



DON BOSCO
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA

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Feast of Saint Joseph
March 19, 1980

Dear Confreres:

FATHER JOSEPH BALAZSKOVI, S.D.B.

died on January 18, 1980 at Garfield Community Hospital in Monterey Park, California. Father Joseph was Confessor of the community and students and a teacher of foreign languages at Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, California for the past twenty years. The medical report noted the following as the cause of death: cardiac arrest and cerebral thrombosis. He was seventy-six years of age.

Father Joseph's life as a Salesian spanned a period of fifty-nine years. During this period of time he touched the lives of many Salesians, students and countless other people whom he met in the course of his ministry as a priest and educator. It is interesting to note how so many of these individuals, in commenting on his life, focused their remarks on several qualities which seemed to be the hallmark of his priestly, Salesian life.

In the eulogy delivered at the Mass of the Resurrection on January 20, 1980, Father John Dal Maso, his former Director at Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, California noted: "Father Joseph was a faithful and true Salesian, completely dedicated to his ministry and to Don Bosco. He had a great respect for authority and was a true believer in the old-fashioned type of obedience."

Father Joseph was very proud of his Catholic faith and his Salesian vocation. Don Bosco was like a charm for him, and he was very proud of all that Don Bosco had accomplished, and equally proud of the methods used by Don Bosco in his educational apostolate. He was very proud to be a Salesian priest and to share the heritage left by this great saint.

While this sense of Salesianity seems to be one of Father Joseph's outstanding characteristics as indicated by many of his fellow Salesians, many of his friends have also singled out his sense of compassion and willingness to listen to them. People were also impressed by Father Joseph's amazing capacity for work and his deep prayer life. His last years at Bosco Tech were spent mostly in prayer, serious reading, meditation and work, whenever his poor health permitted it.

Father Joseph was born in Budapest, Hungary on March 14, 1903. He made his first profession on August 10, 1921 and took his final vows on August 20, 1924. He studied theology at the Salesian Pontifical University in Turin, Italy and was ordained a priest by Cardinal Fossati, the Archbishop of Turin, on July 5, 1931 in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. He was Director of Salesian schools in Hungary from 1937 to 1942. As Director he worked very hard to preserve the many Salesian traditions in education recommended by St. John Bosco.

At the end of his term as Director, Father Joseph became secretary to Archbishop Angelo Rotta, the Apostolic Nuncio to Hungary. Father Joseph and the Archbishop were forced to flee Hungary with the Soviet invasion of 1945.

Father Joseph then went to Canada and served as Director of the Salesian school in Jacquet River from 1947 to 1951. In 1951 he joined the staff of St. Mary's Salesian School in Edmonton, Canada. In Edmonton, he held various positions, including Director of the school.

During his years in Western Canada, Father Joseph worked with several ethnic groups and immigrants from Europe. He founded St. Emeric Church in Edmonton to handle the influx of Hungarian refugees following the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956.

From September, 1959 to June, 1960 he served as Prefect of the Salesian Junior Seminary in Richmond, California. In September, 1960 he was assigned to Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, California where he remained until his death.

Father Joseph was Confessor of both the Salesian community and the students of Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead. He was proficient in many foreign languages and was an excellent teacher of German and Latin. Many students sought him out for personal and spiritual advice. During the twenty years Father Joseph spent at the Tech, his confreres admired his tremendous loyalty to Don Bosco and the Salesian Society. This loyalty was nurtured by his faithful adherence to the Rule. He believed that Don Bosco spoke to his Salesians through the Rule. He, therefore, observed it faithfully all his Salesian life.

This thumb-nail sketch modestly sums up his career as a Salesian. His life as a dedicated priest, a loyal Salesian, and as a loving and compassionate friend, can well serve as a source of inspiration to all whose lives he touched by his kindness. May he rest in peace.

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Fraternally yours in Christ,
(Rev.) Bernard J. Dabbene, S.D.B.
Director

DATA FOR NECROLOGY: Father Balazskovi, born in Budapest, Hungary on March 14, 1903, died in Monterey Park, California on January 18, 1980, at the age of 76, having completed 59 years of religious profession, 49 years of priesthood, 12 years as Director.

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