

The Salesian Bulletin

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= SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS =

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The late Very Rev. Don Albera.
(his last photograph).

Summary. *The Death of the Very Rev. Don Albera. — Annual Letter to the Co-operators. — The Third Centenary of the Death of St. Francis of Sales. Salesian Notes and News. — Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians. — Graces and Favours. — News from the Missions. — Obituary.*

Greetings and Good Wishes

Our Readers and Co-operators will be able to appreciate the sense of sorrow and of loss under which the Society at present labours. For many years a message has gone forth to them at this time of the year from the pen of him who so ably and devotedly guided the destinies of the Salesian Work and that of the Co-operators, which are so intimately united. They were words of loving greeting, gratitude and appreciation; a message of hope and encouragement, an interpretation of the Christmas tidings from the Holy Child, to those who worked with him for other and countless children.

This message again goes forth. It comes from the one who for the time being bears the responsibility for an immense work, such as ours and yours. He asks for your continued assistance and support, in order that the work of the Venerable Don Bosco may maintain its progressive career and ever increase its beneficent mission among the young generations.

In return for so much self-sacrificing generosity, may the Holy Child send to all our Co-operators now and in the future His choicest blessings.

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

:: Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators ::

Via Cottolengo 32, Turin, Italy.

THE DEATH OF THE VERY REV. DON ALBERA

Superior General of the Salesian Congregation and Second Successor
of the Venerable Don Bosco

On Saturday morning, October the 29th, a message full of grief and sadness was despatched to all the Provinces of the Society. It told us in brief words that Don Albera, our beloved Superior General, had died suddenly that morning. The full significance of this communication was at once brought home to us. Don Albera, the common father of those countless numbers of Salesian boys, scattered throughout four continents of the globe, was no more. The chief of that vast array of religious, young, ardent and well-disciplined, who have penetrated into almost every country and have taken up their abode in every climate to devote themselves to the guidance and salvation of youth, was no longer of this world. The father, the guide, the director of that great multitude of Salesian Co-operators, who in every rank of society, work in harmony with the Salesians themselves for the realisation of their great ideals, had been called away by his Creator to enjoy his long-earned rest. Such was the purport of that brief message; such were the feelings which filled our minds and hearts when we heard the sad tidings.

For some months past his health had been failing. An incurable disease had been undermining his constitution, and as early

as last June, on the very eve of his feast-day, an unexpected attack had left him in a weak and perilous condition. The alarm, however, had passed off, and he soon resumed his ordinary occupations, his fatiguing audiences and his appointed task of guiding with firm though feeble hands the destinies of that Society whose government had been entrusted to him.

As late as last September he had presided over a Congress of Salesian Co-operators held at Castelnuovo d'Asti, the native home of the Venerable Don Bosco. It was this very anxiety and untiring zeal for the perfect fulfilment of all the duties of his office, which was destined to give the final blow to a constitution which had already been enfeebled by illness and constant exertion, and to overwhelm a heart that was about to burst asunder under the impelling force of very strong emotions.

Just eight days had elapsed since the Most Rev. Mgr. Marengo, Archbishop of Edessa, had departed this life at the Oratory. The day before, Don Albera, torn asunder by grief, had remained for long hours by the side of the dying Prelate, and had himself administered the last Sacraments to him. Two days later, though worn out by fatigue, he had insisted on paying the last tribute to

the memory of the saintly Salesian Archbishop, by following on foot, with Rosary in hand, the mortal remains of the deceased Prelate, praying with great fervour all the time.

And then there was the touching ceremony of the departure of the Missionaries—thirty young Apostles ready to bear to the distant shores of Assam, Terra del Fuego and China the name and love of Jesus Crucified. After the usual prayers and ceremonies, Don Albera had embraced them all tenderly. His heart was full to overflowing: he knew so well that this would be his final farewell to these brave warriors, who were just entering on their missionary career, for he would never see them again—never more meet them face to face until that day when they all would meet in the Kingdom of their Father in Heaven. Three days later, beneath the dome of the same sacred edifice, a solemn Requiem Mass was sung to implore the mercy of God on the soul of Mgr. Costamagna, that energetic and eager Salesian Missionary and Bishop who had recently passed to his reward in the Argentine. It was a beautiful though tedious ceremony, with its Pontifical Office, its solemn chant and the five Absolutions contained in the Ritual, and Don Albera, regardless of his own fatigue and weakness, remained to the very end, and would not hear of departing from the sacred building till all was over. And finally, about the same time there arrived from America a band of youthful Salesians who had come to complete their theological course near the tomb of our Venerable Founder. The sight of this group of young Confrères, full of energy and ardent aspirations, was indeed a pleasing one for the holy man, who had himself borne the labours and the heats of the day, but it was at the same time one that awakened strong emotional reminiscences in the heart of the tender father, who had lately undergone such sorrows and bereavements.

In fact, without suspecting it, he had already come to the end of his resources.

Without suspecting it, we said, but who knows? On the Friday evening, before retiring to rest, he said to his secretary, who had followed him from place to place with untiring devotion during a period of more than 30 years: "Mgr. Costamagna is dead, Mgr. Marengo is dead; which of us will be the first to follow?" Alas, but a few hours later, before the dawn of another day, it was he himself who was destined to follow and to join them in the land beyond the grave. His last night was one of almost total sleeplessness. And so, when at half past four on the Saturday morning he attempted to rise, his exhausted frame could no longer stand the strain, and he collapsed. His secretary, feeling that there was something amiss, hastened to his room, and Don Albera said to him in muffled tones and broken voice: "I wish to celebrate Holy Mass, but alas, I feel my strength is failing within me. Ah, what a poor, frail creature I have become." On seeing the disconcerted look on the face of his dear Superior, and on hearing these words of sorrow and discouragement, Don Gusmano at once understood the seriousness of his condition. He helped the saintly Father to get into bed again, and immediately called from the neighbouring rooms all the Major Superiors of the Congregation, for now the palpitations of his heart numbered 135 to the minute. A moment later, there gathered round that humble bed Don Rinaldi, Don Ricaldone, Don Barberis and Don Conelli. They had just arrived in time, for now the death agony was beginning. His heart, which a few minutes before had been beating with violent palpitations, was now throbbing with dreadful uncertainty—at one instant it jerked with violence, and at the next its pulsations were abnormally slow.

In the meantime, Don Rinaldi administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction to the dying Priest. Rapidly paralysis found its way to the precincts of his heart, his tongue became immovable and in a very short time, a fatal dimness was visible in his



The Very Rev. PAUL ALBERA

Superior General of the Salesians from August 16th, 1910 to October 29th, 1921.

eyes, and little by little this dullness increased. But beneath his semi-vacant glance, those around could discern that his fervent soul was in prayer, and was uniting instinctively with the prayers of those who knelt around his bed. And while the outside world was still wrapped in the darkness of night, long before the first sounds of the Angelus from the neighbouring Churches had aroused the sleeping city of Turin, this holy Priest, without an effort, without a perceptible movement, had given up his soul to his Creator. For 77 long years he had ever been the faithful servant of his Lord and Master; he had worked incessantly, even in the days of failing health, in the service of the poor and neglected, the orphan and the friendless, and he had ever been a father to those who needed his help or protection. And now he had departed to the Father of the poor. He had fallen in the breach, so to speak; his toils of the preceding day had been completed, and while preparing for the efforts of the day which was about to dawn, he was summoned into the presence of his Master. O happy and enviable death!, a certain recompense for a life of ceaseless toil, a death truly worthy of a faithful disciple of the Venerable Don Bosco!

* * *

His early years.

In the death of Don Albera, the great Salesian Family has lost, not merely a Father and guide, but one who was the continuer of Don Bosco's work in such identity of spirit, as to make his method and policy one with that of the Venerable Founder. In fact, Don Bosco had foreseen and foretold this special participation of his spirit and of his ideals in the character and methods of his immediate Successors, and with prophetic intuition had designated them himself.

Don Albera was born at None near Turin in the year 1845, and entered the Oratory in October, 1858. At that period the Sanctuary of Mary, Help of Christians, existed

only in the mind of our Venerable Founder. Two months previously, Don Bosco and Don Rua (then a cleric in subdeacon's orders) had gone to a little place called None for some religious celebration, and while there, the Parish-Priest introduced to them a boy of thirteen years of age, who desired to begin his studies for the priesthood. Don Bosco saw before him a young lad, delicate in feature and tranquil in demeanour with eyes both bright and piercing. He spoke to him a few words of welcome, but as he was discussing some matters with the Parish Priest he turned to the cleric who accompanied him, and told him to ascertain whether the lad was sufficiently advanced in his studies. The cleric was able to give Don Bosco ample assurance on this head, and the latter, therefore, expressed to the Parish Priest his readiness to accept the boy immediately at the Oratory. This boy was Paul Albera, who was destined, later on, to guide the destinies of the Salesian Society during an eventful period of more than eleven years.

A Student at the Oratory.

Paul Albera entered the Oratory at an important epoch of its history. New buildings had recently been erected on site of the former house of Pinardi, which had served as a home for Don Bosco's boys in the heroic days. Bright prospects for the future now opened out for the great work of the Venerable Founder, and his unwavering faith in the protection of Heaven had already met with its reward. The privations, the hardships, the bitter disappointments of the early days were now at an end, and a wave of enthusiasm and eager expectation had spread over that home of peace and happiness. But more than that. Many of the boys at the Oratory, under the careful and enlightened direction of the Venerable Servant of God, were leading lives of wonderful sanctity. They gave a tone of virtue and happy piety to the place, and Dominic Savio (whose cause of Beatification

is now proceeding) had died just a short time before. The group which had been most closely associated with him was still flourishing, and it now welcomed young Paul Albera to its membership. One of the events which struck deep into his soul was the death of one of the members of

of the future Salesian family, made their religious profession in the humble room of the Venerable Servant of God. They were the first Salesians, and Paul Albera was amongst the number. They were a privileged band, for they lived under the direct influence of the saintly Founder and were,



Awaiting the funeral procession.

this group of exceptionally gifted and pious youths. It occurred only three months after Paul Albera's coming, and Don Bosco had spoken of his speedy entrance into Heaven. It was this that urged young Paul Albera to strive even harder than before to hold a high place in the select band to which he had been admitted.

In October 1861 he received the ecclesiastical habit from his former Parish Priest, Don Abrate. In the following year a group of 22 clerics, who formed the nucleus

in one sense, the first fruits of his labours. They formed the vanguard of that vast army of priests, clerics and lay-brothers which was to penetrate to the uttermost parts of the world. Nearly sixty years of fruitful toil have passed since that solemn event, and death has called away all the members of that little band, with the exception of two—Cardinal Cagliero and Don Francesia. This solid foundation, laid by Don Bosco himself, for his Society has well stood the test of time, and to-day his

spiritual Sons number over 5000 and have opened more than 450 houses, scattered over four Continents of the globe.

His early life as a Salesian.

When the Boarding School at Mirabello was opened by Don Bosco, Don Rua was appointed its Director and the cleric Paul Albera was sent there as one of the teachers. The School rapidly developed and under the able and enthusiastic management of Don Bosco's immediate followers it became a great success. In the meantime, Paul Albera proceeded with his theological studies and by the time he reached the age of twenty he had not only completed his course, but had also obtained a degree at the University of Turin.

In June, 1868, he accompanied his Rector, Don Rua, and his companion, Don Cerrutti (then a cleric), to the Oratory to be present at the solemn opening and consecration of the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians. Don Albera was then in deacon's orders, and on this occasion, though he was only just 23 years of age, Don Bosco told him to prepare himself for his sacerdotal ordination. Accordingly, on August 2nd of the same year, 1868, he was ordained priest by Mgr. Ferri, at Casalmonteferrato. He was assisted by Don Bosco himself at the ceremony and became a member of the Council, which eventually developed into the Superior Chapter of the Society.

At that period the Salesian Society was regarded by many as purely a personal enterprise on the part of a zealous priest, and some even viewed it as a rash scheme incapable of realisation. The definite approbation of the Holy See did not come to crown Don Bosco's efforts and place his work on a sure footing until April 3rd, 1874. It is not, therefore, surprising that some of Don Bosco's subjects considered themselves free to leave when they thought fit, and the Bishops were, in some cases, only too pleased to receive them to fill the many vacancies in the ranks of the clergy.

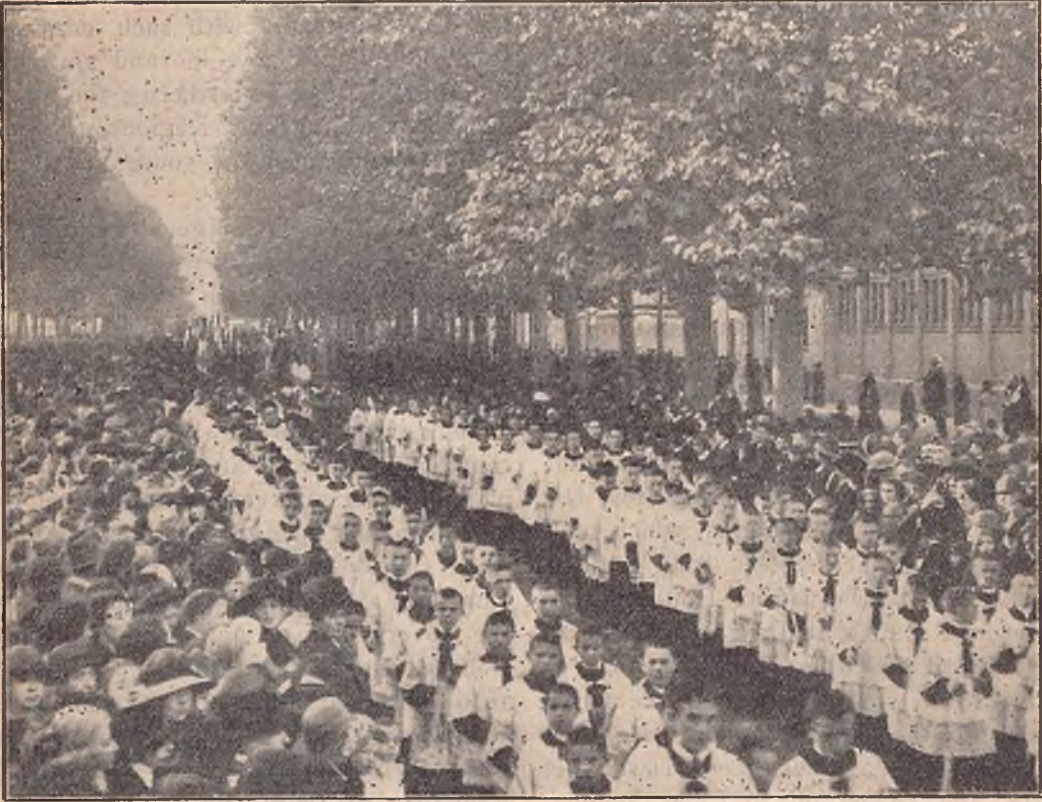
In fact, some of the Bishops rather resented the loss to their seminaries of so many promising young men, who flocked to join a religious body which was not yet definitely sanctioned by the Church. This was the case with the Bishop of the diocese from which Don Albera came. He had a high esteem for the young priest, and, desiring to make use of his rare talents in the work of his diocese, he endeavoured to persuade him that the Society founded by Don Bosco would be of very short duration, and that it would be well for him to leave before the dissolution came. The Bishop was somewhat insistent in his representations to the young priest, but the latter, full of the confidence in Our Blessed Lady's protection which filled the mind and heart of the Venerable Founder, remained steadfast in his resolve to live and die a Salesian, and no arguments to the contrary could make the slightest impression on him. Some time later, at a meeting of priests, presided over by the Bishop of Casalmonteferrato, Don Bosco was asked whether these difficulties in connection with Don Albera had been overcome. He replied in words which have justly been regarded as prophetic. "Oh, yes," he said "Don Albera has not only overcome these difficulties, but he will overcome many others, and will be my second..." He did not finish the sentence, but raised his hand to his forehead, as though considering some distant vision, and then added "Don Albera will be of great assistance to us." The light of subsequent events has shown very clearly how prophetic these words were. At the time of their utterance, they made a deep impression on many present, for there was something mysterious about them. Don Rinaldi, who was present at the time, recorded them in writing, and sealed them up. That seal was not broken till August 16th, 1910, when Don Rinaldi himself opened it and read the statement to the assembled Fathers who had just elected Don Albera as second successor of Don Bosco.

His first Rectorship.

In 1871 a new Salesian House was opened at Genoa in the suburb of Marassi, and Don Albera was sent thither as first Rector. There were many initial difficulties in the way, but by dint of tact and untiring labour its young Rector was able to overcome them all, and in the following year, the

Provincial in France.

In October, 1881, Don Albera was appointed Provincial of the Salesian Houses in France. This was a very remarkable epoch for the work of Don Bosco in that country and during his term of office as Provincial there, Don Albera furthered this rapid progress in many ways. These were per-



A snapshot of the altar-boys and clerics in procession.

School was removed to the more commodious premises of San Pier D'Arena. Here the work flourished and made rapid progress, and Don Bosco made it one of the chief centres of a new branch of his work—the training of tardy vocations to the priesthood. The past pupils of this College include a number of secular Priests who owe their vocation and early training to the great work carried on by the Salesian Fathers. Don Albera there introduced and fostered the devotion to the Sacred Heart, which has since been developed to such a high degree in all our Schools.

haps the years in which Our Lady Help of Christians worked the greatest wonders of our Venerable Founder, and Don Albera was an eyewitness of many of these prodigies. He accompanied Don Bosco to Paris, where an anticlerical writer expressed the triumph of the Servant of God by saying that he could attribute to himself the words of Julius Caesar: "Veni, vidi, vici." From 1882 to 1886 Don Bosco made annual visits to Paris, and Don Albera was with him constantly; subsequently, when Don Bosco was too feeble to bear the journey, he required his representative in France to go to

Turin every two months to confer with him, doubtless with a view to preparing him the better for his future position. Urgent affairs kept the latter in France towards the end of January, 1888, and he was not able to arrive in time to be present at the death of Don Bosco, but he was able to see him before the coffin was closed.

Spiritual Director of the Society.

A few years later, Don Rua, who had watched with interest the wonderful ability and tact of the French Provincial, summoned him to Turin to fill the important post of Spiritual Director to the entire Congregation. In this capacity, Don Albera was able to do effect much good to the order at large, and his marvellous gifts of his zeal, stood him in good stead during the eighteen years that he held this office.

In 1900 he undertook, at the request of Don Rua, the visitation of all the Salesian Houses in the New World. His zeal and untiring activity may be gauged from the immensity of this undertaking, which took three years to accomplish, and entailed the visitation of the various Houses in the Argentine Republic, in Uruguay and Paraguay, Brazil and the central territory of Matto Grosso, where he stayed in the native colonies of the Bororo Indians. He then proceeded to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and passed on to Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, penetrating even as far as the Missions of the fierce Jivaro Indians; then to Venezuela and Colombia, where he visited the leper settlements under the care of the Sons of Don Bosco, and finally to Mexico and the United States. Those who are acquainted with the conditions of travelling in the vast realms of the continent of South America, can form some idea of the fatigues and hardships which Don Albera must have had to undergo in the fulfilment of his mission. His tact, prudence and charity were everywhere manifested and won the affection and admiration of all who met him.

Superior General of the Society.

Don Rua, the first successor of the Venerable Founder, died on April 6th, 1910, and a few months later, Don Albera was elected to the vacant post. His Holiness at once telegraphed to him, invoking upon his labours the special blessing of Heaven, so that he might be able to fulfil his arduous task, and follow in the steps of Don Bosco and Don Rua, who with such admirable zeal and sanctity gave life and growth to the Salesian Society, furthering the greater glory of God and the religious, civil and moral advantage of the young and of the people at large.

The words of the Supreme Pontiff were entirely in keeping both with the character of Don Albera and with the conditions of the high and difficult office which he had undertaken; and the humble follower of Don Bosco, gentle and serene in word and manner, who almost by a look could win confidence, sympathy and respect, succeeded in guiding in an ever-upward course that monument of piety and apostolic zeal which Don Bosco's work has become to-day. Don Rua, at his death, left to his successor the government of 341 religious Houses; Don Albera has left more than 450. In 1910 Don Bosco's first successor commanded an army of nearly 4000 religious; in 1921 Don Albera was the beloved and respected head of more than 5000 Salesians. Under his auspices and encouragement the Salesian Missions have developed wonderfully during the past eleven years; many have considerably enlarged their field of action, while several new ones have been started. A few days before his death he had the consolation of greeting and imparting his blessing to a band of missionaries, destined for the vast region of Assam, where there are at present but 5000 Catholics out of a population of more than seven millions. And this progress, be it remembered, has been made in the face of great obstacles. The European war of 1914 to 1918, whose dreadful effects are still felt, exacted a

very heavy toll from the Congregation as a whole. Don Albera had the sorrow of witnessing the destruction, either partial or entire, of many of his Houses, which were situated in the war zone. Hundreds of his spiritual Sons were snatched away by the same cause, and several of his Schools were almost entirely deprived of their staff.

blessed by God and productive of much good. His attitude, too, in dealing with the terrible problems which have arisen on account of the war, has been truly worthy of a Son of Don Bosco. "Open new Houses for these poor orphans, or at least make room for them in the Houses which already exist. Receive them blindly and



a) The serene countenance of the deceased. — b) The Bishops in procession.

But he never lost heart; he trusted in God and in the protection of Mary Most Holy, and his confidence has been amply rewarded, and the Society is now more flourishing than ever. Through the sore trials of the war filled his fatherly heart with anguish for so many sorrows and for so many ruined lives, still he was ever supported by that fortitude and that confidence in God, which the Successors seem to have inherited from their Venerable Founder. And, notwithstanding all these grave difficulties, Don Albera had the consolation of seeing his work

without a moment's hesitation. We are here for them, and God will come to our help and provide the means for us." Such was his constant advice to his *Confrères*.

The brightest days of his period as Superior General were probably those, when there came together the Jubilee of the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, and the golden Jubilee of his own sacerdotal Ordination. The Festivity in honour of Her whom Don Bosco made the Mother of his Society and Work, and of the one

whom he had himself announced as his second Successor fell on the same day, the 9th of June 1918, a day which His Holiness Pope Benedict xvth called doubly fortunate, in the letter of congratulation which he wrote to Don Albera on that occasion. "The Mother of God," wrote the Supreme Pontiff, "as She assisted at the birth of your Congregation, extending her loving protection to your Venerable Founder, so in its growth She continues her ever-opportune aid, especially from the day when, in the Sanctuary at Turin, She as it were took her royal seat in its midst. In that Basilica, in fact, the great deliberations were taken, which secured the stability and development of your Institute; in it has been fostered the spirit of St. Francis of Sales, which is a noble charity for the welfare of souls; from it have gone forth those zealous bands, to undertake your vast apostolate on behalf of the young, or to carry the Faith and Redemption to the savage tribes. From it, in fine, has sprung up that unceasing stream of blessings for your Society, and for the whole Salesian Family. By a happy coincidence the beginning of that Sanctuary is celebrated at the same time as the opening of your own priestly career. During all these years you have laboured with uncommon zeal and wisdom for the welfare of the Society, to which you have now been called to preside.

"While all your Sons and Co-operators, from far and near, unite their homage to the Help of Christians with the expression of good wishes to you, We claim the pleasure of leading this chorus of congratulation, both because We desire to recommend your intentions and the needs of the whole Church to the Help of Christians, and because as We hold the Salesian Congregation dear, We pray that it may have you for many years as its Father and guide."

The Holy Father's desires had but three years of fulfilment; and now the Second Successor of Don Bosco, in the peace of the just, has come to the eternal reward of his long toils, borne with the courage and

zeal of his master, and to maintain in his work that high standard of virtue and self-sacrificing charity, which the Founder established for it. But the great Salesian Family, including its hundreds of thousands of Past-Pupils and Co-operators, is not dismayed; for deeper than the sorrow for the loss is in the sure conviction of the Father's powerful protection, and the assurance that he is the company of so many other Sons and Pupils of Don Bosco, now reaping their eternal reward.

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This was the predominating sentiment that filled the hearts of those crowds of people, who on the morning of Saturday, October 29th, flocked to the little Chapel adjoining the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, to contemplate for the last time the gentle features of the deceased Superior General.

There he lay, with a smile still imprinted on his lips, perfectly peaceful and calm in the sleep of death.

From every corner of Turin, the faithful made their way to that lowly resting-place, eager to catch a last glimpse of him who had, during life, been the father of the poor and the neglected. Members of every rank of Society—from the most celebrated personages down to the common labourer in his working attire—united in paying a last mark of respect to the humble religious, who had, in his modest and retiring manner, effected so much good during his life-time.

The obsequies.

The following day, Sunday, was fixed for the solemn procession which was to take place, when the mortal remains of the venerated successor of Don Bosco were to be removed from their temporary resting-place in this little Chapel to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, where they would lie in state awaiting the Solemn Requiem Mass on the morrow. This procession, was a veritable triumph, and manifested the deep appreciation that was felt in every sphere of life and in all classes of the people

for the humble Priest who had just gone to his reward. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the pageant really commenced, for at that hour a vast multitude filled out from the Oratory to take up positions assigned to them in the great procession which was about to commence. Perfect order reigned everywhere, and for fully half an hour this mighty stream surged out and webbed its way to the appointed place. In another quarter could be seen another crowd,

bera would greet them no more on earth. The number of those who walked in that procession has been estimated at 30,000, and included representatives from no less than seventeen different nations. The procession itself took over fully two hours to pass any particular point on the route, and besides several distinguished members of the clergy, there were delegates from many municipalities and secular institutions. Immediately behind the hearse, there



Various associations and representatives at the funeral.

composed of the relatives and friends of the deceased, who had come from far and near to pay the last tribute of affection to him. Banners were displayed everywhere, and almost side by side with the magnificence of the wealthy and of the great ones of this world could be seen, in many places, the sun-burnt complexion of the farmer and the rough attire and weather-beaten features of the humble labourer.

At three o'clock precisely, the procession itself began. It wended its way through many busy thoroughfares of the city. Many a silent tear was shed, and many an honest heart ached at the thought that the gentle form and winning smile of Don Al-

walked the Prefect-General, Don Rinaldi, with the other members of the Superior Chapter. Next to them came the relatives of Don Albera, with a godly number of their friends and neighbours; then Count Leopold of Monticello and other members of the aristocracy. Consuls and many other dignitaries followed, and finally Past-Pupils and members of various Catholic Guilds and associations.

Turin has seldom witnessed a sight so dignified, so magnificent, so awe-inspiring in its very grandeur. The immense crowd which gathered to see it numbered no less than 100,000, and their attitude of reverence and respectful silence was well calculated

to make a deep impression on everyone. In fact, the funeral procession of Don Albera recalled the magnificent demonstration of love and esteem which took place after the death of Don Bosco himself and of his first successor, Don Rua.

The actual interment took place on the Monday, the vigil of the Feast of All Saints. At half past nine, a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians by His Eminence, Cardinal Cagliero, who had come from Rome as soon as he heard of the death of his Brother in Religion. Three other Bishops were present on the Sanctuary, and took part in the ceremony. After the Mass, all proceeded in due order, to take up their places in the procession to the final resting-place at Valsalice.

The appointed route was thronged with a reverent, admiring crowd, anxious to show, by their respectful demeanour, their gratitude to one who had been a public benefactor to the city. As the procession wended its way towards the precincts of the College of Valsalice, where the mortal remains of Don Bosco's successor were to be deposited, a solemn silence reigned over that vast assembly. There the members of the Superior Chapter of the Salesian Congregation were gathered around Cardinal Cagliero. And when the halting-place was in sight, at a given signal, a powerful choir of boys' voices burst forth into the strains of the "Beati mortui"—"Blessed," it sang, "are the dead who die in the Lord. In the eyes of the foolish, they appear to be destroyed, but already they enjoy the peace of the Lord." As soon as the motett was finished, eight Salesians raised the coffin on their shoulders, and proceeded towards the tomb of Don Bosco. To the strains of the Benedictus, the long cortège accompanied the body as far as the Chapel for the last absolution. Here Cardinal Cagliero, mastering his emotion for the time being, pronounced the last prayers and gave the final blessing. And then, turning to his grief-stricken Confrères, this Prince of the Church addressed them in telling

accents and in words which were inspired by the sacred remains before him. "Weep not," he said "as those do, who are without hope. Don Albera is dead, but his work lives and will live for ever. The words of Don Bosco are once more verified. 'I am leaving you,' he said 'but the Congregation has been formed, and it possesses men who are well able to direct it.' Carry on your work, therefore, with the faith of him who rests within this coffin. Go forward always and in all places. Harken not to the promptings of flesh and blood, but blindly follow the dictates of that faith which overcomes mountains. Don Bosco, Don Rua and Don Albera watch over you, and bless your efforts. Work is our watchword; it is imprinted on our standard. It is the distinguishing mark by which men should know us. It was the parting advice of Don Bosco on his death-bed; it is the lesson that is taught us by his saintly successor, whom we are burying to-day. Labour, then, but not as ordinary men of the world. Labour as Christians, as religious, as men who rely unhesitatingly on the protection of Heaven and the continued guidance of those who have gone before us."

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And now he rests at Valsalice by the side of Don Bosco and Don Rua. He has been their faithful follower and imitator during life, and it is fitting that, even in death, he should not be separated from them. And we, his Sons, though bereft of our Father, are consoled by the wonderful example that he has left us, and spurred on by the thought that in one sense, he is still with us, and will be ever able to help us. Before closing the scene before us, one prayer mounts to Heaven from the lips of every Son of Don Bosco. It is a prayer for perseverance and strength to carry on to completion the noble work which was begun by the Venerable Founder, and seconded with so much generosity and self-sacrifice by his two successors—the work of the education and salvation of destitute youth.

Annual Letter to the Co-operators

Turin, Jan. 1st. 1922.

My dear Co-operators,

As I am aware that large numbers of Co-operators will be looking forward to the receipt of this letter on the 1st of January—destined as it is to comment upon the year passed, and to deal with our new proposals—I feel that I must no longer delay in this part of my responsibility. At the same time I cannot refrain from asking your indulgence, and from begging you to receive this message with the ready welcome which you always gave the annual letters of Don Bosco, Don Rua and Don Albera. We are but simple instruments compared to the great works of God, which increase the more, according as they manifest, by their continuous vitality, the assistance of Divine Providence.

The death of Don Albera.

My first thought is one that combines grief with gratitude. Our much revered Don Albera has been called away from us, and called away suddenly. On the one hand the heavy tasks inseparable from his office, and made more onerous during the protracted war, constrained him to increase his solicitude for the children and youths who were left homeless or nearly so; and on the other, there was an inevitable increase in his anxieties and sufferings. He was encouraged by the sight of the generous charity exercised by his sons of every nation, in spite of the bitterness of the conflict, and nothing could shake his resolve to walk faithfully in the footsteps of his great predecessors; he therefore remained in harness, and in the midst of his many labours till his last breath. However, the rapidity with which the end came, although feared for some time past, greatly increased our sorrow, which was only lightened, to some

extent, by the wide-spread grief manifested on every side by the sad news, and by the tributes which came from every part.

To you, therefore, dear Co-operators, I desire to express our deepest gratitude, and it is strengthened by the promise first made by Don Rua at the side of the remains of our Venerable Founder, and which he recommended to us when he himself was dying: a promise which Don Albera could not make on account of his sudden death, but which he made by word and example during his ten years of government of the Society: to continue to walk faithfully in the footsteps of our Venerable Founder.

A year of mourning.

The year 1921 was a year of great sorrow for the Salesian Society. In the first week of July there passed away suddenly that worthy son of Don Bosco, Don Antonio Aime, Provincial of the Houses in Colombia and Venezuela. Two months later, there died in Argentina the second Salesian Bishop Mgr. Costamagna, and scarcely a week before the sudden death of Don Albera, there passed away another Salesian Bishop Mgr. Marengo, Internuntio Apostolic and Delegate Extraordinary of the Holy See to the Republics of Central America.

Our late revered Superior General and Mgr. Costamagna, who were formerly boys together at the Oratory, both reached the end of their mortal career, after having celebrated three years ago the joyous occasion of their sacerdotal Jubilee. Don Aime on the other hand, and Mgr. Marengo seemed to have been taken from us before the time. So many losses and also the deaths of many dear Co-operators clearly recall to us the grave warning of Our Divine Lord: "Be ye therefore ready." We shall be fortunate, my dear Co-operators, if, while we consider the zealous apostolate of these departed ones,

spending themselves in the promotion of the glory of God and the salvation of souls, their bright examples of deep piety, and especially the devotion with which they dedicated themselves to the work of Don Bosco—we shall be fortunate, if we resolve to follow their example to the end of our lives.

The 8th of December, 1921, completes the eightieth year since the day when Our Lady Help of Christians inspired Don Bosco to begin the work which Divine Providence had appointed for him. During that period who can estimate the good that has been effected through that work? How hundreds of the young of both sexes have been placed on the path of a good Christian life, and how many educated to virtue and good works, in hundreds of our schools and colleges? Who can form even an idea of the immense accomplishments of the Missionaries in all parts of the world? After the divine assistance vouchsafed to his work, and the splendour of his own personal virtues, Don Bosco owes a great deal for the flourishing development of his work to the enthusiastic devotion of his Sons, and especially of those who have been chosen to assume the chief direction of that work. For this reason we venerate their memory, and especially to our late Superior General, we promise a never-failing remembrance.

Summary of 1921.

Having performed this first duty, which was also a labour of love, I now propose to give you, dear Co-operators, a brief résumé of the new foundations undertaken by the Salesians and by the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians, during the past year, through the guidance of Divine Providence and the assistance of your generosity.

The Salesian Society.

In Italy itself, there have been opened two Houses for the training of our own personnel, a work which is always of the utmost importance: one is near *Bologna* and will serve the Houses of Aemilia, Toscana

and Liguria. The second is at *Schio* near the flourishing Festive Oratory already established there; it will serve the Houses of Lombardy, Venice and Switzerland. A new Sunday Oratory has been opened at *Modena*.

In *Bavaria*, both during and after the war, the Salesian Work was of such utility that there has now been opened a Boarding School and Sunday Oratory at *Essen*, where these two departments already deal with six hundred boys.

At *Watsonville* in the United States, a large Agricultural Colony has been established, principally for the benefit of the orphans in that district. In the Argentine Republic, a generous Co-operator has handed over to us a fine site which is already being settled as an agricultural School, and near it, are a new parochial Church and Schools which will be of immense benefit to the growing neighbourhood. Higher up in Brazil, we have been able to open another Missionary House, which will deal with the young generations over a wide area, and also serve to bring assistance to the Missionaries in the religious care of the people.

The immense Prefecture Apostolic of Rio Negro, as well as that opened in China and others, have been enabled to begin new works with the assistance of the increased personnel lately sent out to reinforce the Missions. At different times during the year 1921 more than a hundred new Missionaries have set out from Turin, and these expeditions have absorbed the greater portion of your generous offerings for the Missions. Among these deserves particular mention the Salesians destined for Assam, who had the good fortune of receiving of last blessing of Don Albera.

The Nuns of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The Nuns have also been able to extend their work in various directions. In *Turin* itself, near the Sanctuary of the Consolata, they have undertaken the direction of a

House for young girls in business; at *Asti* a day-school for little children; at *Oulx* a Sunday Oratory and evening School; at *Arma di Taggia* a parochial School with evening departments and Sunday Oratory; at *Alessandria* a Hostel for Student Teachers, which will be much developed when the premises proposed for it can be adapted.

They have also opened Houses and Schools in several parts of South America, in the Argentine, in Brazil, in Chili and in Peru; at *Puebla* in Mexico they have opened a School for young children. They have also undertaken to assist in the domestic side of several Salesian Houses, among them being the Houses at Turin, Frascati, Chertsey, in England, and San Francisco in California; they have also sent out thirty Sisters to the Argentine, the United States, to Mexico and Asia Minor. Thus, notwithstanding the difficulties of the times, many new undertakings have been started: under the direction of God, most of them are due to the generous support of the Co-operators as a whole.

Proposals for 1922.

Looking forward now to the coming year, I shall endeavour to express what our late lamented Superior General would have himself proposed to you. Don Albera was much preoccupied, even during the last days of his life, as to how best to secure the blessing of God upon the Salesian work for the year 1922, which would be particularly important for the Society. I do not think I shall be far from his ideas if I make three recommendations to you: they are *Prayer, the spirit of zeal and action.*

And as regards prayer, I must remind you that on the 23rd. of April at the Oratory of Turin, under the shadow of the Basilica of the Help of Christians, there will be gathered together the Provincials and Delegates of the Society, to hold the election for the new Superior General, and of the members of the Chapter which is to aid

him in his responsible office. After that, the General Chapter will debate several important affairs, touching the welfare of the Congregation, and particularly the best means of securing the advancement of our Work according to the ideals of the Ven. Don Bosco. The long space of twelve years since the last Chapter makes the necessity and importance of this new one all the greater.

In that period what unexpected events have occurred, bringing with them new needs and new conditions? It is with reason, therefore, that we feel the necessity of obtaining the assistance of Heaven. You, dear Co-operators, are accustomed to say daily an *Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father* in honour of St. Francis of Sales in order to gain the Indulgences attached to your Association; we ask you to add the special intention to obtain a particular blessing from our great Patron and from our Venerable Founder, Don Bosco, and also from our Brethren and Co-operators in Heaven, that they may obtain the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians for her work. Pray that the Salesian Apostolate, through the labours of the forthcoming General Chapter, may gain new light and strength, so that in spite of the present difficulties in the world at large, it may achieve in the full vigour of the spirit of Don Bosco, its main object—the Christian education of the young.

Secondly, the need of zeal. Among the desires which will find expression at the forthcoming General Chapter will be that of finding means to increase the number of vocations. One of Don Albera chief anxieties towards the end of his life, and one to which his zeal was specially sensitive was this scarcity of vocations. "We ought," he wrote, "to exert all our efforts to multiply vocations, not only for our own society, but also for the Dioceses. This is the great need of the Church at the present time. If Don Bosco and Don Rua were still living, they would spare no pains to provide for this need. And we should do likewise.

However the pecuniary resources required for this purpose are not abundant, but we shall hold to our aim. Let all possible resources be devoted to the furthering of this object.

There is no one who does not at once agree with this desire, for it undoubtedly represents the greatest need of the Church in modern times. A glance only at our own position is sufficient to convince anyone of this. As soon as a proposition is made for the undertaking of some new enterprise, the difficulty of finding personnel at once presents itself. The new circumstances of the age are constantly demanding new developments in Christian education, and how can these be supplied, when vocations are not forthcoming?

From practically all the Salesian Houses, not only those in Missionary centres, but in those of our own Provinces, there is a like demand for further personnel. The labourers are ever too few for the harvest.

And unless we seriously take the matter in hand, the need will be felt even more in a few years time. Last year, as I have already remarked, more than a hundred Missionaries and some thirty Nuns left for our Houses in the missionary districts. But do you think that these reinforcements sufficed to satisfy the demands? By no means! For Paragonia alone, in order not to lose the abundant harvest there prepared by the heroic labours of the first Missionaries sent by Don Bosco, it would not suffice if we were to send out this very day another fifty new labourers, full of zeal and in the vigour of the manhood.

And then it must be remembered that our late revered Superior General had already accepted a year ago, for 1922, besides other foundations, the Vicariate Apostolic of *Kimberley* in Australia, where if we managed to send out a dozen missionaries, we might be said to have taken possession, but scarcely to have begun the vast work which the immense territory deserves.

Therefore, in this work as well, we look for the assistance of the Co-operators, who

are noted for their zeal. You can help us in the finding and training of vocations. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, seize it eagerly. If, St. Augustine says, that by saving a soul we shall secure our own salvation, what reward may we not expect both in this life and in the next, if we have secured the making of one priest or missionary, or Nun, who may afterwards save so many souls? Join us, therefore in supplications to God, that He may send us many candidates for the Society, and at the same time let us put forward our best efforts in order to promote this end.

In the third place, there should be activity. The year 1922 will be the third centenary of the death of our Patron, Saint Francis of Sales, and the fiftieth year of the Congregation of our Nuns of Mary Help of Christians. There have already been published the main outlines for the Commemorations for the Centenary of St. Francis, which will be opened on the 28th of December by a gathering of all the boys and young men in all our Schools and Oratories in Turin; the programme for the commemorations of the fiftieth year of the Nuns will also be issued. The Co-operators will readily take their share in all the celebrations: but they can do more still. Is it possible to be devoted to Our Lady Help of Christians and yet not desire to imitate her in her maternal care for the Christian family? Or, is it possible to have St. Francis of Sales for a Patron, and yet not share his zeal for the good of souls and his devoted charity? In a word, is it possible not to desire to share in the great Apostolate of religion and social amelioration begun by the Venerable Don Bosco?

The Servant of God followed up the teaching and example of St. Francis of Sales, by insisting that Catholics should not only care for their own perfection, but should also promote the salvation of others. In order, therefore, that earnest souls should have the means of doing so, he instituted the Association of Salesian Co-operators,

who should work alongside the Salesians and the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians.

At Turin, in November of last year, there was held a general meeting of Co-operators, a gathering which Don Albera had himself partly arranged. The members present represented sixty-three groups or small Committees of Co-operators from the city of Turin alone, and they debated the best means of promoting the various forms of Salesian work, within their own borders. If this example could be copied by half the Salesian Institutes, or by the Directors or Promoters of the Association of Co-operators, what an immense benefit would soon be reaped!

The past-pupils of our Colleges and Schools should form the nucleus of bands of Co-operators, and would generally provide active members for the promotion of the social and religious work of our Society.

The Nuns of Our Lady Help of Christians have always found willing helpers in the vast army of their past-pupils and through their means have undertaken most successfully a great number of beneficent works. These young members would make very effective members of the Association of Co-operators and would readily adapt themselves to any form of action that might be developed under the guidance of their former Superiors and friends. The eighth General Congress particularly desired to see the promotion of these Committees of activity, which should urge on the general work of Co-operation.

If the various celebrations in honour of St. Francis of Sales and of Our Lady Help of Christians were to be effective in the formation of many active Committees of Co-operators, who would thus exercise the apostolate of active charity supposed by their constitution, the good which would result would perhaps be more pleasing to their heavenly Patrons, than the very celebrations themselves.

These, then, were the three recommendations which I thought it best to put before you.

Before I bring this letter to a close, I feel the necessity, of recommending most urgently to you, dear Co-operators, the many and pressing undertakings which we have already in hand, and which ever seem to call for your zealous support.

Among these hold the first place the various Houses of Training and of Studies which are bringing up the new members of our Society, the future priests, missionaries and teachers. Then there are the numerous Houses in which we have large numbers of young boys who are dependent upon us for everything, and also the Missionary centres which can absorb almost unlimited supplies of personnel and material assistance. More over, I must remind you of what Don Albera announced some time ago, that while the needs and demands for Salesian foundations go on increasing, the support from friends and Co-operators does not increase in anything like the same proportion.

The very day after the burial of our late Superior General on November 1st. 1921, His Eminence Cardinal Cagliero, whom may God long spare to the Society, laid the Foundation-stone of a new Church to be dedicated to the Divine Child, at the Festive Oratory already opened by us in the San Paolo quarter of Turin. Very soon the Cardinal Archbishop will bless the corner-stone: but I cannot refrain from urging our Co-operators to bear this good work in mind, particularly as it will be, in some way, a monument to the memory of Don Albera.

The Co-operators should not forget that an immense offering of prayers and supplications is daily offered up for their many intentions. The choicest blessings of God are asked for their families and for themselves so that they may reap the benefit of their good works in this life, and a supreme reward in the next.

While thus urgently recommending to you the works of Don Bosco in general, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your devoted Servant,

PHILIP RINALDI.

The Third Centenary of the Death of St. Francis of Sales

An eventful career—The last moments.

On December 28th, 1622, in the little Convent of the Visitation at Lyons, the holy Bishop of Geneva, St. Francis of Sales, gave up his soul to his Creator. Death had overtaken him in the course of a journey which he had to undergo in deference to the invitation of his Prince, Duke



St. Francis of Sales.

Charles-Emmanuel of Savoy, who had come to Avignon to welcome his sovereign, Louis XIII, as he passed through that city. It is thus three centuries since this great Doctor of the Church left this vale of tears to take up his abode in his heavenly home. The Catholic world at large will, doubtless, commemorate this glorious anniversary with warmth and fervour. But the Salesian Congregation, which bears his name, and which in its work of education aims, in a special manner, at the realisation of those principles of gentleness and meekness, of which this saintly Bishop was the model and has ever been the Patron, will certainly be second to none in its endeavour to commemorate, with due solemnity, the 300th anniversary of his death.

And we trust that it is not out of place here

to set before our readers a few facts concerning the last months that he spent on earth, for such is the wish and intention of Holy Church in her solemn commemoration of the anniversary of his death. From this short narrative we can form some idea of the ceaseless activity and the untiring zeal of our Patron Saint, despite his failing health and certain knowledge that he was drawing very near to that time when God would call him away from this world to receive the recompense of all his labours.

In the May of 1622 he travelled to Turin by way of Mt. Cenis and there he fell ill and was forced to remain for two months. The Princess of Piedmont had prepared a magnificent apartment for him, but he preferred to occupy at the Consolata a small cell, which measured but 8 ft. square, and which was exposed to the full blast of the northern winds. In October of the same year, regardless of the grave malady from which he was suffering, he wished to accept the invitation of Duke Charles-Emmanuel to meet him at Avignon, in order to grace by his presence the reception which he was preparing to give to his monarch, King Louis XIII.

Accordingly, St. Francis of Sales set out on this tedious journey, although he was completely broken in health and sensibly felt that his end was fast approaching. On November 9th, he bade farewell to the Sisters of the Visitation at Annecy, and with a heavy heart, for he had a very strong presentiment that this city with all its fond associations, with all its cherished memories, would never more meet his gaze. But he tore himself away: he felt that duty called him, and the same day, Nov. 9th he embarked on the Rhone at Seysell, undeterred by the piercing, cold wind and arrived at Belley on the 10th. Thence he proceeded to Lyons which he reached two days later, and where he said Mass at the Convent of the Visitation. He continued his journey to Avignon, and arrived there on the 16th. During his sojourn in this city he said Mass, first of all, in the Cathedral, and then in very many of the neighbouring Convent-Chapels and monasteries in turn, and in spite of his weak condition, he made several little pilgrimages to hallowed shrines in the vicinity.

The two courts of France and Savoy left Avignon on Nov. 25th. The Saint accompanied them as far as Valence, where he lodged, by

choice, in a poorly furnished room. He even gave up his mattress to his companion, Canon Rolland, who slept in an adjoining room, while he himself rested on a little straw. On the following day he said Mass at the Convent of the Visitation, and then continued his journey as far as Lyons, where he had the consolation of meeting once more his spiritual daughter, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, who had just been on a visit to the Convent of St. Stephen. Though enfeebled in health and often fatigued and exhausted by his journeys—for travelling in those days was a very different matter from what it is to-day—still, he always complied, wherever and whenever he was requested, to preach the word of God. At half past two on the afternoon of Dec. 27th he was seized with apoplexy, and was reduced to the last extremity. At one o'clock on the following morning, Dec. 28th, he received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, and was able to answer all the prayers himself. Some nine hours later, towards ten o'clock in the morning, he was bled, and at about five o'clock in the afternoon he had to undergo a most painful operation—that of having a red-hot iron placed on the back of his

neck, in a final effort to save his life. The same painful remedy was, later on, applied to the top of his head, which was burnt to the very bone in the process; but he endured it all without a murmur of complaint, merely pronouncing the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. We who are acquainted with modern surgical methods and the marvellous progress of the study of medicine, are apt to look upon such methods as these as perfectly barbarous. But we must bear in mind that three centuries ago such operations as those which St. Francis endured were regarded as the only means of relief from the effects of an apoplectic stroke. All these efforts, however, were quite unavailing in his case, and by 8 o'clock that same evening (Dec. 28th, 1622), his innocent soul had already winged its flight towards the haven of rest. Thus passed away, three hundred years ago, the Saint whose name we bear; thus ended on earth a career of noble generosity and self-sacrifice, a life-time of unwavering zeal for the salvation of souls, the conversion of the heretic and the winning to God, by meekness and gentleness, countless souls who had wandered from the path of true happiness.

Festivities in connection with the third Centenary of the death of St. Francis of Sales.

The year 1922 will be a great one for the Salesians and their Co-operators, and every effort will be made to celebrate in a worthy manner this third Centenary of the death of our Patron Saint. The Jubilee year will commence on Dec. 28th, 1921 and will end on Dec. 28th, 1922, and the following programme of festivities and commemorations has been issued for observance throughout the Salesian Congregation in the course of this year:

A. THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES.

1) Dec. 28th, 1921, being the opening day of the Jubilee year, will be observed as a Feast-day in all Salesian Schools and Institutes. Some religious ceremony or other will be carried out to implore the abundant blessing of God on the Salesian work in general, and this will serve as a kind of inauguration of the various celebrations which are to be kept throughout the year.

2) The Salesians, the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians and the Co-operators will celebrate with the greatest pomp possible the Feast of St. Francis of Sales on January 29th, 1922. On this occasion a Novena, or a least a Triduum of special prayers and sermons will be held, in

order to prepare everyone for a fitting celebration of this Feast. In all public Churches, belonging to the Salesians, the Feast itself will last for three days.

3) Throughout the Jubilee Year the first Friday of each month will be kept in a special way, in memory of the Saint who was not only the hero and pioneer of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but also, in the words of St. Jane Frances of Chantal, the "cherished Son of the Sacred Heart."

4) In the same way the Feast of the Sacred Heart will, this year, be solemnised with special splendour and magnificence.

5) Finally on Dec. 28th, 1922, the centenary day itself, every Salesian House will pay a special tribute of honour to the saintly Bishop of Geneva and a solemn "Te Deum" will be sung—either on this day or on the last day of the year—to bring to a fitting close this series of festivities.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS.

1) The pupils of our Salesian Schools will be prepared, in a manner suited to their abilities, for a due celebration of the Jubilee Feast. They

themselves will provide all that is requisite for a musical and literary entertainment in honour of this great Saint, especially dealing with his early days, and showing in how many ways he can be regarded as a model for the youth of today.

2) Every Salesian House will organise and hold, on some suitable day, a large gathering of Co-operators and others, for the purpose of bringing facts which illustrate the elevated tone of the sanctity of our holy Patron. The gathering on this occasion should, as far as possible, contain representatives from every rank of Society.

3) In every Salesian Province, or in every Salesian House, an effort will be made to set on foot a little Association or Congress for the young, for the purpose of urging on our pupils to imitate the peculiar virtues of St. Francis of Sales, especially his sweetness of disposition and energy of will.

4) In every Province and Country where the Salesians are established, re-unions both local and national, of Co-operators and Past Pupils should be organised. At these meetings before the conclusion of the programme, some distinct tribute of homage and filial devotion should be paid to the Saint whose name is borne, not only by the Salesians, but by their Co-operators as well.

5) In due course, the Salesian Bulletin will announce the date of the grand International Congress which is in project. The main object of this Congress will be to honour the glorious Bishop of Geneva by passing in review the influence of his teaching on the Catholic world at large, and the adaptation of his spirit and doctrines in the Salesian Society.

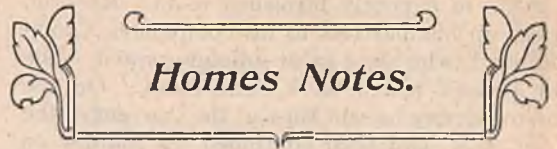
6) In the course of the Jubilee Year the Salesian Bulletin will place before its readers various aspects of the life and works of St. Francis of Sales.

Every Salesian Provincial and Superior will endeavour, to the best of his power, to carry out the foregoing programme, either as indicated above, or in some other way that the peculiar circumstances of time and place may suggest.

Important Notice.

Our Co-operators are kindly requested to send their offerings to

The Very Rev. PHILIP RINALDI
Prefect General
 (Salesian Oratory) 32, Via Cottolengo
 TURIN (Italy).



London. The Scholastic work at all our Salesian Schools has long since been recommenced, but we have as yet had no opportunity of presenting a brief review of their closing terms which were of particular importance. One great event in the last term at Battersea overshadowed other interesting items. It was well-known that His Eminence Cardinal Bourne had announced his desire that there should be no festivities in honour of his Episcopal Jubilee, but even the resolutions of the great are necessarily sometimes subject to variation when sufficient reason seems to demand it. Thus it was when the Rector of our School at Battersea reminded His Eminence of his long connection with the Salesians, and the Cardinal felt that if an exception were to be made, there was now sufficient cause. We have received the following account of the celebration:

"The grounds of the School were beautifully decorated, and the Papal flag waved majestically aloft, announcing to the neighbourhood, both far and near, that a celebration of no ordinary interest was in progress. Punctually at ten, His Eminence entered the Sacred Heart Church. He was met by the clergy and proceeded to his place in the Sanctuary, where he assisted at the Solemn High Mass sung by the Very Rev. Father Provincial. After the High Mass other celebrations were to be kept, and a hearty cheer rang through the whole concourse of masters and boys, as His Eminence proceeded to take his place on the platform, from which he was to witness the Annual Sports. The grounds gave the appearance of one mass of decoration, and amid a pleasing and inspiring scene, the events opened with the ringing sounds of the School Song. A combined brass Band ably supported the voices and provided a splendid programme of music.

An address of welcome, in which allusion was made to the keen interest His Eminence has ever taken in the Salesian Work in England, was first read by one of the Senior boys. The Sports then began, accompanied by the strains of sweet music and the applause of a multitude of on-lookers. At luncheon, His Eminence was the guest of the Salesian Fathers, and in reply to the toast of his health, he made a most gracious speech. He pointed out that he had been associated with our work at Battersea

longer than anyone of those present in the Refectory. "It was in 1880," His Eminence went on to say, "that I first heard of your Ven. Founder, Don Bosco. I was at San Sulpice at the time, and our Professor of Scripture told us many wonderful things that were being done at Turin. Shortly afterwards Don Bosco came himself to San Sulpice, and we all know with what results. Although he could not speak French very fluently, still his words made an impression that orators of repute failed to make.

I well remember the occasion when in the October of 1887, Fr. Dalmazzo and a good lay-brother came over from Turin to commence the Salesian work in London. Fr. Dalmazzo only remained a month, the climate did not suit him, and he was at a great drawback in not knowing English: and I remember, too, the foggy November day of that year, the worst I have ever known in London, when my dear friend, Fr. Macey, whose absence I deplore today, came to London with Fr. MacKiernan and a lay brother. Temporary accommodation had been provided for them in the High St. I met them at Victoria Station, and as we had no motors in those days, we came to Battersea by train. Some time before this, I had met Don Bosco at Lille, and on that occasion, and later on by letter, he asked me to do what I could to help the first Salesians in England: and as I look back over the thirty-four years that have elapsed, I may say the work has grown beyond all expectations: and I am happy to say that I have thus had some part in the foundation of this great work, and have been throughout associated with it in interest and affection.

Soon after dinner the Sports were continued, and at the close, His Eminence presented the Beauchamp-Fraulo medals to the successful competitors. He then addressed the boys as follows: "My dear boys, it is a very great pleasure for me to see your sports, and to receive your good wishes, and the assurance of your prayers on the occasion of my Silver Jubilee. It is a always a great pleasure for me to come to Battersea. I have known this place longer than you boys have known life. At that time no one would have imagined that all this this surrounding place would have become a large School full of Catholic boys, and I am very glad to see so many of you here to-day.

Throughout the existence of this School, I have keenly watched its progress: I saw its first beginnings, and as years went on, many covetous eyes were fixed upon Surrey House and its grounds, until finally it was secured by the Salesian Fathers... In a few years' time you will be men of the world, and never before was there such need for Catholic men

as there is at the present day, and never were such opportunities offered them. I thank you again for your welcome and your prayers, and I beg God to bless you all."

The whole assembly then knelt for His Eminence's blessing, and amid the hearty cheers of all, he took his departure. The visit was undoubtedly one of those impressive occasions, which add distinction to the history of the School Annals, and which will be long remembered with affection and gratitude.

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Apart from chronicling this particularly important event, space must be found to record the fine successes secured in the final examinations. In the Oxford Locals the results were exceptionally good, even brilliant, and they give great promise for the present year, which is already well on its way. In regard to this and other Schools mentioned here, Readers may have occasion to need the addresses of suitable secondary Schools, for their own boys or for those of friends. The Rector at these Schools will be pleased to provide information.

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The twenty-eighth anniversary of the Consecration of the Church at Battersea was kept with all due solemnity on Sunday, October 16th. This Feast has an historic value for us and recalls, year by year, the splendid progress that the Salesian Fathers have made in this country. Each anniversary, as it has come round, has witnessed fresh developments and has added its quota of blessings to the work of Don Bosco in England. Thirty-five years ago, when the Salesians first came to Battersea, the scene was very different from what it is to-day. A certain portion of the Parish, which is now thickly populated, was then little more than a village with rural surroundings, and a small iron building, which a few of the older parishioners still remember, served as a Church for the growing population. And now to-day the Mission of West Battersea is a very flourishing one, despite the fact that large portions of its original dimensions have been cut off by the erection of neighbouring Mission. The celebrations on the occasion of this recent anniversary were well in keeping with the development of the faith in Battersea, and were carried out with all the dignity befitting the occasion. The exhortations of the clergy met with a ready response on the part of their flock, and numbers of the faithful thronged the Church to unite in solemn worship and thanksgiving to God for all His blessings on the Mission.

At the Solemn High Mass the Rev. Fr. Bertrand Pike, O. P., occupied the pulpit. He took for his text: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." He pointed out in eloquent terms the absolute need that there is of giving God His due in all our actions. The obligations which we owe to Caesar, that is, to our temporal interests and our worldly masters, are seldom, if ever, forgotten: but the far more important precept of giving faithfully to God what belongs to Him, is His due, is so easily lost sight of. And yet the latter duty counts for everything in our eternal interests. Prayer and the thought of God must never be neglected: it must crown all our efforts, it must be our guiding principle.

At the evening service the preacher was the Right Rev. Mgr. Canon Howlett, Administrator of Westminster Cathedral. He spoke of the Sacramental Presence of Our Divine Saviour in our Catholic Churches and exhorted in forcible language his hearers to conform their lives to the noble and exalted teaching of our holy faith.

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On Monday, November 28th, the Month's Mind was duly observed at the Salesian Church, West Battersea, for the repose of the soul of our late-lamented Superior-General, Don Albera. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Provincial, in the presence of His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark. Among the clergy present there were representatives from the Redemptorist Fathers at Clapham, the Servite Fathers at Fulham and the Carmelite Fathers at Kensington. Needless to say, the Salesian Fathers themselves were very much in evidence on this solemn occasion. Delegates from our Houses at Farnborough, Oxford, Burwash, Chertsey and Wandsworth arrived in good time to take an active part in the ceremony. The music of the Mass was devotionally rendered under the able direction of the Salesian Father who conducts the choir. Among the Congregation there were present Nuns from three distinct religious communities; the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Battersea, the Sisters of Notre Dame, East Battersea and the little Sisters of the Assumption, Cedars Road, Clapham Common. The presence of His Eminence the Cardinal and of His Lordship the Bishop at this solemn ceremony was much appreciated by the Salesian Community, who are also grateful to the several religious bodies who sent their delegates on that

occasion to unite with them in paying this last mark of honour and respect to their departed Rector Major.



Farnborough,
Hants.

To say that this School continues its successful career would be an adequate summary of the work of its last Scholastic period. There is one particular event, occurring in the final term which is remembered with special joy and satisfaction. Pitily enough it is always blessed with delightful weather, for bereft of the sunshine, something would undoubtedly seem to be wanting to its complete happiness. We refer to the Rector's day, which included in its programme, besides the scholastic and religious celebrations, an outing to the famous Farnham Park, where sylvan and woodland delights enhance the festive spirit, which seems to be in the very atmosphere on that day. Representatives of other Salesian Houses brought their welcome company to add to the general pleasure, and the day was a distinct success.

The benefit of the new class-rooms, which were completed at the end of last term, will be appreciated fully in the new year, since there will be scope for more classes and for re-organization, if desired. One of the chief sources of satisfaction during the summer term was the fine condition of the playing grounds, upon which much attention had lately been expended. A new pavilion completed the enjoyment of some fine cricket afternoons, when the senior team, upon whom the tuition of a cricket coach had been lavished, gave an excellent account of themselves with the willow. The scholastic successes at the Oxford Locals completed an enjoyable and beneficial year. During the vacation Fr. Sutherland, the previous Rector of the School, and with whose name much of its development is associated, had occasion to pay the School a visit, and he was able to appreciate the successful efforts of his successor towards completing and consolidating his own extensions and improvements. He had come over from Ireland, where he has now established the first Salesian Foundation in that country, and took the occasion to revisit the scenes of former labours.



The Salesian School at Farnborough continues to show signs of life and development, for on the return of the boys after the Midsummer vacation, the Junior Forms found that they were transferred to new class-rooms which had been erected during the Summer months.

The old class-rooms have been fitted up as Science rooms. The increased accomodation was greatly needed to meet the increasing demand for places in the School and the changes made this term have been to the great advantage of both the Masters and the boys.

Little has occurred since the beginning of the term to interrupt the usual routine of work, but we must record the pleasure which we received from a visit of His Lordship, the Bishop of Southwark. His Lordship was making his episcopal visitation in the neighbouring parish of Camberley, and it was a very gracious act of kindness on his part, to call to see us, though we are beyond the borders of the Diocese of Southwark. All the staff are well known to His Lordship, as all have been for many years in the Southwark diocese, and the Fathers greatly appreciated the thoughtfulness of His Lordship in coming to see them. Of course, the boys gave him a great reception, and he addressed a few words to them, and concluded by asking that they should be granted a holiday from lessons on the following day.

The Community and boys are now looking forward to the next episcopal visit which they expect from His Lordship, Bishop Cotter, Bishop of Portsmouth, who usually comes in December for the Distribution of Prizes. An account of this event will be given in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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At *Chertsey on Thames*, the Very Rev. C. B. Macey has brought to completion the new buildings which will place this rising Salesian School on a high level of efficiency. The existing School had been used for scholastic purposes long before the Salesians took possession of it, but it was soon evident that its accommodation did not approach any modern standard of what is considered to be adequate. Hence the new building. Even now that it is in actual use, it does not leave much scope for new comers, for within the space of two years the numbers of boys has increased so rapidly that the new places left vacant are by no means numerous. Larger space has also been secured for Church purposes, so that the needs of the parish and also of the growing number of students may be satisfied. The new scholastic year, therefore, promises to mark a step forward in more than one direction, and the future seems to hold out prospects satisfactory in every way. The Very Rev. C. B. Macey will be pleased to deal with applications for the School, which should be addressed to the Salesian School, Chertsey, Surrey.

On Sunday, October 23rd, His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark made his canonical visitation of the Salesian Church and Parish of Chertsey. He first of all paid a visit to the Convent of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who have a Boarding School. After a brief stay at the Convent, he proceeded, in the company of one of the Salesian Fathers, to his final destination—the Parish Church and Salesian School at Highfield. He was here met by the Very Rev. Father Rector who entertained him, and showed him over the new buildings, which had been completed during the Summer vacation. His Lordship was most agreeably surprised at the rapid progress that had been made under the able guidance of the Very Rev. Rector. The building itself came far beyond his expectations. He then passed on to the Hall, where he was greeted by vociferous cheers from the assembled pupils. The heartiness of the salutation was so marked, that his Lordship asked the boys whether they had any ulterior motives and were expecting anything from him. The opportunity was not to be lost, and an immediate reply was forthcoming: "A holiday, My Lord." Although this request would seem to imply that they were actuated by ulterior motives, still it was granted; and amidst manifestations of joy and enthusiasm on the part of the boys, His Lordship left the Hall, accompanied by Fr. Rector.

It was now drawing near the time for the evening service, and already some of the members of the Congregation had begun to assemble in the Church. At half past six—the hour fixed for the service—His Lordship entered the Church to the strains of Sadler's "Ecce Sacerdos magnus." After the usual preliminary ceremonies in connection with an episcopal visitation, His Lordship turned to the Congregation and preached a most impressive sermon.

He first of all explained to them the meaning of the canonical visitation of a Bishop to a parish. He then alluded to the great work which the Salesian Fathers had done and were still doing in their midst, and emphasised the need of their whole-hearted co-operation with the efforts of their clergy, and pointed out the necessity and obligation they were under to contribute to the support of their Pastors. Above all, he urged on them the vital importance of prayer, especially in these troublous times when so many dangers are continually before us. He exhorted them, in a particular way, to pray earnestly for a happy issue of the negotiations then in progress between the Prime Minister and the Irish representatives—a settlement which would bring a just and lasting peace. The duty of prayer is incumbent on all, no matter what their political tenets may be, for it

is to the interest of everyone of us to beseech the Almighty for the reign of peace between the two countries. In conclusion, His Lordship said a few words about the Sacrament of Confirmation, which he was about to administer. His sermon, which lasted over half an hour, was most interesting throughout, and was listened to attentively by all present. It must have been gratifying to him to witness the large numbers who had come to assist at the ceremony, and to observe that there was not a vacant place in the building. About sixty persons received the Sacrament of Confirmation on this occasion.

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It was announced in our last issue that still another centre of Education had been established by the Salesians, this time in the country for the benefit of little boys, for whom places are often asked in our other Schools. Now that the opportunity has arisen, it was decided to open a Preparatory School to deal with this need, and it has been done at Burwash in Sussex, where the beautiful surrounding country and healthy locality ought to go a long way towards providing a suitable home for young children. The School has already been begun. Applications should be made to the Rector, Salesian School, Burwash, Sussex.

A fine church is attached to this district, and it was recently a place of pilgrimage for persons of various creeds, to assist at the unveiling of a war memorial. The ceremony was performed by His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark, who before proceeding to the grounds around the Church, gave an inspiring address to the large congregation. The memorial is a very fine marble monument, and has carved upon it the names of those who fell in the war, who came from the parish of Burwash, or were former pupils of the various Salesian Schools. Among those present were large numbers of Non-Catholics, and all were much impressed by the address of the His Lordship the Bishop, and by the service in the Church.

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The Salesian Day School for boys at Wandsworth, which during the the past two years has made such rapid progress, commenced the school year with a record number of pupils. In fact, in spite of the recent addition of new class-rooms, the accommodation is now taxed almost to the utmost, and it will be necessary to extend the present buildings in the near future. There is every encouragement in undertaking such an

enterprise, as, owing to the central position and health surroundings of the School and the excellent results it has obtained in the public examinations, there is little doubt, that, given the accomodation, the numbers would soon swell to two hundred and more.

Besides the school activities, much has been done in other directions. During the past few years great strides have been made towards reducing the heavy debt of over £ 3000 incurred in building the beautiful Parish Church. Owing to the efforts of the Rev. T. O' Connor, the Parish-Priest, generously seconded by his devoted parishioners, it is confidently hoped that the last instalment of this debt will be paid off in the early part of the New Year. Whilst praise and thanks are due to all those who have worked for so many years to accomplish this, a special word of appreciation is due to the Committee of nearly 100 ladies and gentlemen who came forward and guaranteed £ 5 each towards reducing the debt in 1921. This was no easy matter in days when money is scarce, and the claims upon it are so numerous.



Limerick—The Salesian Agricultural College at Pallaskenry. Our College at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, seems to have had an exceptionally successful year to encourage its opening period.

A large number of boys, both as boarders and as day-scholars, were soon in attendance, and the serious undertaking of organising a new work, such as an Agricultural College, was speedily dealt with. The first year's experience will be utilised to achieve even more successful results in the future: in fact there would seem to be every prospect of a great future before the new College.

Father Sutherland, in his report issued at the end of the first Scholastic year, gives some interesting details of the College in general. "The situation of the College, near the banks of the Shannon, is certainly ideal, and few places could be more beautiful in the glorious sunshine. It may not be known to some of the parents that Ringmoylan, the picturesque port of call for Pallaskenry, with its fisher-folk and lighthouses and its view of the hills of Clare, is becoming a much frequented watering place and health resort."

He also points out that this beautiful neighbourhood is associated with the poetical labours of Gerald Griffin, whose memory is an added inspiration for youthful endeavour. Besides scholastic work, which has made great advances during the year, the College won distinction

for itself by entering for the "Limerick Schools Hurling Championship," and although only in its first season, the team did so well as to have the Championship within its grasp, but lost it by the narrowest of margins.

Touching upon the financial side of the undertaking, in which the Co-operators may be able to take an increasing share, Fr. Sutherland points out that as the School is the first Salesian Agricultural College in this province and the first of its kind in Ireland, its initial burdens were exceptionally heavy. He was buoyed up, however, by the encouragement of the Bishop of the Diocese, His Lordship, Dr. Hallinan, and other educational experts, who looked forward to special advantages from the new venture.

Attention is drawn to the important point that Scholarships have been granted to this College by the Limerick Technical Endowment Committee. Particulars concerning these may be obtained from the College itself, or from Mr. Barry, Secretary, Technical Endowment Committee, Balyneety, Limerick. Applications for the new scholastic year should be made without delay.

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A recent article in the "Irish Catholic" has drawn attention to a particular phase of the Salesian work in Limerick. Side by side with the technical training work there in progress, there is carried on another form of training, which should appeal in a particular way to the Catholic inhabitants of Ireland. It is the training of future missionaries. To quote the words of the paragraph article, already referred to: "Many Irish lads are to be found with vocations to the Priesthood: but lack of means alone prevents them from seeking to become ministers of God's altar, and, perhaps, like the Irish missionaries of old, bearers of His message to the ends of the earth. For lads thus affected by adverse circumstances, a chance of realising their holy aspiration is afforded by the recent foundation of the Salesian College, Copsewood Pallaskey, Co. Limerick. A primary object of the Salesian Order is the education of boys for the Priesthood, and this it fulfils by making the conditions of entrance to its seminaries easy, indeed, for the children of struggling parents, provided they be satisfactorily recommended by their Parish-priests, and give promise of being worthy accessories to the ranks of the clergy. The Salesians have a world-wide field of missionary labour: they are actively at work in the salvation of souls, not only in nearly all the countries of Europe, but in China, India, Africa, North and South, the United States, the Holy Land, etc. For the spiritual harvests

to be garnered in the territories named, many gatherers are required, and the Salesians look confidently to Ireland, so rich in vocations, so devoted to the missions, for the material out of which to form young Levites, and for generous assistance in the costly work of preparing them for the Priesthood.



Cape Town. We much regret that limited space in our previous issue caused us to hold over an important item received from our Institute in Cape Town. It was a description of the visit to the School of the Governor General of South Africa, His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur of Connaught. In his praiseworthy desire to become acquainted with the chief Educational Institutes of the State, he intimated his desire to visit the Salesian Technical Institute, and this announcement was received with great satisfaction.

Two days later he motored to the School, accompanied by his aide-de-camp. The band was in attendance, and gave His Royal Highness a welcome with the strains of *God Save the King*, while he was met by His Lordship, Mgr. Rooney, several Members of the Legislature, and the Superiors of the School. The Exhibition of the products of the workshops was first visited, as it gives a complete idea of the methods of instruction, and of the results of the boys' training in the various stages of their work. His Royal Highness took much interest in the exhibits, and was indeed surprised to learn that articles, requiring very considerable skill, were so well turned out by young boys. When the workshops had been inspected and the other parts of the School, the boys assembled in the playground ready to welcome the Prince with a short programme of music, and an address of appreciation of the honour done them by being chosen for a visit. His Royal Highness then spoke to the assembly, expressing the pleasure he had by his visit, and said that he desired to encourage them to make the best possible use of the fine opportunities they had of learning a skilled trade, which would not only serve them as a means of securing a good post in life, but would go far to make them the highest type of citizens, of which their country had special need. He then spent a little time with the Superiors and guests, before entering his car. His departure was accompanied by ringing cheers and by the strains of the national anthem. It was a much appreciated visit and all were charmed with the Prince's good nature and kindly manner, which lent additional emphasis to his encouraging words.

DEVOTION TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS.

Devout persons often ask for some explanation and enlightenment concerning the practice of the Devotion to Our Lady, under the title "Help of Christians." It is not possible, within the compass of a brief article, to present an adequate or very satisfactory account of all that is associated with this devotion in the hearts of those, who are familiar with the origin and growth of the work of the Venerable Don Bosco. Our Lady's influence is of the essence of those works; her inspiration, guidance, protection, blessing, nay, a sort of close personal interest in them, on the part of the Help of Christians, is the main factor in their appearance and development. Her part in them was and is, unmistakable. Appearing to the Ven. Servant of God in vision, when he was but a boy of nine, her guidance and assistance were a sort of constant attendant upon him, as in the course of time, he began and developed the wonderful apostolate which had been appointed to him in unmistakable terms.

Take up any one of the Lives of Don Bosco. You will read of extraordinary favours being almost immediately bestowed, when Don Bosco called upon Her for some special help, or when persons in need came to ask for the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians. Some part of these extraordinary favours were granted, as though to secure for Don Bosco the large sums necessitated by the exigencies of his work; for gratitude suggested some thanksgiving, and what more natural than that it should be given to promote a work, which Our Lady herself desired to assist. One reads there also how sums of money were mysteriously sent to the Servant of God by unknown persons, and how these sums arrived just at the precise moment when they were due to some clamouring creditor! Immense difficulties were also smoothed away, when they had appeared to be almost insurmountable; and indeed few of the works which have ever been undertaken in the name of God met with such a combination of bewildering obstacles, or met with such determined opposition, as that which was begun in Turin some sixty years ago by Don Bosco, on behalf of the poor boys of the city.

Our Lady Help of Christians thus became more than a Patroness; She was a Mother, ever ready to give a helping hand, no matter what

the circumstances might be, nor how great the demand made upon her magnanimity. Her fine Sanctuary was in the first place a crowning triumph to her fame, but it soon proved to be a source and centre whence flowed forth a perpetual stream of graces and favours. Just as every altar and stone in it spoke of some particular request granted to her clients, so they inspired thousands of others to lay their necessities at the feet of so benign and so successful an intercessor. The walls which had been built by one generation of pious persons were covered by another with ex-votos, in token of wondrous answers to prayer, and as an expression of earnest gratitude.

When Our Lady began to grant these favours through the instrumentality of the Servant of God, the latter desired to keep them a secret; but in such a case the very stones themselves would cry out. When a well-known lady, who has been a martyr to grievous sickness for months, is restored to perfect health by making a Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians, at the suggestion of Don Bosco, the fact was necessarily its own herald; a wide circle of friends and relations could by no means be kept in ignorance of the sudden recovery, an event which they had long hoped to see, but which they had regarded as humanly impossible. What was the most natural result? Do people ever hear of the discovery of some wondrous source of wealth without desiring to avail themselves of it? The Venerable Servant of God was at once besieged with requests for special prayers and Novenas of Prayers: he was consulted by persons of every rank in life and with every sort of difficulty. To all of these he gave the blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians, and recommended the making of a Novena in her honour. He also suggested that some thank-offering was evidently acceptable to the Madonna, since by that means She herself appeared to be the promoter of her own works. Scarcely at any time in the history of Devotion to the Mother of God has there been a period to equal that in the numbers of favours obtained. Persons from all countries sought the help of the Servant of God, and thus his work became known and appreciated everywhere. His sons carried forth to their missions the story of these wonders, of which

they had been the eye-witnesses; the name of the Help of Christians became as much a household word in Patagonia as in Piedmont, and volumes were added to the ever-increasing lists of the proofs of Her maternal love.

The development of this subject must be left for a subsequent issue. Enough has been said to show that the "Help of Christians" has been true to her name, and that She is ready to bestow her abundant generosity upon those who appeal to Her under that efficacious title.

Graces and Favours. ⁽¹⁾

PRESTON. — I had recommended to the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians the recovery of my child from a very serious illness. A Novena was made and a promise of publication. I now desire to fulfil the promise and also to have a Mass said in thanksgiving.

W. H.

WARRAGUL (Australia). — During a very troubled and anxious time I had recourse to the assistance of Mary Help of Christians, and the intercession of the Ven. Don Bosco. On one particular occasion I made a promise to send a thank-offering to the Salesian Works and to publish the favour if received. My prayer was granted, and now I desire to fulfil the promise, and at the same time to recommend several other intentions to the favour of Our Lady Help of Christians.

J. V.

Salesian Co-operator

PITTSBURG.—An important spiritual favour had been much desired, and the matter was recommended to the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. After a short time the favour was granted and as a thank-offering I now enclose something towards the Works of Don Bosco and for a Mass in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians.

D. P.

Salesian Co-operator.

TRINIDAD.—I had often prayed to Our Lady Help of Christians in times of need and have received wonderful answers to prayer. Not long back a special examination was the cause of much anxiety, but after prayers to the Help of Christians and a promise of publishing the

favour if granted, it was successfully passed, and I desire to have the favour published in Our Lady's honour.

A. D.

BRITISH GULANA.—During the serious illness of our child, we placed her under the protection of Mary Help of Christians. After a period of great anxiety our little daughter recovered and was quite restored to health. We desire now to fulfil our promise of publishing the favour and send a thank-offering to the works under the patronage of Our Lady.

Q. B. de F.

CHINA.—A very worthy man, who was soon to receive the grace of Baptism, was seized and carried off to prison by order of a neighbouring petty tyrant, without any motive whatever. His children and aged father came hurrying to me to do something for them. Not having a large sum of money, which is generally the only means of obtaining any satisfaction on local Chinese tribunals, I had recourse to Our Lady and urged the Christians and Catechumens to do the same. I then went to the Mandarin's Court and complained of the treatment in my broken Chinese, scarcely knowing what I was saying. To my surprise, however, my words had the desired effect, for after a few hours the man was set at liberty.

The native Christians desire to join me in making public thanksgiving of this ready answer to our prayers, and the man concerned has given a sum of money to the Church which we have commenced to build, and which is to be dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians.

Salesian Missionary.

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The practices recommended by the Ven. Don Bosco were as follows:

1) To recite for nine days the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father*, three times in honour of the Most Holy Sacrament, adding each time: *Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us: or Blessed and praised every moment be the Most Holy and Most divine Sacrament*; to these should be added three times the *Hail Holy Queen*, with the invocation *Mary Help of Christians, pray for us*, each time.

2) To approach the Sacraments at least once during the Novena.

3) To make a promise of a thank-offering, if one is in a position to do so. Devotion and honour to Our Lady Help of Christians are also promoted by subsequently publishing the favour, if one so desires.

(1) For these accounts no higher authority is claimed than that attached to authentic human testimony.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS.

BRAZIL

Missionary Episodes in the Region of the Rio Negro.

Much of the work of the Salesian Missionaries in the new states of South America is concerned with the out-lying districts scattered about the plains, where the ranches are established and where life is of that wild, nomadic type, and such things as religion, education or culture can scarce be said to exist, let alone flourish. On these settlements there is a very mixed population: the whites are of various nationalities, are few and far between, and can only be assembled at one of the farms at distant intervals. Often enough they have forgotten the religious knowledge which they had received in other lands before their wanderings, or if they are native to the country, there has been little opportunity for instruction in religion or for the practice of it. The natives who are engaged by the whites are in a worse condition still, for the language difficulty makes another obstacle in the way of general instruction.

In order to deal with such situations, the Salesian Missionaries have long sought to establish central mission stations, from which they might send out at regular intervals one or more priests to give missions and to look after Catholic interests, but lack of personnel has greatly handicapped their progress. Our missionary letters, however, show that much has been done in these scattered districts, and on the hinterlands upon which the tribes hover, and up the great rivers which abound in most neighbourhoods. Referring to one of these journeys a Missionary says: "While making an enforced stay in this district, I seized the occasion to give some religious instruction, and managed to administer twenty Baptisms, nearly all of them being children of some years: four of them belonged to a family of good religious people, but there had been no priest in their neighbourhood for so long. I came across there a curious custom: that of burning a light all night in the house where there was anyone unbaptised. 'Why do you do that.' I enquired? 'For fear,' they said, 'of the angel

of darkness, who is in the unbaptised one.' I pointed out that sometimes the angel of darkness is in some of those who have already been baptised, but that did not seem to worry the family nearly so much at the original presence of the evil one.

In the course of this same expedition, the missionary came across a novel way of keeping novenas in honour of the patron saints. The people put up some image of the Saint and have a few prayers and hymns by way of introduction, then they spend the remainder of the day in dancing and revelry which lasts well into the night. It is a scene that would make one both laugh and weep, for it would almost seem as though the Christians had adopted some of the wild extravagances which characterise the native rites, and which are full of superstition. How far they are to blame, however, is another question. They are far away from religious influences, and do not see a priest for long periods: the soul, therefore, with its Christian tendencies, manifests its devotion by hymns and prayers: then the devil stirs up the passions, and in their ignorance it is not surprising that such results ensue. An infinite pity seems to be the only suitable sentiment, and one must beg of God to send labourers into His vineyard for the harvest is abundant. At one place I arrived in time to prevent this parody of a Novena, and when a proper celebration of the festival was arranged, the whole population enjoyed the festivities much more than they usually did the former unholy rites.

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The Missionary sometimes meets with little surprises in the course of his administrations, and finds seekers after the truth coming forth to meet him, instead of having to seek them out of the byways. On my recent arrival at a small settlement, a young man came up to me and said, in a somewhat eastern fashion:

"Father, you are welcome. I desire you to make me a Christian."

With some surprise, I replied that I thought he was already one, but he answered in his positive way:

"No, I am a Mahometan, born at Beyrouth in Syria."

I then put some questions to him, in order

to find out whether he was sufficiently instructed and finally told him to be ready for the Feast of Pentecost, which was very near. On that day he was solemnly baptised with the complete ceremonial for an adult, and rejoiced greatly in his good fortune. On the following day he received the Sacrament of Confirmation and made his First Communion in the presence of a large number of persons, who were much edified at the scene. The former Mahometan was now not only a Catholic, but undertook the duties of sacristan, and the general care of the little Chapel.

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"At another time," says the same missionary, "I stayed for a time at a farming settlement where there were several Baptisms and Confirmations, and a good deal was done in the way of instructing and preparing the way for future work. I had stayed in the house of one of the residents, who had with him his mother, now a widow of advancing years, and a brother who assisted him in the administration of the estate. When I was taking leave of the old lady, she said:

"I have not yet renewed my stock of holy water, and as I keep it to bless the house with, and also for the sick to drink, I should like to have some more." I willingly agreed to provide her with what she wanted. Then she said:

"I have two other sons one of whom I wish to be a priest."

I answered: "The young man himself must be allowed to choose, and to see if he desires that way of life."

"And if he does not," she replied in a deep strong voice, "he will be beaten." Here was, indeed, a novel way of encouraging vocations. I laughed heartily, and gave no further advice to this masterful dame, whose words amused me during my long ride to the next cantonment.

* * *

Farther up the river I stopped at another settlement, and having given a brief mission and conferred with all the Christians in the vicinity, I made all my preparations to depart. But some unexpected incident made me delay my setting out for some hours. However, another surprise awaited me, for I was soon confronted with a wedding-party, demanding my presence. A large canoe carrying the bridal pair and their friends had come up the stream

and had sought me out for two days in order to have their marriage ceremony performed. They had arrived at my previous halting place only to find that I had just left. Disappointed but not dismayed, the young man declared that the current of the stream would help them to overtake me, and they set out again. But had I not been unexpectedly delayed, they would have had to overcome a second disappointment. As it was, Providence favoured them and the day ended happily for all concerned.



The prayers of all Co-operators are asked for the repose of the souls of the following lately deceased:

Miss Rogers, Killybegs, Ireland. She was a good and zealous Co-operator, and died on November 19th, 1921.

Daniel Conghlan, Cloghan.

Mrs. Nora Collins, Middleton.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Our Co-operators are kindly requested to send their offerings to
The Very Rev. PHILIP RINALDI

Prefect General

(Salesian Oratory) 32, Via Cottolengo

TURIN 9 (Italy)

Officium Majoris Hebdomadæ

a Dominica in Palmis usque ad Sabbatum in
Albis, juxta ordinem Breviarii, Missalis et Pon-
tificalis Romani, *cum cantu* juxta editiones ty-
picas Vaticanas et, ubi hae desunt, Solesmenses.

*Splendidum volumen in-16 parvo, (cm. 11 × 18), characteribus nitidis lectuque
facillimis, charta subtili non translucida, fol. 632. Anglico linteo contectum, cum
Passionis stemmate in fronte ac titulo aureo in dorso:*

Apud nos Lib. ital. 20.

In Italia » » 22.

Apud alias nationes » » 24.

Id. — flexili pelle nigra contectum, ecc.:

Apud nos Lib. ital. 28.

In Italia » » 30.

Apud alias nationes » » 32.

Haec est *Officii Majoris Hebdomadae* editio facile princeps. Continet enim integrum textum liturgicum *Divini Officii* persolvendi et *Missae* celebrandae, eumque *gregorianis numeris exornatum* tam pro singulis *Missis* quam pro singulis *Horis diurnis* cujusque diei, et per triduum festum *Paschatis* antecedens pro horis quoque *matutinis*. Nec deest *Lamentationum* ac *singularum Passionis* narrationum *cantu* per extensum, nec iis quae requiruntur pro *Oleorum benedictione* et *Chrismatis confectione*, atque pro *lotione pedum*.

Brevi, haec *Officii Majoris Hebdomadae* novissima ac splendida editio, quae e schola typographica salesiana in lucem prodit, supplet — a *Dominica in Palmis* ad *Sabbatum in Albis* — et *Breviarium*, et *Missale*, et *Pontificale*, et *Antiphonarium Romanum*, et alium quemlibet *librum choralem*.

Ordinationes, simul cum pretio, mittantur: alla Società Editrice Internazionale, Corso Regina Margherita, 174, TORINO (Italia).

THE SALESIAN BULLETIN

Via Cottolengo, 32 - TURIN, Italy
