



Circular 4/2016

**VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Love, Compassion and Mercy of the Lord be with us all!

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

Prayerful and Loving Greetings from Provincial House, Kottayam!

I am writing this letter with a sorrowful heart on this occasion of the loss of two of our confreres one after another just unexpectedly. Let us accept the will of God for them and let us make God's dream for them our dreams too.

Rev. Fr. Sebastian (Jerish) Kunnackattu VC, R.I.P.



When we reflect on the death of Fr. Jerish there are many who have asked this question. Why God has not answered our prayers? Intercessory prayers on his behalf were offered in many retreat centers and also by thousands of people besides the prayers offered by each and every one of us. His death is something that escapes our understanding. Fr. Jerish himself was very hopeful that he would recover from all these since so many were praying for him. Still God has some other plan for him. How to reconcile

our plan with God's plan with regard to Fr. Jerish?

I think we are to frankly say that we have no clear or satisfactory answer for it. At the same we can find a beautiful explanation for such phenomenon in the pages of the Bible itself. We read about the suffering and obedience of Christ in Hebrews 5,7-9. "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,". The implicit reference would be to the suffering of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemani. Here we find some nuances. There are 2 situations or predicaments to be noted. 1. He was praying to the one who was able to save him from death. But God the Father did not show any special mercy to him. Even though He could have saved him he did not save him from the hands of death. 2. In spite of the fact that he was the son he had to learn obedience through suffering that would lead him ultimately to the death on the cross. Christ prayed to the Father through tears, sighs, loud cries, suffering and death. But we see that his prayers (let this cup pass away from me) were not answered as he expected.

Father had a plan for Jesus according to which Jesus' death was necessary for the atonement of sins or the salvation of the human beings. Thus he was to become the

source of salvation for those who believed in him. In this plan of salvation, Jesus' death has a unique place and relevance according to Father's plan.

In a similar way death of Fr. Jerish has a unique place in God's plan. We all prayed for him in a special way still that did not change God's dream and plan for Jerish. God will reward him just as he rewarded Jesus. Let us hope that Jerish also would become for many a source of salvation through his powerful intercession from the realm of the divine.

Fr. Jerish was born on 02-12-1980 and belonged to Adukkam parish of Pala Diocese. He made his first vows on May 21, 2000. He was ordained priest on December 26, 2007. He was serving as the vocation promoter for the Province and also professor in the minor seminary at Pala. Then he was in Myladi minor seminary as vice-rector and finance officer. For the last 3 years he was in Adichira as Asst. Director of Popular mission, and also of Parithrana Retreat center and director of youth ministry. Thus he became an inevitable part of the preaching ministry of St. Joseph Province, fulfilling the command of the Lord to preach the Word of God.

He was diagnosed with lung cancer last December and he was under treatment in the Unity hospital, Mangalore. Though the cancer was in the advanced stage he was responding to the treatment positively in the beginning. Later on it was detected that the cancerous cells are spreading rapidly. Though he was sick and he knew it was serious, he always wanted to preach the Word and he took classes during the retreats in Adichira. He was ready always to accept the chalice of suffering as the Lord did. For the last 40 days before death, he was in S H. Medical Centre, Kottayam for the nursing care. To all those who couldn't accept his illness he said that he would come back to the ministry soon and it comes true that he will always be present in our ministries through his interceding presence.

On 9th Saturday 9.30 pm he went to the Father at an unexpected moment. His body was shifted to mortuary in the late night. The first part of the funeral service was led by Fr. Provincial in the hospital on 10th Sunday and his body was brought to Adichira Ashram Chapel by 4 pm. Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Archbishop Mar Mathew Moolakkattu (Kottayam), Mar Joseph Kallarangattu (Pala), Most Rev. Sebastian Thekkethecherril (Vijayapuram), and Mar Mathew Vanniyakizhakkal (Bishop Emeritus, Satna) came to pay last respect to him. Many Fathers and Sisters also came in the evening to pay homage to him. The vicars General of Pala and Vijayapuram Dioceses had also come to pray for him.

The funeral mass began at 2.30 pm on 11-07-2016 led by Very Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram VC (Superior General) and Rev. Fr. George Arackal VC Sr. (Provincial Superior, Kottayam), Rev. Fr. Francis Naduviledathu (Asst. Provincial, Angamaly), Rev. Fr. Paul Edasseril, Rev. Fr. Jose Matheickal, Rev. Fr. Joby Kunnackattu, Rev. Fr. Francis Kunnackattu, Rev. Fr. Mathew Olickal and Rev. Fr. Joseph Kappil (parish priest). After the holy Mass Cardinal Mar George Alencherry (Major Archbishop, Syro Malabar Church) officiated in the burial ceremonies. He tenderly spoke about Fr. Jerish and consoled all especially his family people. Rev. Fr. Zacharias Edattu gave the

funeral sermon remembering the various qualities of the personality of Fr. Jerish during the funeral service. A large number of priests, nuns and laity were present during the funeral ceremony and many more visited him the previous day. Indeed the demise of Fr. Jerish is a great loss to the Congregation and to his family. But let the words of our Lord console us "... and where I am, there shall also my servant be". Let his life be an inspiration for us to follow Christ in any circumstances.

The requiem Mass for him was celebrated on July 16th at 11.00 am attended by our confreres, his family people and also a good number of other people. We shall not cease to pray for him and let us pray for his intercession on our behalf.

Rev. Fr. Xavier Kadiyamkuttvil VC, R.I.P.



Rev. Fr. Xavier, zealous Vincentian Missionary, was called to eternal rest on 11-07- 2017. He has gone to the Lord with a content and happy heart that he has fulfilled the task that God has entrusted to him.

Rev. Fr. Xavier was born on 27-02-1931 in Kadaplamattam (Pala Diocese). He made his first profession on 27-05-1955. He was ordained priest on 13-03-1959. After ordination he served in the Kelloor and Sulthan Bathery parishes of present Mananthavady Diocese, Thottakaom (Ernakulam Diocese) and after that for more than 40 years he was in the Tamilnadu missions serving as Superior, Parish priest etc. He was for some time the Asst. Novice master too. He had served as spiritual Father in our Philosophate and also in Vidyabhavan.

His call to be a Vincentian was reflected in his missionary zeal (40 years in Tamil Nadu). His simplicity of lifestyle, pastoral zeal, positive outlook on life, pleasant appearance, compassion to the needy, personal care to fellow Vincentians etc. were so praiseworthy. He was ready to help all according to the need and had a very soft and compassionate heart towards the seminarians during spiritual direction. He was never tired of hearing confessions even after sitting for many long hours.

He was in the Vincentian ashram Adichira for last five years. Even though his heart was weak he was always ready for pastoral services as far as he could. Many priests and sisters came in search of him to make their confessions. He was always happy and content and would entertain those who come to see him by narrating the old stories and stories of the past related to them. Once in a while he would get physically weak; otherwise he was totally OK.

He was admitted in the hospital the week before, due to ill health and old age related difficulties. While in the hospital he was aware of his end days and asked for and received the Anointing of the Sick. His condition worsened on Sunday evening but had become steady in the morning. Again he had the breathing problems and rather unexpectedly he had gone to the Lord to receive his reward at 10.30 am, Monday. Fr. Provincial led the first part of the funeral service at the hospital in the morning and his body was shifted to mortuary. In the evening at 5.30 pm Fr. Provincial prayed the office for the dead in the hospital and afterwards the body was brought to Vincentian Ashram

Chapel at Adichira at 6.00 pm. Cardinal Mar George Alencherry (Major Archbishop, Syro Malabar Church) came to pray for him. He spoke about Fr. Xavier' missionary zeal and other qualities and consoled us. Most Rev. Sebastian Thekkethecherril (Bishop, Vijayapuram diocese) came and prayed for him and spoke very appreciatively about the person and ministry of Rev. Fr. Xavier.

The funeral Mass began at 10.30 am on 13-07-2016 led by Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal (Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Satna). Very Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram (Superior General), Rev. Fr. George Arackal VC Sr. (Provincial Superior, Kottayam), Rev. Fr. Sebastian Padinjarekuttu (Regional Superior, St. Xavier's Region), Rev. Fr. Francis Naduviledathu (Asst. Provincial, Angamaly), Rev. Fr. George Appassery, Rev. Fr. Anoop Kadiyamkuttiyl CMI, Rev. Fr. Jose Matheickal, and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Paliyakkunnel were the concelebrants. Rev. Fr. Joseph Pampackal commemorated him during the funeral service. Many priests, nuns and laity from different mission centers of Tamil Nadu were present during the ceremony. The priests from Dharmapuri Diocese had come representing the bishop. They and the people thanked the Congregation for all the blessings they have received through the service of the veteran missionary, Fr. Xavier Kadiyamkuttiyl. The love and admiration of the poor village people toward him and the changes he brought to their lives and lifestyles reveal that he was really a Vincentian who lived the charism "evangelizare pauperibus misit me". Let us be inspired by his life example and the human and theological virtues. The requiem Mass for him was celebrated on July 18th at 11.00 am attended by our confreres and his family people. Let us continue to remember him in our prayers.

Rev. Fr. Jose Parayaruthottam VC R.I.P



He departed from this world very unexpectedly on Sunday, June 26th 2016 at about 10.00am due to heart attack in Delhi and his body was brought to Munnoorpilly Ashram, Kerala. The funeral took place at Vincentian House Munnoorpilly at 11.00am on the 28th. Bp Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal was the main celebrant for the funeral Mass. Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop, was the main celebrant for the concluding funeral rites. A large number of Vincentians and others participated in the funeral. May the Lord reward our dear Fr. Jose with the glory of the resurrection.

Fr. Jose was a friendly person, spreading that joy to everyone who met him. He had kept up a good cordial relationship with all the members of the congregation. Whenever he came for the holidays he used to come to Adichira and Kottayam.

Obligatory Mass for the Deceased

Let us continue to pray for our dear members. May the good Lord grant them eternal rest and happiness in the heavenly kingdom in the presence of His holy Mother Mary and the saints. As we all know we have the obligation to offer one holy Mass each for each of the deceased Fathers in accordance with the norms of our Constitution

(Practical Norms No. 112a). If someone has not yet offered the Mass for them kindly offer them at the earliest.

Benefactor's Day

We have set apart July 18 as the day to remember our benefactors –living as well as departed – and to be thankful to them. It is due to them that we have grown to be what we are. Let us gratefully remember them and pray for them and offer for them a Holy Mass as directed by our Statutes (Practical Norms 111 C).

Feast of St. James

As July 25th, the day of the Feast of St. James the Apostle, is approaching may I wish you all a very happy Feast of St. James. Following his life example let us also stand for the truth of Christ and confess it courageously. Let us remember his words: “Faith without works is dead” – it is a challenge to examine our own life style and make necessary changes in our lifestyle especially in the matter of life-witness. May St. James the Apostle guide us in our endeavors for evangelization.

Agartala Mission

I am happy to inform you that the Blessing ceremony of our new mission centre in Agartala diocese (in Tripura State) took place on Sunday, 3rd July 2016 at 06: 30 pm. The newly established Vincentian House was blessed by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, D.D., Bishop of Agartala Diocese and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC, Provincial Superior, St. Joseph Province. The blessing was followed by Agape.

In the morning of July 3rd during the morning Mass at 7.30 Rev. Fr. Abraham Mundackal, VC was installed as the parish priest of Mariamnagar parish. The rectory of the parish is given to us as our new house. Rev. Fr. Xavier Dilip Kumar will be the Superior of the House and Director of the Retreat Center which would be established there. May I humbly request your prayers once again for this new venture.

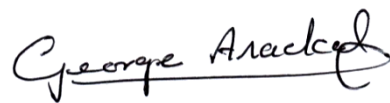
Our Senior Members

I am happy to say that all our senior members – Rv. Fr. Sebastian Karikulam, Luke Nampiaparambil and Emmaunuel Paliyakunnel are keeping fine.

Once again wishing you all the blessings of the Feast of St. Alphonsa,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

**Kottayam
July 20, 2016**



**Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior**