



Message to the Society of the Divine Saviour

Fr. Malachy McBride SDS

VIII Superior General

1987 - 1993

*** 23 February 1927**

First Profession: 21 September 1949

Priestly Ordination: 29 June 1953

+ 18 November 2022

We are all very sad today! We have received news of the death of our confrere Fr. Malachy McBride, SDS, who was our former Superior General from 1987 to 1993. He was a Salvatorian who had Jesus Christ at the centre of his life. He became, for all of us who knew him, a reference of generosity and service to others. Fr. Malachy managed to live a long, solid and blessed life. That is why we mourn his absence today as if a grandfather of ours had passed away. Like other older confreres, his existence represents the roots, the memory and the wisdom of our apostolic Society. As Psalm 44 says, "*in old age they will continue to bear fruit*" because of their consecration, their faith and their wisdom.

By the way, not everyone has heard the story of this "elderly Salvatorian". When he was still very young, in Northern Ireland, he responded decisively to the call to follow Jesus, following in the footsteps of Blessed Francis Jordan. Confirmed in his vocation, he received the religious name "Malachi", which means in Hebrew: "messenger of God". In this world in which we see ourselves sunk in the logic of self-preservation and self-referentiality, how good it is to have had among us a faithful Salvatorian who turned his life into a message of service and communion with God and with his brothers and sisters! He will always be a testimony that inspires us and fills our hearts with immense gratitude.

Fr. Malachy also had the vocation of an educator and professor of philosophy, who did not remain at the level of ideas only, but who, in a simple, smiling and good-humoured style, dedicated a large part of his ministerial life to organising, animating and leading the apostolic work of Blessed Francis Jordan. After having been Provincial Superior of the Salvatorians in Great Britain, he was offered a sabbatical year, which he gladly accepted. He used this year mainly to devote himself to reading and studying the documents of the Second Vatican Council. He then went on to serve as Novice Master. In this work he knew how to listen attentively and patiently to the intentions of the young men and to draw out the best in them in order to build together from there.

At the ripe old age of 60, he took part in the 14th General Chapter of the Society in Steinfeld, Germany. At this important event, the Chapter participants elected Fr. Malachy to assume the mission of VIII Superior General of our apostolic Society. Well aware of his physical frailties and taken by surprise, Fr. Malachy accepted this service with great humility and renewed confidence that God is Provident and always makes things new.

His transfer to the city of Rome and learning the Italian language was not an insurmountable challenge for him, as much as one could imagine for someone coming from the north of the world. Not only did he do it with great commitment, but he encouraged the other members of the Generalate to attend the Italian language classes offered at the Mother House. Indeed, true wisdom is not based on believing that we know everything, but on recognising one's own limits in order to allow oneself to be helped and learn from and with others.

Perhaps the most significant event of his general government has been the return of the Salvatorians in India. A small step at the time, but of great transforming power in the development of the Society until today. We recognise in Fr. Malachy this decisive event by which the Salvatorians have taken up again the missionary spirit that was in the heart of the Founder. Thus, overcoming many difficulties and challenges, in 1990 the seed of the charism was sown once again and today we see it flourishing in various regions of India and the Asian continent.

Dear Fr. Malachy McBride, we are eternally grateful for your example of generous, simple Salvatorian life and of communicating joy to others. Thank you so much for guiding and teaching us to keep alive the missionary spirit that burned in the heart of Blessed Francis Jordan. May God receive you in his merciful arms, so that you may share in the glory of eternity together with the Love and Peace of our beloved Founder and the company of so many who preceded us on this path of manifesting Jesus Christ by word and example. Dear confrere, here we will continue on this path of being faithful like you, carrying in the memory of our hearts our immense gratitude for the gift of your existence, the strength of your witness, service and wisdom! In life and in death we belong to the Lord! Amen

Fr. Milton Zonta SDS
Superior General

