

NAGPUR PROVINCE

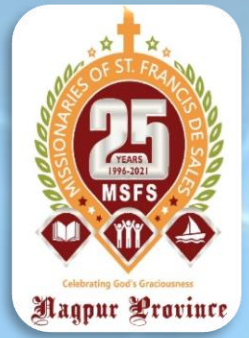
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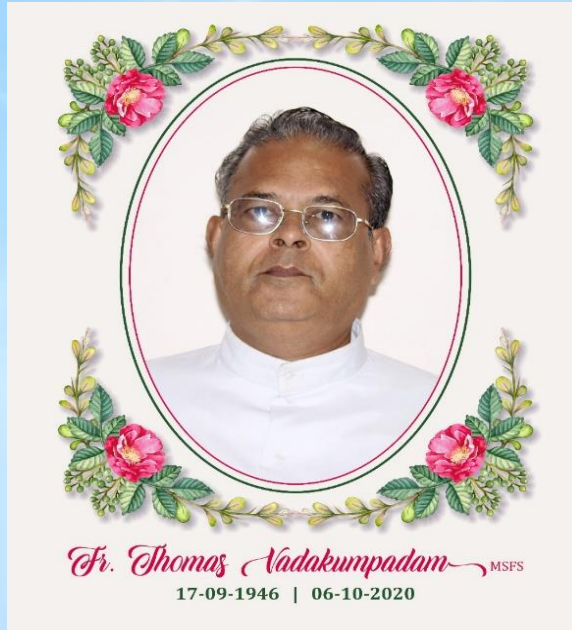


JBM2 – 26

CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

12.10.2020

ADIEU FR. THOMAS VADAKUMPADAM



Fr. Thomas Vadakumpadam was born on 17th September 1946 to devout Catholic parents, Mr. V. Vadakumpadam and Mrs. Mary, at Ayavana, Kerala. He did his primary education at S.H.Z.P.S. Ayavana and secondary education at St. Margret H.S. Ayavana. Deep down in his heart he had an unquenchable desire to be a missionary. On completing high school he joined the MSFS Congregation. He made his First Profession on 31st May 1970, at Vishakhapatnam. He did Philosophical studies from 1970 to 1973 at J.D.V. Pune. He did his Regency at S.F.S. Institute, Bastora, Goa, from 1973 to 1975. He pursued his Theological studies in J.D.V. from 1975 to 1979. He made his Final Commitment to the Lord on 24th January 1974, at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. He was ordained a Deacon on 4th February 1979 in Pune, and was ordained a Priest on 16th May 1979 at Ayavana, Kerala.

Places of Ministry:

1979 – 1984: First Appointment - Catholic Church, Nanded, Maharashtra.

1984 – 1985: Catholic Church, Rasegaon, Maharashtra.

1986 – 1988: Vocation Promoter of Kerala Region.

1988 – 1997: Assistant and Parish Priest, S. F. S. Parish, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

1997 – 2002: Parish Priest, Holy Redeemer Church, Neemuch, M.P.

2003 – 2005: Assistant Novice Master, Varanasi, U.P.

2005 – 2008: Novice Master, Varanasi, U.P.

2008 – 2010: Superior, Provincialate, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

2010 – 2012: Rector, Prakash Bhavan, Mannarkkad, Kerala.

2012 – 2015: Parish Priest, S.F.S. Church, Panderpalli, Odisha.

2015 – 2019: Assistant Parish Priest, S.F.S. Church, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

2019 - Mermier Sadan, Nagpur, Maharashtra

The sudden demise of Fr. Thomas on 6th October 2020 at Mermier Sadan, has left all of us shell shocked. His untimely death reminds us to reflect on the mysteries of our earthly existence. While death is inevitable, there is no way we can know the time, the place or the manner of death. We are very saddened at the sudden and unexpected demise of our beloved confrere. The death of Fr. Thomas makes us conscious of the shortness of human life, and the need to live our earthly life, on a daytoday basis, as best as we can.

Fr. Thomas went to the refectory to collect some water and on the way back to his room he slipped and fell down the stairs at around 10.45 pm on 5th October 2020. Hearing the loud sound, Fr. Emanuel and Fr. Bosco rushed to see what had happened. They were shocked to see Fr. Thomas fallen down at the end of the stairs and with severe head injuries. He was bleeding and was unconscious. Immediately they rushed to Neuron Hospital and he was admitted in the ICU. The efforts of the doctors proved futile and he expired the next morning at around 10.00 am. During his earthly life Fr. Thomas lived for Christ and His mission and the Lord has called him to His Heavenly Kingdom. Fr. Thomas lived his life as a true Fransalian missionary. He attracted many to Christ by his life of simplicity and a genuine smile on his face. His dedication, zeal, courage and determination in the missions have left a mark on all those whom he ministered to.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM S.F.S. CHURCH, NEW DELHI

I just learnt about the very sad news of the passing away of our dear Fr. Thomas Vadakumpaddam. Jasmine and my children join me in sending our deepest sympathies and condolences at this irreplaceable loss to the MSFS, his family and the Church at large, to which Father Thomas gave his entire life.

I consider myself a lucky man to have got an opportunity to work with him from his first posting in Janakpuri parish when we used to have mass in the school premises. He did everything possible to raise funds and get all the sanctions and clearances from the concerned authorities. We, as members of Janakpuri parish, owe our gratitude to Fr. Thomas for a Church in our parish. The Church built under his leadership helped to build a strong faithful community. It has seen innumerable children baptized, young people married, many others came to faith, many lay leaders were born, including yours sincerely.

His second posting at Janakpuri parish as an assistant to a young priest is a wonderful example or an unbelievable role model for people like me and many others who see hierarchy as a top to bottom line of experiences. But Fr. Thomas taught us through his exemplary life that hierarchy can be bottom to top too. We all will miss you. Thank you very much dear Fr. Thomas.

Mr. A.C. Michael [An old associate of Fr. Thomas V.]

The Archbishop of Nagpur His Grace Rt. Rev. Elias Gonsalves presided over the Eucharist which was concelebrated by around twenty-five priest confreres. Fr. Thomas' nephew Mr.



Melvin Francis Vadakumpadam took part in the funeral service which was held on 7th October in the Provincialate chapel. On behalf of his family members, he thanked one and all for their presence and for praying for the repose of the soul his beloved uncle priest. After the Eucharistic celebration the mortal remains of Fr. Thomas were taken to the cemetery at Seminary Hills to be laid to rest along with the many religious and priests who have gone

before him, to meet their loving and compassionate Lord and Master. I would like to thank the Provincialate community for making all the arrangements for the funeral service in my absence.

I take this opportunity to thank the family members, relatives, friends, near and dear ones of Fr. Thomas, who always supported him during his priestly journey. I also thank the community members of Mermier Sadan and Provincialate Community, all the doctors, nurses and all those who assisted him during his last hours on earth. My special thanks to Fr. Emmanuel and Fr. William Anthony; they extended all possible help to Fr. Thomas during the last hours of his earthly life.

We pray that the Good Lord, to whom he committed his life and Mary whose fervent devotee he was, will graciously reward him by granting him eternal peace and joy in the Heavenly Kingdom. May his soul Rest in Peace.

Yours Fraternally in Christ,

Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy
Provincial Superior