



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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BK 75

September 6, 2021

**Committed to the Mission...
Through Simplicity of Life...
Permeated with Fervent Zeal...
I turn to you Lord for Eternal Rest...**

**Rev. Fr Varghese Puthuparambil MSFS
1948-2021**

My dear Confreres, the painful reality of death is still knocking at the door. I am unable to explain the sorrow it brings along, although it sounds too human. **Rev Fr Varghese Puthuparambil MSFS** has completed the earthly sojourn and has left us for the eternal reward. His death naturally brings a vacuum that no one else can fill in. His uniqueness as a silent person with a true love for Mission can never be undermined. Above all, what endeared me to him in recent times is the joyful acceptance of God's will in suffering and the willingness to go about with his treatment as discerned by his Superiors. **May God be compassionate to him and grant him eternal rest.**

To be true, Fr Varghese did not always enjoy good health. In the course of his constant commitment to the ministries entrusted to him, matters concerning his health became perhaps secondary. As the list of his appointments as Priest would prove he worked mostly in the remote missions of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. After the South-West India Province was erected he worked in different parishes of various dioceses in Kerala, both Latin and Syro-Malabar rites. In the course of time, he became highly diabetic. During the last five years of his life, he was very much affected by diabetes and eye diseases. He was twice operated on the eye for poor eyesight. The last couple of years had been very difficult as he began to lose his eyesight due to high diabetes. Requesting the Bishop to relieve him from the office as the Parish Priest, I appointed him to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor as a member of the Community for treatment and rest. Although well-taken care of by the Staff of SFS Seminary Ettumanoor gradually Fr Varghese lost his eyesight totally and needed the support of a helper till his last day. As I am informed by the Confreres in SFS Seminary since two days Fr Varghese was very weak. He was given all the assistance and support. He was communicating with everyone. But from September 5, 2021 his health conditions deteriorated drastically and he was immediately rushed to Caritas Hospital where the doctors declared him dead due to Cardiac arrest. **Rest in Peace dear Fr Varghese Puthuparambil.**

Rev. Fr Varghese Puthuparambil, son of Ephrem and Annamma, was born on August 1, 1948 at Cheruvally, Kottayam in the Diocese of Kanjirappally, Kerala. Having completed the Pre-degree Course (PDC) in the year 1964, he joined Mount Mary Seminary, Arumanoor. He completed his bachelor's in Philosophy in the year 1969 at St John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. He made his first profession on May 04, 1970 at Salesianum, Vishakhapatnam. He was a regent from 1970 to 1971 at Philip Nagar and Ananthapur. He completed the Theological Studies in the year 1974 at St John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad and made the Final Commitment on May 04, 1974 at Ettumanoor, Kerala. He was ordained a priest on December 28, 1974 at St Ephrem's Church, Chirakadavu.

Appointments

- 1975-1976: Assistant Parish Priest at St Ephrem's Church, CHIRAKADAVU
- 1976-1983: Parish Priest at Catholic Mission, YERAGONDAPALAM
- 1983-1985: Procurator at Vinayalaya, BANGALORE
- 1985-1986: MSFS Community, ANANTAPUR
- 1986-1987: Parish Priest at R.C. Church, DORNALA
- 1987-1988: Parish Priest at Catholic Mission, YERAGONDAPALAM
- 1988-1989: Priest in-charge at Pastoral Sociology Institute (PSI), PARACHUR

- 1989-1990: Parish Priest at R.C. Mission, PALASA
- 1990-1993: Parish Priest at St Anne's Church, PATHANAPURAM
- 1993-1994: Parish Priest at Catholic Church, VAYALA
- 1994-1997: Parish Priest at Immaculate Conception Church, PAPPINISSERY
- 1997-2006: Parish Priest at St Joseph's Church, ULICKAL
- 2006-2013: Parish Priest at St Francis Xavier's Church, VATTAPPARA
- 2013: Parish Priest at Angel Valley Church, KANJIRAPPALLY
- 2013-2014: Member of the MSFS Community, ADOOR
- 2014-2017: Parish Priest at St Joseph's Church – PATHANAVILA, Neyyattinkara
- 2017-2020: Parish Priest at Christ the King Church, AMMANIMALA, Neyyattinkara
- 2020-2021: Community member at SFS Seminary, ETTUMANOOR

My dear Confreres, every person is so unique that we will encounter something deep in each one. My association with Fr Varghese was one of cordial relationship and mutual sharing. The respect and care with which he befriended his Superiors is a learning curve in my life. He was a true missionary, who always did his human best to attend to the needs of the people who were entrusted to his care. The most revealing aspect of his person is the manner in which he accepted his sickness with a true spirit of surrender and hope. Till the end of his life, he thanked the Confreres, especially our Fathers in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. **My dear Confreres**, let us learn from this simple Missionary something for our own lives too. May the radiance of Christ that Fr Varghese allowed to permeate him inspire us to live true to our vocation.

My dear Confreres, the funeral rites of Rev Fr Varghese Puthuparambil will take place on September 7, 2021 in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. **The Archbishop of Kottayam, Most Rev Mathew Moolekat** will preside over the funeral rites. Following the Covid-19 protocols, the number of participants will be restricted. At the same time, the link for the live streaming of the whole ceremony shall be shared with you in due time. I request all of you **to celebrate a Holy Eucharist for the departed Confrere and pray for the repose of his soul. MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST.**

SALESIAN THOUGHT

"Oh, Eternal Love! My soul requires you and chooses you eternally. Oh, to love or to die; or to die or to love."



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial