

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

29.0092013

Fr. Prabhudas Kujur Passes Away.[17.07.1963 - 29.09.2013]

My Dear Confreres

I greet you in the peace and joy of Christ.

Fr. Prabhudas Kujur MSFS, one of our early missionaries of the Mozambique Mission, known for his



diabetes-related illness in the recent years, was brought to Nagpur for better medical check-up and treatment and later to be returned to Mozambique. On 20th June 2013 he came to Nagpur for another check-up. Doctors concentrated on his diabetes conducting all possible tests on daily basis and monitored his diet and medicines. But something was somewhere wrong. He complained of a severe pain in the upper abdomen. He was becoming weak day-by-day and had no appetite for food which, all the more, made his blood sugar irregular. He was taken for further test and was diagnosed as suffering from pancreatic cancer. The endoscopy revealed a mass growth in the pancreas and liver which was further confirmed by a biopsy. Jaundice and diabetes were the side effects of cancer and Fr. Prabhudas was terminally ill. No operation was possible and he was too late for chemotherapy. He has two elder brothers and two elder sisters and all of them were intimated. They were grief stricken to know that their youngest priest-brother is mortally ill. One of them said that he normally never complains when he is ill. They nursed him, taking

turns and showed what it means to give filial affection and love. His health condition deteriorated and Fr. Prabhudas was becoming very frail and weak. His systems started to fail and he suffered severely in the last few days. He was in coma for three days and, finally, on 29th September at 04.30 PM in the presence of number of his relatives and confreres he breathed last and went to his heavenly home.

Fr. Prabhudas Kujur (Gregory Prabhodh Kumar) was born on 17.07.1963 at Ambikapur to Matias Kujur and Serophina Lakra. He was baptized on 28.07.1963 at Catholic Ashram, Ambikapur and confirmed on 14.10.1975 at Catholic Ashram, Ginabathar. He did his elementary education at

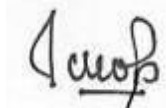
Jumaikela from 1972 to 1980 and secondary education from Loyola Higher Secondary School, Kunkuri.

Fr. Prabhu joined the minor seminary at Bastora, Goa, in 1985. He did his Philosophy at St. Charles Seminary from 1989-1992 and completed his B.A from Bhopal University. He was in the Belgaum Novitiate during 1992-1993. He made his first profession on 31.05.1993 and made his final profession on 30.11.1996. Fr. Prabhudas was ordained priest on 03.05.1998. His first appointment was at Holy Redeemer Church, Neemuch. Subsequently, he was appointed at St. Mary's Church, Jalna, in 2001 and Parish Priest of Buldana Church from 2002 to 2004. In 2004 he joined Mozambique Mission. He was the Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Bela Vista at the time of his return to India for treatment.

Fr. Prabhudas was the strongest person most sought after for his hard labour during his seminary days. Anyone would love to get him as partner in any department because of his abiding commitment to the task given. He was God's silent worker and expected no rewards in worldly terms. He told me when asked that he does not need any of his belongings from Mozambique. Expression of anger and recrimination was alien to his personality. He never kept a grudge against any one and shamed his detractors with his silence. It is indeed rare that anyone can recall an incident of him scolding another person. He was obedience personified as his reverence and respect for those in authority was exceptional. The order of his Superiors was divine and he never addressed them by name. With no expression of reluctance, he embarked upon the missionary enterprise in Mozambique. Earlier in Mozambique, I told him that he could return to India when situation warrants for better treatment or later to return to India to work, there was smile on his face and he said 'thank you.' However, he was a person born to suffer. He was the victim of the Bhopal Gas tragedy during his student days. He used to narrate how he felt breathlessness at the time of leakage of that poisonous gas and how he felt heaviness in the lungs for a one month after the tragedy. He suffered from nightmares during those days. In Mozambique, he was badly beaten by the thieves and was hospitalized; he had a motor-bike accident and also a four wheeler accident; but these personal set-backs could not deter his determination and resolve to continue the mission of the Lord but for this disease. Let us accept it as God's plan for him and pray for his soul. In him, we have lost an exemplary confrere of amiability, simplicity, patience and love. He was, indeed, true to his name 'Prabhudas' - the servant of God. May his soul rest in peace and be always an inspiration for us of missionary courage, struggles and pains in the days to come. The funeral mass is scheduled on 1st October at 10.00 a m.

On behalf of the Province I express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr Wilson, Fr Rijo and Bro Anil Pandit for taking care of him for the last two months. I am grateful to Mr Agnelo Pinto who was always in touch with the hospital and the doctors for his treatment. I thank the parishioners of Bela Vista for their prayers and support and sharing in the grief of all our confreres working in Mozambique and to Mr Jose Parayankan of Maputo, Mozambique, for his concern and assistance. I express my thanks to the family members of Fr. Prabhudas, specially his brothers and sisters for their courageous support to their ailing brother till the last. Finally, I thank each one of you, dear Fathers, Sisters, MSFS confreres, and friends of Fr. Prabhudas for your prayers and words of condolences. May his soul rest in peace!

Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS
Provincial Superior