

BROTHER ROLAND HILL. SDB.

With profound sorrow I have to give you the news of the death of Bro. Roland which occurred on the fourth of January. He died at the age of 42 in the hospital of St. Andrew in London.

Bro. Roland was born in Uxbridge, Middlesex on the 23rd July 1886, the first born of a numerous family of ten. He was baptised in the Anglican church of St. Thomas at Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire. After finishing his elementary education he became an apprentice in a printing works. In doing this work he became acquainted with various articles and books about the Catholic faith which he read with interest. Later, about 1902 he attended a series of lectures given by Mr Lister Drummond, one of the founders of the "Guild of Ransom" – a society which prayed and worked for the conversion of England to the Catholic faith. Eventually Roland asked to be received into the Church in 1904: the following year he was confirmed by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster. Roland had also read about Don Bosco and he showed interest in his work for young people. In 1905 he asked to be admitted to Battersea as an aspirant and he was accepted by Fr. Macey. He made his novitiate at Burwash from 1911–12 and was professed as a Salesian. When he returned to Battersea from the novitiate he took on the care of the sacristy and he helped in the office in the Printing Press, work for which he was very suited as a result of his experience as a young printing apprentice. Bro. Dunstan was for many years a correspondent of the Salesian Bulletin and it is due to him that the news of the various items, which interested the English Province, appeared in the pages of the Bulletin.

Apart from a four year stay at Farnborough 1921–25, Bro Roland spent the remainder of his Salesian life at Battersea. He taught English in a special class for foreign students and continued to do clerical work in the Press office. He took a special interest in helping the new boys and aspirants and he also cared for the sick in the infirmary. He took a great interest in the liturgical functions in the church and he was a member of the choir. He asked to go to work on the missions and he had been provisionally accepted for India but, on account of his excessive weight he failed his medical test. He enthusiastically promoted the Guild of Ransom and he succeeded in encouraging two of his sisters to become Catholics. His mother, several of his family, and Salesians, were present when he died. The words of St. Paul could well be quoted of him. . "He fought the good fight and reached the end of the race, he kept the faith. Regarding everything else, there has been prepared a crown of justice that the Lord, the just judge, will give to him on that day." Please remember him in prayer.

Fr. A. Sutherland. SDB. (Rector)