



**FRATELLI DI SAN GABRIELE**  
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To  
The Provincial Superior and all the Brothers  
Province of YERCAUD

Dear Brothers,

It was with a heavy heart that I received the shocking sad news, this morning, of the sudden demise of our dear Bro. Gerard Patrick. All the members of the Central Administration, and the Brothers and Sisters of Casa Generalizia, join me in extending our heartfelt condolences and our deepest sympathies to each one of you in this hour of grief and loss, and assure you of our sincere prayers for the repose of the soul of our beloved brother. As Henry James succinctly put it, *"Sorrow comes in great waves... but it rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us, it passes and we remain"*. May the peace which comes from the memories of the love we have shared with Bro. Patrick and the assurance that we have another intercessor in heaven now, comfort us now and in the days ahead.

Bro. Patrick is one person that I greatly admired for his zeal and zest for life, for all the energy and enthusiasm he evinced in whatever he undertook, and the warmth he exuded in his interpersonal relationships. My first memories of Bro. Patrick go back to 50 years, when as a Novice at Eachinkadu, I used to see him in Montfort, Yercaud, as a dynamic Junior Brother, loved and admired by his students, for his skills and competences in sports and games. I still have vivid memories of our last encounter, when he came to meet me in Adyar on 4<sup>th</sup> February, to invite me for the proposed international meeting in Chennai, in August 2015! What impressed most every time I visited his pet project, the MCDS, or met him casually elsewhere, was his positive attitude towards life and people, and his passion for the new mission among the poor and the underprivileged. It is said that the measure of a life well lived is through the lives they have touched and the sorrow they leave behind. If the outpouring of sympathy today on the loss of Bro. Patrick is any indication, everyone associated with him can proudly say that his was a life well lived. You all will agree with me that the description of Robert Louis Stevenson of a great person fits Bro. Patrick well: *"That man is a success, who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the love of innocent children and the respect of intelligent men... His memory is a benediction"*.

Let me also take this opportunity to convey my deepest sympathies to all the members of Bro. Patrick's beloved family, all his former students, colleagues, friends and well-wishers, and especially all the donors, collaborators and benefactors of the acclaimed mission he accomplished as the Founder Director of MCDS, Chennai. May he continue to inspire us to live our lives fully and to make a difference in the lives of others, by being men and women for others!

Let this be an occasion to remind ourselves of the consoling words in our Rule of Life: *"When the hour of death strikes and the moment of ultimate option has arrived, confirmed by the ever-renewed acceptance of the Lord's will, helped by Mary your Mother, and assisted by your Brothers, you will say: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'"*. May the soul of our dear Bro. Patrick rest in peace!

Fraternally yours,

Bro. John Kallarackal, SG  
SUPERIOR GENERAL