

SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO



**SAVIO HOUSE
INGERSLEY ROAD
BOLLINGTON
MACCLESFIELD
SK10 5RW**

July 1989

BROTHER EDWARD LANGAN, S.D.B.

Dear Confreres and Friends,

For almost 37 years our Salesian Community at Savio House, Bollington has been busy doing Don Bosco's work for the young, and no Salesian had died here. Now, suddenly, twice within ten weeks Death has come among us.

On February 13th Fr. Dan Broder was taken from us, and then on Saturday, 22nd April Bro. Edward Langan died gently and peacefully in the Alexian Brothers Nursing Home in Moston, Manchester where he had spent the last six years of his life.

No words of praise are too high for the devoted care and love given to Bro. Edward, by Bro. Donatus and all the wonderful Staff at the Home. "Eddie" was certainly much loved, and he knew it.

His early life was spent in Whiteinch, Glasgow, where he was born on 10th January 1920. He was only a little boy of six years of age when his mother died, still a young woman. Perhaps this had something to do with the sense of gentleness, even timidity, that characterised Eddie's early life. At the age of 11 years he went to St. Mungo's Academy, and at 15 years he became a printer's apprentice, where he spent four fruitful years.

Just one week before the outbreak of the second World War, the superior of St. Mungo's, Fr. Felim Kelly C.P. was penning a glowing reference for Eddie :

"He is of very sound character. He is one of the most active Catholic Actionists, having given great edification by his zeal for souls, as shown in his work as a Legionary of Mary, and as a Boys' Guild Prefect."

This zeal, and his love for Mary and for the Legion was never to leave him over the next fifty years.

He spent two years as an Aspirant at Shrigley – two very difficult years at the very beginning of the war (1939–41). Then to Beckford as a novice and he made his first vows in 1942. Two years later he was back again at Beckford as Novices' Assistant. During those four years he studied for his B.A. Degree. Though always kind and fair and understanding, Eddie was as demanding on himself as he was on others, and his health suffered as a result, and it was decided that the demands that would be entailed in the study of Theology would be too much. He stayed on at Shrigley for 5 years as a teacher, and then to Chertsey and then to Cowley for 6 years.

In 1961 he went as English Guide to the Catacombs in Rome, returning briefly to Shrigley before going to Portugal for several years to work again with his beloved Legion of Mary.

In 1974 he was back again teaching at Shrigley, but by the time the College closed, already Alcmers Disease had taken hold.

His health rapidly declined, so that he had to leave our community here at Bollington, and go to the Alexian Brothers' Nursing Home in Moston, Manchester, in 1983.

As the years passed he was visited lovingly by Fr. Fancis and the community here, by Salesians from Bolton and the Provincial House in Stockport as well as by Cooperators and friends in the Manchester area.

They were silent years for Eddie. But you could always get a response, and eyes lit up with smiles, whenever you sang "Immaculate Mary", the Lourdes hymn. Last year in Advent I started to sing "Regem Venturum Dominum, Venite Adoremus" and Eddie joined in so joyfully with this part of the Christmas Novena.

In his younger days, as well as having a fine intellect and being a very gifted and inspiring teacher, he was also a very fine footballer, a great violinist and musician, and a great reciter of epic poems. Again I elicited a response when I quoted "The Trimmings of the Rosary", "The Beautiful Hands of the Priest" and "Always the open hands, Always the tired eyes..." – he was again living those idyllic years at Shrigley.

Eddie's passing was peaceful, and indeed merciful.

His great friend Fr. Terence Lavery, preached the beautiful homily at his funeral Mass, and as the coffin was being carried from St. Gregory's church, his beloved "Our Lady's Hymn" was echoing again through the Cheshire hills. He was laid to rest, together with Fr. Dan and Frank Holloway, in the little Catholic graveyard near the bottom of our drive.

Please pray for Bro. Eddie. So many souls and hearts he touched, with his special and deep love for Our Blessed Lady. May he now be happy and at home with her and her Divine Son.

Pray too for the needs of this House and Community, and for his brother and two sisters who mourn his passing.

May God bless you always,
Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,

Fr. Eric Darwell, S.D.B.

Data for the Necrology :

Bro. Edward Langan S.D.B. died in Moston, Manchester, 22nd April 1989, aged 69 years, in the 47th year of his Religious Profession.