

VERSAGGI, Brother John D., S.D.B., 86, died March 24, 2004, as a result of injuries sustained in an auto accident on March 7, 2004. Brother John was a member of the Salesians of Don Bosco, a world-wide religious order dedicated to education. The son of Antonio and Concetta Patti Versaggi, he was born in Fernandina, Fla., on May 2, 1917. John attended Mary Help of Christians School in Tampa, graduating in 1931. He entered the Salesian High School seminary in New Jersey and professed religious vows in 1936. Over the next 46 years, Brother John filled various management and teaching positions in Salesian schools in New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, and Massachusetts before returning to Tampa in 1982 to assist the school administrators and be a local good will ambassador on behalf of Mary Help of Christians and the Salesians, at which he succeeded marvelously. In these last 22 years of his life he also offered spiritual and practical guidance to the Salesian Cooperators, lay members of St. John Bosco's religious family. Brother John will be greatly missed by his Salesian brothers, the Cooperators, his many nephews, nieces, cousins, and countless friends. A wake service will take place in the chapel of Mary Help of Christians School on March 26 between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., and a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated there on March 27 at 11:00 a.m. Brother John will be buried in the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mary Help of Christians School.