

JOSEPH PATHYIL <jpathyil@rogers.com>

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Reply-To: JOSEPH PATHYIL <jpathyil@rogers.com>

To: "kalangod@gmail.com" <kalangod@gmail.com>, Mathew Pathyil <mpathyil@gmail.com>, "cctheo@gmail.com" <cctheo@gmail.com>, "Bro. John Kallarackal" <jnkallarackal@gmail.com>

Bro. Patrick, whom I lovingly call Isac, was very special. I was instrumental in his joining the Juniorate in Kazipet, in 1955. under the watchful direction of late Bro. Vincent . Isac , not only finished his high school, but learned English, Hindi and Telugu. He admired the unique qualities of Bro. Vincent. Bro. Vincent was one of the best administrators among the Brothers and he was also a visionary - qualities that Isac acquired in the years to come. After his two year stint in the Novitiate at Eachinkadu under Bro. Stephen, and two more years of scholasticate under Bro. John of God, Isac was ready and itching for action in schools.

Whether in Montfort school or in RSK, Isac excelled in organizing sports and games. He earned the admiration of his students by his youthful enthusiasm and involvements with the boarders and day schols alike. Isac beleived in the old adage that the battle of Waterloo was fought in the playing fields of Eton. He spared no effort wherever he worked to fill his students with a love for games and sports. (In fact recently his name was under consideration to be the person in charge of special Olympis in Tamil Nadu. He declied the offer.)

A few months back the Holy Father warned Religious Superiors about the evil of gossip. Pope Francis said, rather than gossip behind the back, confront those whom you want to criticize, even to the danger of occasional fisticuffs. Bro. Patrick was one such. If he had anything to tell his local superior or major superiors, he confronted them. But he was also willing to listen and to be corrected. Through it all, he loved the congregation and every action he undertook was to advance the name of the society and to bring credit and acclaim to the Brothers.

Bro. Patrick's appointment to manage the Press in St.Louis and later to direct the institute opened up new vista to his life and a new vision. After having worked for the rich and the privileged in schools such as Montfort and R.S.K., he plunged into the service of the handicapped and the marginalized. The experience transformed his whole outlook on what it was to be a religious Brother. Serve the underpriviled and the unwanted of society and therein one will find rich reward - not material reward, but emotional and spiritual fulfilment. Thus the years in St. Louis transformed him.Providential help from NGOs such as Cardinal Leger Foundation and others helped him achieve his dreams.

At the end of his tenure in St. Louis, he requested his superiors to allow him to do social service full time and exclusively. It is to the eternal credit of his Superiors, that Bro. Patrick was given a free reign to beat a new path - a path that nobody had ever pursued before. The acclaimed services of MCDS is testament to the newly acquired passion for the underprivileged. His was an option for the poor. He got much satisfaction and his life had new meaning. Not that he spurned the admiration and the friendship of his old students, the privileged and the powerful. In fact he shrewdly used these connections to advance the cause of the poor. It was only fitting that the Good Lord call him at the peak of his activities. Well done, good and faithful servant, said the Lord, receive the reward promised to those who love the poor and the wretched.

My dear nephew, my protege and confidant, farewell. We will meet in the Everlasting Playing Fields above, surrounded by our dear and near ones.

- Joseph Pathyil