



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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SWIP Circular TK/21

July 2024



Rev. Fr Joseph Kallacheril, MSFS

1938-2024

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In Fond Remembrance of Fr. Joseph Kallacheril, MSFS

At the stroke of 11.20 hrs. on July 12, 2024 the MSFS Congregation and in particular the South-West India Province was transposed into deep sorrow at the passing away of one of its proud and illustrious confreres in the person of Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallacheril, fondly called 'Fr. K.V'. A good many of the young generations of the MSFS have definitely known him personally as their Novice-Master or as their spiritual director and confessor, but may not have much idea about him as a fire-brand missionary religious priest of the yester years or the manner in which he touched and transformed the lives of hundreds of people as a missionary and a religious priest across the globe. Let us first of all take a glance at the life of Fr. K.V. Joseph.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallacheril, son of Varkey Ouseph and Theresa Varkey, was born on April 12, 1938, in Edappadi, Kottayam. His educational journey began at St. Mathew's LPS Anthiyalam, and he completed his high school studies at St. Aloysius H. S. Visakhapatnam in 1959. Following his high school education, he attended a four-month Latin course at SFS Seminary in Arumanoor. He completed his PUC from Nagpur University in 1962. Fr. Joseph then pursued his philosophical studies at St. Charles Seminary in Nagpur and completed his B.A. studies at SFS College, Nagpur, from 1963 to 1965. He did his novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, from 1965 to 1966 and made his first profession there on May 19, 1966. Fr. Joseph perused his theological studies at De Sales Hall (Oblates of St. Francis de Sales) in Hyattsville, MD, from 1967 to 1970, and also completed his B.Ed. He made his perpetual profession on January 25, 1970, at De Sales Hall and was ordained a deacon on June 5, 1970, at the same place. Finally, on September 12, 1970, he was ordained a priest in Philadelphia, USA.

APPOINTMENTS

1971	:	Stella Maris, Visakhapatnam.
1971-1973:		Kotak Salesian School, Visakhapatnam.
1973-1974:		Warden at St. Aloysius School, Visakhapatnam.
1974-1978:		L. R. G School, Anantapur.
1979-1980:		SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor.
1980-1983:		Assistant parish priest at Sacred Heart Paish, Chinna Waltair.
1983	:	St Francis de Sales Church, Chinna Waltair.
1983	:	SFS School, Seethammadhara.
1984-1988:		Vinay Kumar Telugu Madium School, Anantapur.
1988-1991:		Sudhirvana, Spiritual director at Suvidya College.
1991-1994:		Associate Chaplain, St. John's Medical College & Hospital, Bangalore.
1994-1999:		Parish Priest of Our Lady of Velankanni Church, Yelahanka.
1999-2001:		Tanzania, Africa.
2001	:	Chaplain at St. John's Medical College & Hospital, Bangalore.

2001-2006:	Novice Master at Sannidhi, Mysore.
2006 :	PSI Sevagram, Kengeri.
2006-2010:	Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Vanimo, Papua New-Guinea.
2010-2011:	Parish Priest at St Ignatius Church, Kannadiparamba.
2011-2012:	Chaplain at the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health, Velankanni, Tamil Nadu.
2012-2013:	Director of Pratheeksha Boys' Home, Ulickal
2013-2014:	Spiritual Director at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Kengeri.
2014 :	Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House, Bengaluru.
2014-2015:	Spiritual Director for the Sisters of Sacred Sciences, Mysore.
2015-2017:	Spiritual Director and Formator at Sannidhi Novitiate House, Mysore.
2017-2024:	Saumaya Sadan Community, Mysore.

After his theological studies and ordination in USA, he was appointed in Visakhapatnam as the principal of Kotak Salesian School. People who expected from him the life-style of an American-return were soon in for a rude shock, as his truly prophetic life-style and radical ideas were nothing short of a challenge to the establishment at every level, shuffling many a feather in the process, but at the same time attracting and challenging several young confreres. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes remembers Fr. K.V., his novitiate companion, "as one who lived with convictions and a sense of commitment" all through, irrespective of whether others shared them or not. As a priest and religious he was deeply convinced of his vocation, cherished being a priest and was passionate about his mission. In season and out of season, disregarding the time and situations, no matter what people thought of him, he lived his life being fully conscious that he had a mission from God. He was passionately in love with the poor and spared no efforts in helping them. Opting to live a life of utter simplicity and poverty, he was bold enough to speak for the poor and never ashamed to seek help from others and share it with the sick, aged and the poor. No wonder then that he could finance the education of hundreds of poor children, helped several families to have a house of their own, besides empowering hundreds of weak students with special tuition classes in schools he worked.

As a pastor and a missionary, he set benchmarks for the succeeding generations to emulate. As parish priest in several parishes, he proved himself as a good pastor reaching out to his flock with love and compassion and was able to identify with all sections of his faithful. He never kept anyone apart from his concern and pastoral service. He was known for 'going after the lost sheep'. As a chaplain at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore he proved his love and compassion for the sick and suffering. Being a missionary at heart, he opted to work in the difficult missions in Africa and in Papua New Guinea for several years. As Novice Master and Spiritual Director in several formation houses, he has guided several young religious, primarily with his own life-example, to grow up as persons of conviction and undiluted commitment, opting for a life of simplicity and poverty, with a compassionate heart for the poor and needy. Fr. K.V was an excellent preacher as well. He was a much sought after animator for retreats,

recollections and talks as his preaching had a prophetic impact that touched the hearts of his listeners.

The Lord has called Fr. K.V. Joseph to his eternal reward after living a good 86 years of passionate and radical life as a religious priest at the service of His mission. With his death we miss a good religious priest, a passionate pastor, a committed educationist, an inspiring spiritual guide, and an exceptional confrere who made and lived radical choices for his life. With bowed heads and folded hands, we thank the good Lord for this precious gift to our Congregation and thank Fr. K. V. for the exemplary life that he lived as an MSFS. May He Rest in Peace!

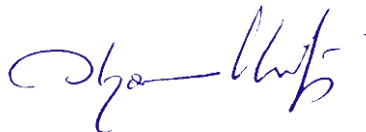
*Dear Confreres, tomorrow, on the 13th of July 2024, the mortal remains of Fr Joseph Kallacheril will be brought to Sannidhi, SFS Minor Seminary in Mysore. The Requiem Mass will begin at 04.00 pm, by **Rt. Rev. Bernard Moras, Archbishop Emeritus and Administrator of Mysore Diocese.** Thereafter, the body will be taken to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor for the Funeral. The Funeral service will begin at 3.00 pm on Sunday, 14th July 2024, at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, and the final rites will be officiated by **Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of Kanjirappally Diocese.***

VOICE OF SFS



**“Let us die to ourselves and to all that depends on us.
We ought to live only for God”**

Fraternally,



**Fr Thomas Kalariparambil, MSFS
Provincial Superior**