



FR. IGNATIUS S. KOZIK, S.D.B.



Born February 17, 1905

in Lowell, Mass.



Ordained July 6, 1930



Died April 18, 1972

Salesian High School
148 Main Street
New Rochelle, N. Y. 10802

Dear Confreres:

On April 18, 1972, God called to his eternal reward the soul of Rev. Ignatius Kozik at the age of 67. Father died suddenly of a heart attack in Marrero, La., a day after officiating and preaching at the funeral of a dear friend and benefactor of our school in Marrero. He would have celebrated his Forty-second Anniversary of priestly ordination on July 6th.

Father Kozik was born in Lowell, Mass., on February 17, 1905. As a boy he attended Don Bosco High School in Ramsey, N. J. In 1921, he entered the Salesian Novitiate at New Rochelle, N. Y., where he was guided by the saintly Fr. Binelli whom St. John Bosco personally appointed to be Master of Novices. He made his first religious profession in the Salesian Society on October 7, 1922. This Fall he would have celebrated his Fiftieth Anniversary as a Salesian of St. John Bosco.

Having completed his college studies in New Rochelle in 1924, he then taught for three years at St. Francis School, Watsonville, California. His theological studies followed in Turin, Italy, where he received a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Metropolitan Pontifical Seminary in 1930. He was ordained a priest in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Turin, on July 6, 1930.

Father Kozik loved to study and was a scholar. He obtained a M.A. and Ph.D. in classical languages from Fordham University. Recently, he authored a Latin textbook, "The Desert Hero," a life of St. Paul the Hermit by St. Jerome. He was working on his second book at the time of his death. For about twenty years, he taught Latin and Greek at Don Bosco College, in Newton, N. J., where he also served as Prefect of Studies for five years. In his capacity of Director and Principal of Don Bosco High School, Ramsey, N. J., from 1944 to 1950, and of Hope Haven, Marrero, La., from 1955 to 1959, Father Kozik always showed love for his work with youth and for his confreres. In his unassuming manner, he was keenly interested in their spiritual growth, intellectual advancement and temporal good.

As a kindly priest, he exercised his ministry as Chaplain to the Salesian Sisters in North Haledon, N. J., and to the sick at Preakness Hospital.

He served as Prefect of Studies at Don Bosco College, Newton, N. J., for five years and Don Bosco High School, Ramsey, N. J., for one year. Indeed, a very learned man, Father Kozik lectured in the classics at Iona College in New Rochelle, N. Y., and at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C.

As a gentle and apostolic priest, he spent endless hours hearing confessions of students and confreres at Salesian High School since 1963. He never seemed to weary from bringing peace and understanding to the disturbed souls who found in him a sympathetic spiritual guide. He served as Chaplain to the Christian Brothers

of Iona College and was faithfully available for daily Mass and Confessions. For ten summers he preached in behalf of the Salesian Missions.

Father endeared himself to his confreres and friends by his thoughtfulness. With great concern for the welfare of his confreres, he frequently sought to console and cheer them with his sympathy and joviality. Often he encouraged his confreres to love study and to increase their knowledge by furthering their studies so that they would be more productive in the Salesian field of education. Known for his jovial spirit, he loved to be with his confreres, remembered their birthdays and anniversaries, and rarely failed to offer his best wishes and congratulations.

We will remember his friendly smile, his encouraging words, and his dedication to God, to learning, and to his fellow Salesians.

With his passing, we ask you to remember his soul in your prayers and good works that he may enjoy forever the friendship of Christ and the glory of the heavenly kingdom. Pray also for this community, for the Salesian work in this province and for an increase of religious vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. John Masiello, S.D.B.
Director