

Salesian House,
Surrey Lane,
Battersea,
London SW11 3PB

June 1985



Dear Confrères

BROTHER ANTHONY GLEESON

In the early hours of the morning of Sunday 5th May 1985, Bro. Anthony died peacefully in his sleep. He had been quite cheerful the previous evening and he gave no cause for concern when, after watching television for a short time, he went off to bed.

Anthony Gleeson was born on the 4th June 1909 at Borrismore, Kilkenny, Ireland. After completing his studies at the local National School he worked as an apprentice tailor for several years. He then decided, after consulting his parish priest, to apply to join a religious congregation. The testimonials which we received from the parish priest and others consulted were very supportive and expressed confidence that Anthony would be a very suitable candidate for consideration as a member of the Salesian Congregation.

Anthony joined the aspirants at Salesian Missionary College, Shrigley, Macclesfield in 1930 and he was admitted to the Novitiate at Oxford in the following year. There he made his first religious profession on September 10th 1932 and six years later he made his final profession at Blaisdon, Gloucestershire.

Bro. Anthony's religious life embraced many years of faithful work. He became a well qualified tailor by attending the London Polytechnic and for several years he lectured in the evenings at Sir John Cass Technical school and at the Shoreditch Technical school. He also taught tailoring for eight years at the Salesian School, Blaisdon. During this time he also made cassocks for all the clerics in the Province. He was still working in his workroom at Battersea on the day before he died. He used to spend many hours looking after the flowers in and around the house and in the greenhouse, where he grew tomatoes.

Bro. Anthony will be remembered as a genuine man of prayer. His regularity was a byword. He was a very lovable character with a genuine enthusiasm for St. John Bosco and the Salesian way of life. He died as he had lived; quietly and without fuss, giving his soul up to his Father in Heaven for whose company he had yearned.

The remains of Bro. Anthony were received into the Community chapel on Monday evening 13th May when Holy Mass was celebrated and the Office of the Dead was recited. On Tuesday 14th May the body was transferred to the Sacred Heart church where Concelebrated Mass was offered, prior to the burial in the Salesian plot at Morden.

We commend his good soul to Our Lady's motherly care and we ask your continued prayers for his eternal rest.

Please pray also for the Battersea Community.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,
Bernard Higgins, S.D.B.
(Rector)

Data for the Necrology: Bro. Anthony Gleeson born in Kilkenny, Ireland on the 4th June 1909 died in London on the 5th May 1985 in the 52nd year of his religious profession.

R.I.P.