I was stationed with Ed in Paterson for five years before he departed for Africa, and for two years upon his return. It was a surprise to many of us when we learned about his request to go to the missions. But Ed did always show a real love and concern for God's most neglected and forgotten. Ed left for Sierra Leone in September of 1988.



Father Ed celebrates Mass for the CYO in Lungi, Sierra Leone. (1989)

During Ed's three years in the mission land of Sierra Leone, he acted as principal of St. Augustine School. It could be said that during those three years of devoted service - with all the medical hardships he endured, and all the tropical diseases he contracted - Ed literally gave his life for these, God's most needy.

When Ed returned to Paterson in 1991, he weighted 200lbs. I remember that he had left us when he was topping 270lbs. Two things would now be noticed in Ed, in the years to follow. First, he was in a constant battle to preserve his health. And secondly, his desire to return to Africa would never die.



Father Ed celebrates a Lenten Mass at a Missionary Outpost in Sierra Leone. (1990)

Amid Ed's 'battles' and 'desires', he continued to serve the province in various capacities. Upon returning from a year of Salesian Studies in Berkeley, he worked as the financial administrator at the Marian Shrine (1995-1997) and as associate pastor in NYC at Mary Help of Christians Parish (1997-1999).

But Ed continued his work for the missions. He served the province as the delegate for 'mission awareness' during these years. And, it was during this time that he would come to us at Corpus Christi in Port Chester.

His Journey Home to God

Upon Ed's arrival at Corpus Christi, he showed no signs of having an illness that would be terminal. He performed his duties without pause. He worked with the marriage preparation program and the altar servers. He was always available when needed for some unforeseen pastoral duty. His homilies were powerful. His voice was strong. He boasted never needing a microphone in Church.

He often spoke about the missions in his homilies. There was a stress on 'how we need to count our blessings' and how we are called to be more sensitive to those in the poorer lands of the world. He fascinated the sodalities and organizations with his talks on Africa. He accompanied his slides and pictures with powerful commentaries. Commentaries that demonstrated his love and longing for a place and people far away. Yes, Ed was in New York, but his heart was still in Sierra Leone.



Father Ed resting at home in Swampscott. (1998)

Time slowly passed at Corpus Christi Church. Ed's illness slowly progressed. He soon became unable to carryout his public priestly responsibilities. He needed to go weekly to Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC, and the parishioners and priests took turns bringing him back and forth. After awhile, just the car ride made him ill. Some surgical procedures made his physical condition weaker. And whenever asked "how are you doing, Ed?" his response was always the same: "as well as can be expected".

Then the time arrived when a decision had to be made regarding Ed's long-term care. At Ed's wish, he went to live in Saugus with his family. For thirteen months, he was surrounded by care and love, as his natural family and the Salesian family supported him with their prayers, visits and love.

His condition worsened. Soon, he became hospitalized. On Saturday, August 2, he managed to concelebrate Mass with Father Jim Heuser, our Provincial, Father Dominic DeBlase and Father Jack Janko. Three days later, on August 5, 2003, Ed went home to God.

A wake service was held in the Chapel of St. Dominic Savio High School on Thursday, August 7th. Many relatives and alumni came to pay their respects. Ed's remains were then taken to Corpus Christi Church in Port Chester where another wake service was held on August 8th. The funeral mass was concelebrated on Saturday, August 9th at 10:00am. His remains now rest with his Salesian brothers in Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, awaiting the Day of Resurrection.

“Come, share your Master’s joy”

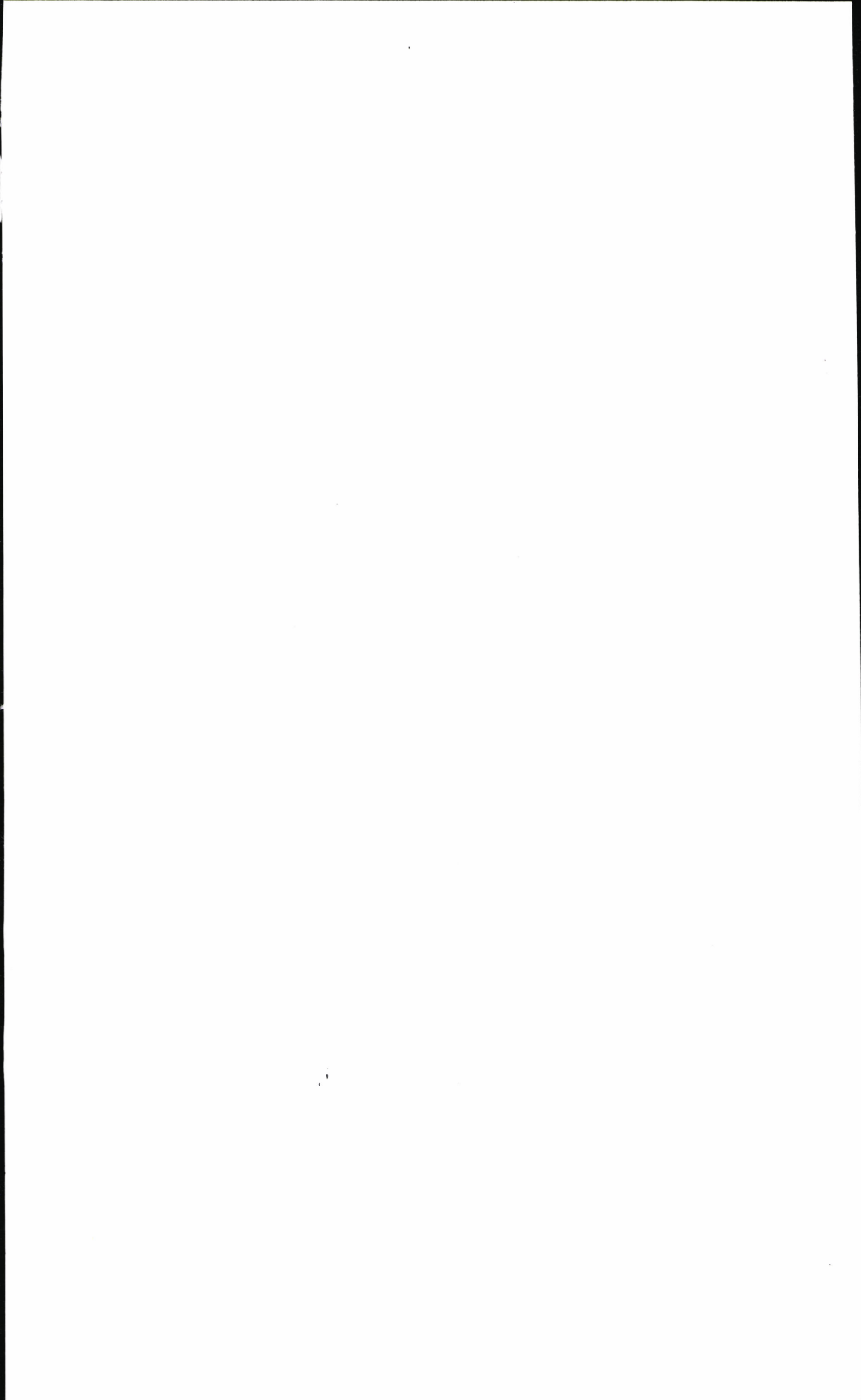
Our Province owes Ed a deep sense of respect and gratitude. Here we have a Salesian brother whose heart burned with love for God’s neediest. His desire to serve the poorest in lands far away, in conditions far from adequate, in a way far from normal, is a shining example of Don Bosco’s call to be missionaries for the Lord. Even when his health forbade him from returning to Sierra Leone, Ed was a “light of awareness” for us. Ed literally spent himself to his last ounce of strength. Ed literally gave his life for these – God’s poorest and most needy. We are thankful for having such a brother! We are proud that he is a Salesian!

May the good Lord Jesus, who calls all people to know Him, now call Ed near and dear to Himself. May He bless Ed’s family for their love and nurturing of his vocation and for their care during his last days. And may He smile upon our Salesian Family, as He now calls out to a brother of ours, “well done my good and faithful servant... come, share your Master’s joy.” (Mt. 25: 21)

Sincerely In Don Bosco,

Jim Marra

James Marra, Pastor and the Confreres of
Corpus Christi Church, Port Chester





Fr. Edward Joseph Frizzell

Celebrating Christmas Mass

Lungi, Sierra Leone

1990

For the Necrology

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