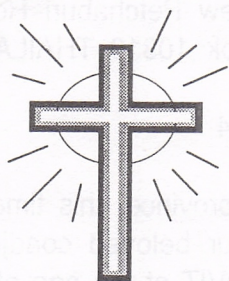


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Coad. JESOVIT
GIOVANNI
BATTISTA

Provincial Office
1526 New Petchaburi Road.
Bangkok 10310 THAILAND

May 31, 1994

Dear Confreres,

The Lord has visited our province, this time to take with Himself the soul of our beloved coadjutor BROTHER JOHN BATIST JESOVIT at the age of 85 and 65 years of being Salesian, He was Slovakian by birth and British by naturalization.

Brother John Baptist Jesovit passed away at St. Camillo's Hospital Banpong in the early morning of Friday, April 15, 1994 just two months short of his 85th birthday. For the past 22 years, he has been to the hospital 20 times with 8 major operations recorded... and that was precisely what happened on 00.30 hours of April 15, 1994 - his last stay and last breath. By the grace of God he had received the Sacrament for the Sick several times.

The Funeral Mass and the burial service were presided by our confrere, Monsignor Michael Praphon Chaicharoen, bishop of Suratthani Diocese. Other priests, Salesian and diocesan, concelebrated with the bishop.

Brother John Baptist Jesovit was born on June 9, 1909 to his parents Joseph Jesovit and Maria Sajdibor at Sucha Nad Parnou, Solvensko, Czechoslovakia. He was baptized in the parochial Church of Sucha Nad Parnou, Diocese of Strigonia-Tirnava and was confirmed on June 15, 1922. He completed his elementary education of Slovachia, Czechoslovakia. His first contact with the Salesians was in Perosa Argentina in 1921. He made his aspirantate at San Benigno Canavese (1923-1928). Later on, after considering his vacation with much prayer and study,

he joined the Novitiate of Cumiana (1928-1929). He was blessed to receive his coadjutor medal and first religious profession from the now-Servant of God Phillip Rinaldi. After his novitiate, he pursued his studies at San Benigno Canavese for two years (1929-1931). His first assignment was teacher-educator at Valdocco, Turin, Italy. After his perpetual profession (November 22, 1932), presided by Reverend Father Peter Ricaldone, he applied for the missions. He was a missionary in China for 37 years and 24 years in Thailand.

One of the few Salesian that knew Bro. John well is Fr. Bernard Tohill. They were together at St. Louis Community in Hongkong for some years and experienced life together at the refugee and concentration camps during the war (1941-1945). Hence, this war-experience will have later on negative effects and sad memories in Brother's life. Fr. Tohill on learning of his passing away faxed his feelings and words about Bro. John. "He lived and died in relative obscurity but I firmly believe that his fidelity to his religious and Salesian vocation will have won for him a rich reward from the Lord, and at the same time, added to the merits of our Congregation." Fr. Tohill also summed up some of his qualities and characteristics. "He had a remarkable capacity for work, was always enthusiastically Salesian and showed great loyalty to his superiors, confreres and students, He was a gifted bookbinder...He was a grateful person. I would not hesitate to classify him as an exemplary confrere" Likewise reacting to his death the confreres of the Chinese Province assured us of their prayers and mementos for "a confrere who had laboured so much in China."

Since the beginning years of his Salesian missionary in Hongkong, he gave proof of his expertise

in book-binding. He was conferred a title "Qualified Teacher" by the Education Department of Hongkong. This was to reflect the merits he gained for the Tang King po School in Hongkong. His 37 years in China were spent in Hongkong, Shanghai and Macau.

In June 3, 1970, Bro. John arrived to our Thai Province. On that event he wrote: "On June 3, 1970 I was sent by obedience by the Printing Press Department of Don Bosco Technical School". He therefore, managed the Printing Press from 1970 till 1978. Immediately, he bravely took up the self-study of the language but at that age (61 years) it was impossible to learn. It remained to be his cross right up until his death. He was transferred to the Provincial Office (1978-1993) to be in-charge of the work he knew and loved best, i.e. bookbinding. He was endowed with a great spirit of dedication to this type of job and accomplished it with enthusiasm and joy until his health and strength allowed.

Brother John left very few written documentation about himself and his activities. Among the few, he left a paper where he had written his Yearly Retreat Resolutions for 1979, (1) To thing and speak well of all, particularly of the confreres; (2) to ask from the Father and the Blessed Trinity the love and Charity for the neighbors; (3) to bear with patience the criticisms and murmuring; (4) to be punctual at the communitarian timetable. Jesus, Joseph and Mary, To you I confide and recommend the salvation of my soul!

As his health deteriorated to the worst, he was transferred to Nazareth House of Formation, Bangpong (July 2,1993) till his death. At the farewell Mass offered by the Nazareth Community, the scripture selected was: "Don't be glad because the evil spirits obey you; rather be glad because your names are written in

heaven." Yes, for our Bro. John, said Fr. Lissandrin, rector of the house, his name is not only written in heaven but written in different nation and countries such as Czechoslovakia...Italy...Hongkong...Macau...Shanghai...Thailand...because he has been the "good and faithful servant" and has entered fully into Christ's paschal mystery. "To the Nazareth Community, he has been a source of blessing, of enriching its family spirit and of deepening its unity."

Brother John's stay in Nazareth House of Formation was like a retreat, a vacation with the Lord, to be totally free for the Lord. In that atmosphere, Fr. Peter Daniele, his infirmarian thus described him as "Simple serene, and joyful". Notwithstanding his not-understanding the Thai language, he followed the religious prayers and ceremonies with faith and great devotion. He was happy to have shared with Don Bosco the "bread" and the "work". Now his continued prayer was "Lord, what am I doing here? Take me with you". He was waiting for the remaining promise... "paradise". His devotion to the Holy Rosary and Visit to the Blessed Sacrament were edifying."

We feel grateful to all the members of the Nazareth House of Formation who surrounded Brother John with care and attention, with Salesian charity and fraternity. And while we continue to pray for his eternal repose we kindly request our dear confreres to pray for this community for role of animation, organization and promotion for more vocation in the Salesian life especially that of our brother-coadjutors.

Fr. Joseph Prathan Sridarunsil, SDB
Salesian Province of ST. Paul, Bangkok, THAILAND

DATI PER IL NECROLOGIO

Coad. JESOVIT GIOVANNI BATTISTA,

Nato a Sucha Nad Parnou di Bratislavia SLOVACCHIA

il 9 Giugno 1909; morto a Bangpong THAILANDIA

il 15 Aprile 1994, a 85 anni di eta' e 65 di professione religiosa.