



Dear Confreres and Friends,

April 1987.

BROTHER PETER BERNARD LANDY SDB.

"It is our faith that in his unlimited compassion and love, Jesus has indeed come and taken our friend, Peter, to the Father's house, to experience the peace, security, acceptance and love which, like all of us, he sought; that fullness of life for which he came into being and which Jesus came to share with us".

It was with those beautiful words that Fr Michael Winstanley SDB concluded his homily at the first of the two requiem masses which were celebrated for Brother Peter Landy SDB. That first mass was concelebrated in the Salesian Parish Church of St Paul's Muirhouse, Edinburgh just across the waters of the Firth of Forth from Aberdour. There Peter had spent many happy hours, and it was there that Peter was tragically killed on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 27th.

Peter's life began, as it ended, within walking distance of the sea. He was born into a staunchly Roman Catholic family in Cowes, the Isle of Wight on June 2nd, 1962; and was baptised two weeks later at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, West Cowes. His initial schooling took place in the island, and then in September 1976 he transferred to the Salesian School, Blaisdon Hall, Glos. The two years he spent there were happy years. He settled in quickly, took a deep interest in his own religious education and became a daily communicant in a situation where voluntary church going among the senior boys was far from usual. It was almost certainly during this period that his desire to become a Salesian was born.

The desire became so strong that after just one year back on the Isle of Wight at the local High School, he asked to be accepted as an aspirant at the Salesian Missionary College, Shrigley Park. His request was granted and the second year of his two year stay there was his pre-novitiate year.

In September 1981 Peter crossed the Irish Sea and entered the novitiate in Crumlin, Dublin; and twelve months later he made his first profession on September 8th, 1982. During that year Peter developed a great love for the country and people of Ireland; and he subsequently spent several summers helping on the various camps organised by the Irish Salesians. The presence of three young Irish Salesians at his funeral testified to the deep affection in which he was held.

Back in England, two years of ecclesiastical studies followed at Ushaw College, Durham; and then in September 1984 he was asked to return to Blaisdon to join the care staff of the school. Returning to his old school was not without its problems, and in the autumn of 1985, a breakdown in his health meant that he had to spend several months away from his community.

At the end of that academic year he was advised to spend a longer period of time in a non Salesian environment, and so he readily accepted an invitation to join the care staff at Hillside School, Aberdour – an establishment he had visited frequently when it was the St John Bosco School, and where he had many good friends. And it was there that his short life of only 24 years came to an end on January 27th 1987.

Looking back on that life, I can do no better than quote these words from Father Michael Winstanley's funeral homily: "His was a life at times quite difficult, stressful and struggling, when he was caught in the mystery of the Lord's own suffering and anguish. But also a resurrection life of courage and tenacity, of great warmth and pleasant companionship, of gentle concern, kindness and consideration of others, especially for the young in need, as seen in his dedicated work in Blaisdon, Aberdour and with the handicapped in Lourdes. We have enjoyed with him his zest for photography, for orienteering, and his perseverance in pullover salesmanship. And it is our belief that nothing of Peter's life will be lost in death; but that indeed this water will be turned into wine."

At the Edinburgh requiem mass many of Peter's Salesian brothers were joined by his sister, Colette, and brother, Billy, and a large group of his friends from Hillside School, Aberdour.

Nine days later a second requiem mass was celebrated at Blaisdon where Salesians from all over the Province were joined by Peter's parents and family and a large number of Sisters of St Joseph (Annecy) the Congregation of which Colette, Peter's sister is a member. At the end of the mass, Peter's ashes were laid to rest in the local cemetery.

As we thank God for Peter's life and the happiness he brought to so many, we pray that he may now be fully at peace in the arms of his Risen Lord, and we recommend to the care of that same Lord, his parents, his sister and his brothers.

Hugh Preston SDB.

Data for the Necrology:

Brother Peter Landy born in Cowes, Isle of Wight on the 2nd June 1962, died in Aberdour, Scotland on the 27th January 1987 at the age of 24 years after 4 years of Religious Profession.

R.I.P.