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FR. JAMES CHIOSSO

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Fr. James L. Chiosso, SDB, died on January 31, 2011, in Turin, Italy, where he had been in a Salesian nursing home since 2005. He was 88 and had been a Salesian of Don Bosco for more than 70 years, a priest for more than 61 years. He belonged to the Salesian community in New Rochelle for 29 years, serving at Don Bosco Multimedia Center and Salesian Missions. During many of those years he worked with young men as an instructor in sailing, scuba diving, and celestial navigation. Fr. Chiosso was born at Pralormo (TO), Italy, on Aug. 25, 1922. He made his profession of religious vows as a Salesian in 1940, and then earned a B.A. in philosophy, a B.S. in electrical engineering, and a licentiate in theology. He was ordained a priest at Turin in 1949. He taught in Salesian schools in Italy in the 1940s and early 1950s before coming to the U.S. in 1953 to found the electronics department at Don Bosco Tech in Paterson, N.J., where he was a highly regarded teacher until 1967. After two short teaching assignments and an internship in catechetical media, he became vice president of Don Bosco Multimedia in New Rochelle in 1970. There he produced and marketed numerous catechetical programs, most notably a classroom edition of Zeffirelli's Jesus of Nazareth. In 1986 Fr. Chiosso was assigned to Salesian Missions in New Rochelle as program director. He provided highly capable technical and managerial support to Salesian missionary and development projects all over the Third World, and served as liaison between them and various NGOs, foundations, and government agencies. Fr. Edward Cappelletti, SDB, former director of Salesian Missions, states: "Fr. Chiosso brought Christ to people and people to Christ not so much by preaching but by example. His kind, patient ways with youngsters, his thoroughness, brought order and accomplishment into the lives of many young people. He wrote his priesthood in their hearts and in their lives." In failing health, Fr. Chiosso retired to the Marian Shrine in Haverstraw in 1999. He is survived by his brother Giorgio of Turin. His funeral was celebrated in his hometown, Pralormo, on February 2, and he was buried in the family sepulcher.

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