



Rev. Fr.

**JOSEPH
AROKIASWAMY**

S. D. B.

Born: 11. 6. 1913

Kumbakonam, Tanjore, India

Died: 14. 4. 1982

Nazareth Hospital, Shillong, India

Rev. Fr. Joseph Arokiaswamy was born on the 11th June, 1913, at Kumbakonam in the district of Tanjore, the cradle of Salesian work in India. His parents were devout Catholics, and had the happiness of giving a son and a daughter to God. That speaks for the deeply Christian education that Fr. Joseph received in his own home. An oratory brought him into contact with the Salesians, and he was so taken up with their spirit that he asked to join them.

He was sent up to Shillong for his Novitiate, and had the great happiness of making his first profession on the feast of the Epiphany in the year 1931. He did his philosophical studies in Shillong, and impressed everybody by the sharpness of his intellect and the tenacity of his memory. Those were days when there were very few local vocations, and English hadn't yet supplanted Italian as a means of communication, so that Fr. Joseph succeeded, with his intellectual gifts, in mastering the Italian language.

After two years of philosophy, Fr. Joseph returned to South India for his practical training, and then came back to Shillong for the study of Theology. The facility with which he grasped the most difficult and obtruse theses and remembered the prescriptions of Canon Law and the dates and events of Church History astonished most of his companions. It was enough for him to read something carefully in order to remember it. He was ordained a priest on the 30th September, 1939, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Ferrando, who had been his Novice Master.

Fr. Joseph returned to Tamil Nadu (then called Madras) and exercised his priestly office in various capacities : as Prefect in Tirupattur, as Parish Priest in more than one of the parishes of Madras, as Principal of St. Gabriel's High School and also as Provincial Economist.

tioned that the College staff could never understand how Fr. Joseph could be found at his desk from eight in the morning till eight at night, not leaving it even for lunch or a cup of tea. He thus instanced, as he did in many other ways, his total dedication to duty. It is astonishing, for example, to think that Fr. Joseph spent over 30 years in Shillong without having once returned to Tamil Nadu for a holiday.

But Fr. Joseph was more than just a dedicated educator; he was a priest. For nigh on three decades he looked after St. Mary's Convent, and the Sisters could set their watches by Fr. Joseph's entry into the sacristy for Mass or Benediction. In such matters he was punctuality itself. For twentythree years he also looked after the Grotto Chapel on Sundays, where services are conducted in English. The Parish Priest of the Cathedral had every reason to be grateful to him. His people found his sermons stimulating and practical. He was a hundred per cent orthodox in his theology and totally with the Pope. He was a very practical man, and a good one to consult in doubts and worries. He was very priestly in his deportment, so much so that he did not want to see his confreres wear a pullover over their cassock, let alone do away with the cassock altogether.

He was - let it be admitted - sometimes gruff in his ways, but that was only the uncut side of the diamond. He was a man full of concern for his confreres, though he sought not to reveal this exteriorly. Fr. Kenny, who lived by his side for thirty years, often said that there was not a Superior in the Province who couldn't take some page or other with profit out of Fr. Joseph's book.

His charity was almost proverbial. Many a poor person certainly wept on hearing of Fr. Joseph's passing.

But he remembered Our Lord's injunction: "Let your left hand know what your right hand does," and of his acts of charity. One instance

the College then ten Science blocks. It is a new premises to which these buildings certainly contribute and to his late dear Confreres, I haven't mentioned of the University of the National Institute enough for all to es than one "a giant with eternal rest. I myself and the nee rayers, and am happy
Yours devotedly in
MATHAI KOCHUPARAN
Provincial

which witnessed an endless stream of visitors, for
g Radio had announced Fr. Joseph's demise.
visitors were the highest Government and
authorities, including Captain Sangma, the
Meghalaya, and Dr. B. D. Sharma,
of the North East Hill University,
College is affiliated.

the 15th afternoon was a
tic Celebration was pre-
Rosario, S.D.B., with
dral was packed,
As the funeral
s lined with
Proces-
Sister,
urs

should serve to reveal what Fr. Joseph was capable of
when it came to helping a confrere. To accommodate
Fr. Wollaston when he needed a quiet rest in order to
recover a little of his failing health, Fr. Joseph gave up
his room in the College and for three months slept on
floor in the Principal's office, spreading out his bedding
at night and rolling it up in the morning. And it should be
did he say about this to anyone. Never a word
mentioned, at least in passing, that Fr. Joseph never a
knew how to say NO to his Superiors. It was never a
reluctant bending to their will, but a generous ac-
ceptance of it in a spirit of faith. This is an attitude
newhat at a discount in these days of wrongly inter-
d dialogue.

last point : Fr. Joseph as a builder. He put up
ge Hall, then the Stephen Hall for hostellers,
otages for his Professors, and finally a big
k and another Arts block, still to be com-
oped that the College will move into its
his coming winter. Few people know how
lding efforts, at least in the case of
cost Fr. Joseph in the way of worry.
tributed to the deterioration of his
ented demise.

haven't said all that Fr. Joseph
ed, for example, that he was
egration Commission for one
appreciate that he was
t of a man." May God

ds of the Province
to profess myself

Don Bosco,
PIL, S.D.B.

d by
g dedi-
Minister
Anthony's
cience, repre-
Joseph for the
educational policy
the formative years of
as "a friend and guide"
vernment had sought on
called the very many ser-
ed to Meghalaya through its
missions. The Dean of the
the sentiments of the Professors
ge. Prof. D. P. Chakravarty referred
legend" and "a giant of a man," who,
terior, hid a heart of gold, too big to be
was under him and due to him that St.
reached the pinnacle of its glory in the field
and in the field of sports. It might be mer

San Pier d'Arena, li 23 Novembre 1922.



Carissimi Confratelli,

Compio il doveroso ufficio di comunicarvi la notizia della morte del nostro carissimo Confratello professore perpetuo

Coad. AROSIO LUIGI

di 72 anni d'età

spirato il 20 c. m. munito di tutti i conforti religiosi.

Egli era nato a Lissone (Milano) il 15 Marzo 1850, e aveva passato la sua giovinezza, vivendo da buon cristiano, in seno alla sua famiglia. All'età di 29 anni si era ascritto alla nostra Pia Società e il 23 Settembre 1880 emetteva i voti perpetui.

Passò tutto il corso della sua vita religiosa in questa casa adempiendo con grande impegno l'ufficio di sacristano nella nostra parrocchia di San Gaetano.

Da parecchio tempo era sciupato nella salute, ma volle sempre attendere al suo ufficio con assiduità e con zelo, e soffriva assai, quando per la sua malferma salute, doveva prendersi un po' di riposo.

Il 6 c. m. si recava al suo paese nativo per ristabilirsi, se fosse stato possibile, dai suoi disturbi, ma quivi lo colse la polmonite, che in pochi giorni lo condusse alla tomba.

Amava molto la nostra Congregazione e perciò soffrì assai quando comprese che avrebbe chiuso gli occhi lontano dalla sua casa, dai suoi amati confratelli. La sua lunga vita di lavoro e le sofferenze di questi ultimi anni gli avranno fatto trovare aperte le porte del Cielo, tuttavia è nostro dovere ricordarci di lui nelle nostre preghiere, perchè se per i giusti giudizi di Dio egli dovesse ancora scontare qualche debito, possa presto volare nel seno della Misericordia divina.

Pregate anche per il v. aff.^{mo} in C. J.

Sac. TOMMASO KOPA

DIRETTORE

PEL NECROLOGIO:

Coad. Arosio Luigi, nato a Lissone (Milano) il 15 Marzo 1850, morto ivi il 20 Novembre 1922, a 72 anni d'età e 42 di professione.

Supplemento al

Conto corr. con la Posta

" DON BOSCO " IN SAN PIER D'ARENA
PUBBLICAZIONE MENSILE

S

Rev.mo Segr. Gen. Capit. Sup. Salesiani
Via Cottolengo, 32

A 8

Torino

9821

2a



CARISSIMI CONFRATELLI:

Il giorno 23 del corrente Ottobre nella Casa di "La Paz" (Uruguay) il nostro caro confratello

D. FRANCESCO ARNALDO

fu chiamato quasi repentinamente dal Signore all' Eternità.

Raccomando di pregare e fare speciali suffragi per Lui, ricordando che un giorno sarà resa a noi quella carità, che ora usiamo ai Confratelli defunti.

Il Signore ci conservi nella sua santa grazia e nel suo servizio.

Aff. in G. e M.

Sac. Giuseppe Gamba.

Montevideo, 25 Ottobre del 1917.

