

FR. JOSEPH DEANE. SDB.

Dear Confreres,

I have to announce the sad news of the death on the 6th April of FR. JOSEPH DEANE. aged 46 yrs.

Fr. Deane was a member of the community of the Direzione Generale Opere Don Bosco in Turin where he was working as secretary to Fr. Bernard Tohill, a member of the Superior Council. Fr. Deane, the son of Edmond and Elizabeth Leslie, was born in Belfast on the 15th November 1921. He later decided to join the Salesians and he made his aspirantate and novitiate in England. During the novitiate he volunteered for work on the missions and, after his profession he was asked to go to India. Tirupatur, Mawlai, Bombay and Poonamallee were the stages and houses of his apostolate. He was ordained in Shillong, Mawlai in 1949. After ordination he taught in the Seminary at Poonamallee for seven years.

In 1963, on account of ill health, he returned to the Anglo-Irish province and two years later he went to the Salesian Generalate in Turin to act as the secretary of Fr. B. Tohill, the member of the Superior Council with responsibility for the Salesian missions. Fr. Deane became a very popular member of the community in the Mother House, being always ready to help in any activity in addition to his regular work for Fr. Tohill. In the Autumn of 1967 he went to an alpine house in the Aosta valley for a holiday. Whilst there, he was suddenly taken ill with a severe haemorrhage. He was rushed to the Mauriziano hospital in Aosta where he was given every care and attention by the staff. The director of the hospital was a Salesian past-pupil. He was later transferred to a hospital in Turin.

Fr. Deane did not make any noticeable improvement so, at his own request, he returned to England on the 31st December 1967 and entered the St. Anthony's hospital at Cheam, Surrey. After two serious operations there the doctors realised that he had an incurable hepatic condition. There followed a period of aggravated suffering until he died on the evening of April 6th 1968. He was constantly grateful to the Sisters and hospital personnel for the care lavished on him and the attention they gave him.

Fr. Joseph Deane was buried in the Salesian cemetery at Warrenstown, Co. Meath, Ireland. The day before he died he said in a faint voice. . "How glad I am to be a Salesian." May his good soul now rest in peace with God in heaven.

Don Giovanni Battista Biancotti. SDB.