

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

22.03.2016

Dear Confreres

Greetings of Peace and Joy of Christ to you

Fr William John D' Silva Passes away (31.01.1953 - 21.03.2016)



A pall of gloom descended on every member and communities of MSFS Nagpur Province on 21st March 2016 by 08.30pm receiving the news on the sad and untimely demise of Fr. William John D' Silva. It was unbelievable that the person who left Nagpur two days ago after the Council Meeting is no more in this world. Friends and well-wishers made panic calls to authenticate the news with last glimpse of hope to see him alive. Ever since, he returned from Switzerland to India, he apparently looked hale, hearty and cheerful as ever. One or two occasions, I asked him if he has any health problem, he answered always in the negative. He said that his health is in

perfect condition. On 21st March 2016, evening he was reportedly arranging the venue for the Holy Week Celebrations. I am told that he was personally supervising the seating arrangement for the various services of the Holy week. The passion play rehearsal and other related practices were going on. After such work, he went to parish office around 07.00pm and later he was having meeting with the youth in the parish office. All of a sudden, he felt the need of lying down, on account of back pain. He moved to his bed leaving aside the youth in the office. Soon they heard some unusual noise from his bed, and when some of them approached his bed, they found Fr. Willie struggling for breath. At the very next moment, his body became still and he was no more. Immediately a doctor who was present declared him dead. The shocked parishioners rushed to the Church and made many representations to have burial in Bhusawal. However, they were convinced that he will be buried in Nagpur in the cemetery meant for priests where other Confreres too are buried. In consultation with his relatives in Canada and certain confreres of the Province, funeral Mass is scheduled on 28th March 2016, at 10.00am, in the MSFS Provincial House Nagpur.

Fr. William John D' Silva was born to John and Mary D' Silva on 31st January 1953 at Sonapur, Mumbai, Maharashtra, and baptized on 01st March 1953 at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Sonapur, Mumbai and Confirmed in the same Church on 26th April 1960. He did his elementary studies in Our Lady of Dolours School, Sonapur, Mumbai in 1968, Secondary Studies in St. Thomas Boys' High School, Aldona, Goa, in 1971. He did his Minor Seminary in SFS Institute, Bastora, Goa, from 1971-1974, Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 1974-1975, and made his First Profession on 10th June 1975 at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh. He did his philosophy at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune from 1976-1979, Regency at St. Joseph's Technical Institute, Nagpur 1975-1976, and theology at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune from 1981-1984. He made his final profession on 14th June 1983 and ordained deacon on

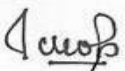
02nd January 1984 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. He was ordained priest on 18th May 1984 at St. Dominic Savio Church, Wadala East, Mumbai.

He worked at St. Thomas Boys' High School, Aldona, Goa, as Boarding Director from 1984-1985, St. Anthony's Church, Kakkeri, Karnataka, as Assist Parish Priest from 1985-1989, St. Jude's Church, Uchgaon, Karnataka, as Priest-in-Charge from 1989-1992, St. Francis Xavier's Church, Khadgaon, as Assist Parish Priest from 1992-1994, St. Francis de Sales Church, Janakpuri, New Delhi, as Assist Parish Priest from 1994-1997, St. Francis de Sales Church, Janakpuri, New Delhi, as the Parish Priest from 1997-2000, Dhyanshram (MSFS Novitiate), Varanasi, as Socius from 2000-2002, Switzerland from 2002-2012, Sacred Heart Church, Bhusawal as Parish Priest from 2013-2016. In 2014, he was elected the provincial Councilor for a term of three years.

In Fr. William D' Silva, we have lost a confrere so dear to us, a priest who never shied away from performing his religious duties, a pastor who always won over the admiration of the flocks, and a religious who always lived within the confinement of its life demands. He was a charismatic person who surpassed human barriers like language and culture and accepted and loved by all sections. He was very jovial and cheerful. He loved children, most of his face book posts and profile pictures are innocent children. In Switzerland he showed me the photographs of his first Holy Communion batches. It gives him lots of joy to look at these children. He was very religious at heart. In Switzerland he had a small chapel for himself. He told me that chapel solved his problem of loneliness. When difficulties, lapses, aberrations in our life discussed, he would raise questions on religious identity, vowed life and obedience to legitimate religious Superiors. He was of the opinion if our identity as religious is correctly understood and enhanced there cannot be conflict of any kind. Since his home people have shifted to Canada, he would come for holidays with a packed visitation program of different communities. His visits were not selective. He would go to every mission station and share in the living environment of the Confreres. He loved his family and often spoke about his aging mother. He was a man of practical jokes. When he happens to visit Delhi School from Mahima Church, he would remain at the gate and salute his fellow priests and sisters entering the gate acting as the new Choukidar. He was very simple at heart and loved the poor. He would never distrust any one. One thing he dreaded was handling money. For all transfers, he has only one request to make that another person should be appointed to handle money and accounts. In Switzerland he sent every pie that he earned, to the province. He had given written instruction to the Bank to send all earnings to the Province. Rev. Fr. Superior General hearing the news wrote, "I am shocked to know that our dear confrere Fr. Willie is gone to his eternal rest. We have lost an exemplary religious with great commitment and love for the Congregation. He was a friend to all and a humble person at the service of anyone in need. We all have lots of good memories of this fine person. We resign to God's will and plan for him. May he rest in peace. He will continue to live in our hearts and thoughts.

At this moment of great loss and sorrow, let us pray for Fr. Willie that he may receive eternal life in his new heavenly abode. Let us resign to the will of God and pray for all his near and dear ones very specially his mother that she may be strong to bear this loss of life of her priest son. I thank everyone who assisted Fr. Willie in the last moments of his life very specially Bhusawal Community and parishioners. May his soul rest in peace.

Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS
Provincial Superior