



19.5.2013

FUNERAL ORATION FOR BRO. JOSE KANNAMPUZHA



Dear Bro.Mariannan, Provincial Superior Province of Trichy, Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, Fr. Anto,beloved mother andrelatives of Bro. Jose Kannampuzha and my dear friends,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted”. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*Yes, the Lord- the Great Gardener has plucked the most beautiful flower in the garden to decorate his banquet table. The premature and untimely departure of Bro.Jose is a proof that ‘those whom the Lord loves, die young’. But we know it is not the length of life, but the depth of life that matters. What we anticipate seldom occurs; what we least expect generally happens.Well, that is what has happened to our beloved Brother Jose. His sudden demise has shocked and saddened all of us. Though Bro.Jose was sick and admitted in the hospital, we all hoped that he wouldrecoverand come out of the hospital in good health, as he had done many times in the past. But death overtook him by surprise as St. Peter would say in his second letter, “O but the day of the Lord will come like a thief” *2Pet:3/10*. However, Peter does not stop with that, he goes on to say, “Your lives should be holy and dedicated to God, as you wait for the day of God and do your best to make it come soon”. The life of Bro.Jose is a reminder and a challenge to all of us

dear to him. He has successfully completed his race on earth and has entered what God has promised to the righteous: “New Heavens and New Earth, where righteousness will be at home.”

The beautiful life of Bro. Jose Kannampuzha began on 14th March in the year 1961, when he was born as the eldest son to Mr. K.V Augusthy and Mrs. Annamkutty of Kannampuzha family at Karippassery, Vattapparambu, Ernakulam, Kerala. After completing his early schooling in Kerala, he joined our family as a young candidate in 1979 at St. John’s ITI, Manapparai. He did his Novitiate in Sitagarha from 1980 – 1982 and made his First Profession on April 27, 1982. From 1983-1985, he pursued his technical studies at St. John’s ITI, Manapparai. Later, he worked in Montfort Technical Institute and St. Joseph’s Industrial School as an Instructor. After his Sixth Year Formation at Montfort College, he made his Final Commitment on April 8, 1990. In 1991, he completed successfully the CTI training at Hyderabad. Having worked as an Instructor for a year, Bro. Jose served as Principal of Montfort ITI, Chabua from 1992-1994. From 1994-1997, he was also appointed as the Local Superior over there. During this period, he completed his graduation, post graduation and teacher education with excellent credits. In 1997, he returned to Tindivanam and was the Principal and Bursar of Montfort Matriculation School from 1998-1999.

A new chapter began in his life with his appointment as Local Superior and Principal of Montfort School Chinnakanal, Kerala. During the year 2002-2003, he was the Local Superior and Principal of Montfort School, Anakkara. At Chinnakanal and Anakkara, Bro. Jose proved to be an excellent administrator and an Architect of our Institutions over there. From 2003-2004, he was the Principal of St. Joseph’s ITI, Yercaud.

Bro. Jose was appointed as Local Superior and Principal of Montfort Technical School, Chennai from 2004-2007. He introduced many innovative projects and programmes at Montfort Technical School and won the appreciation of the Students, Staff and the Public. After a year of “Renewal Programme”, he was back in St. Joseph’s ITI, Yercaud as the Bursar and Principal.

Once again Bro. Jose was back in Anakkara as the Local Superior. In 2011, Bro. Jose was appointed as the LS and Principal of Montfort School, Murickumthotty. From the beginning, he worked very hard day and night in order to build and to bring up this youngest

Institution of ours. Within a span of two years, he changed and transformed the face of this institution. The number of students went up, new structures were created, more properties acquired, transport facilities were improved and now the school is on the threshold of obtaining CBSE affiliation. I have personally seen the tremendous growth and development at Montfort, Murickumthotty under the leadership of Bro. Jose -the master builder, visionary and educator. The Community Brothers, Parents, members of Staff and Students will surely amplify further these sincere observations of mine.

I always admired Bro. Jose and had a personal friendship with him. He was a unique individual, an independent worker – systematic and dignified. I found something very **extraordinary** about this man – he would never disobey! You give him any instruction and you can be sure that he will accomplish it to your satisfaction before your next visit. This is a beautiful message and lesson Bro. Jose is leaving as a “**legacy**” for us Brothers to follow and put to practice.

Bro. Jose was not keeping good health for the last few years. He preferred to suffer all his health problems by himself rather than complain about it. On 12th May he went home. As he was not well, on 13th May, his relatives admitted him to Madonna Hospital Angamaly. Doctors found that he was developing cirrhosis with serious liver damage and Jaundice. He was shifted to Lake Shore Hospital, Ernakulum, a Super Specialty Hospital on the same night. Meanwhile, both his kidneys also were affected due to the liver damage. On 16th of May, the doctors put him on to dialysis, but due to the marked dropping of his BP, dialysis was discontinued. Bros. K.K Thomas and Sebastian Olickal had visited him at Lake Shore Hospital. Bro. Jose passed away at 11.00 A.M on 17.5.2013. Bro. Sebastian Olickal who was present in the hospital along with the relatives made all the arrangements for shifting his body to his home at Karippassery. Bro. K.K Thomas joined him later. Relatives and a large number of people paid their homage to Bro. Jose in his house. Later in the early morning hours of 18.5.2013, the body was shifted to Montfort School, Murickumthotty for the Staff, Students, Parents and the Public to pay their last respect and homage to their beloved Principal. After this, the body was shifted to Yercaud and reached Montfort Chapel in the evening. I thank Bro. Thomas K.K and Bro. Sebastian Olickal for accompanying the body of Bro. Jose to his home, Montfort School, Murickumthotty and finally to Yercaud. The entire Yercaud Province along with all of you

gathered here, thank the Lord for the gift of Bro. Jose to our family and his contribution to our Mission.

I take this opportunity to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the beloved parents, brothers, sister and all the relatives of our dear Brother Jose Kannampuzha. With the same sentiments, we extend our condolences to all his Colleagues, students, members of staff and parents of the Institutions where Bro. Jose had worked, especially that of Montfort School, Murickumthotty.

Dear Bro. Jose,

*Little we knew that morning,
God was going to call you home!
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
We know we'll see you once more-
For this is the hope we have in God,
"Being re-united in the Lord."*

*"You have fought the **good fight**,
You have finished the course,
You have kept the faith"*

*You have passed from death to life,
Vanguard of your Brothers
And of the men you have led to God.*

Bro. George K.J
Provincial Superior

We thank all the Brothers and friends from various Provinces and Institutions who have gathered here in large numbers to express their solidarity and say 'Goodbye' to Bro. Jose through this funeral service over here and at the Heritage Park, Eachinkadu where his mortal remains will be interred shortly. I also thank Sr. Thekla and Sisters for their availability and generosity in singing for the Holy Eucharist and the funeral service. We are also grateful to everyone who are part of this funeral service. God bless you all!

Rev. Bro. Superior General, Bro. John Kallarackal, the previous Superior General, Bro. Rene Delorme, Bro. Yvan Passebon, the vicar General, the General Assistants, Bro. Joseph K.M & Bro. Paul Raj, the Secretary General Bro. Georges Le Vern, Provincial Superiors, Bro. Mani V.J of Delhi Province, Bro. Clement Kandulna of Ranchi Province, Bro. Devassy M.K of North East Province, Bro. Franky Noronha of Pune Province, Bro. Mariannan of Trichy Province and Bro. Pratap Reddy of Hyderabad Province along with many other Brothers and friends also have sent their heartfelt condolence messages...

 **Now I request Bro. K.K Thomas to read out the condolence message from our Superior General.**

17.5.2013

To
The Provincial Superior and all the Brothers
Province of YERCAUD

Dear Brothers,

I was deeply grieved by the shocking news I received this morning, of the sudden and untimely demise of our dear Bro. Jose Kannampuzha! 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 the Provincial Superior and all the Brothers of the Province of Yercaud, in this hour of grief and loss, and assure you of our sincere prayers for the repose of the soul of our beloved brother. I can imagine how deeply plunged in sorrow the whole Province must be as this tragedy takes place at a time when the whole Province was geared up to have the Jubilee Celebrations of our beloved diamond and golden Jubilarians!

I take this opportunity to convey my deepest sympathies to all the members of Bro. Jose Kannampuzha' bereaved family, and to all his students, colleagues, friends and well wishers. 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. Jose and the assurance that we have another intercessor in heaven now, comfort us now and in the days ahead.

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 departed Brother Jose Kannampuzha rest in peace!

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kallarackal', with a horizontal line underneath.

Bro. John Kallarackal, SG
SUPERIOR GENERAL