REV. FR. JOSE PALATHARA CMI
(1941-2015)

“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race and have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7).

Rev. Fr. Jose Palathara CMI (74), a member of CMI Nirmal Province, Jagdalpur remained true to these words of St. Paul till his death on Saturday, 29th August 8.30 pm. On this day he received the clarion call of the Lord to receive the final reward for his faithfulness. During the last 10 years he was suffering from multiple myeloma –bone marrow cancer- and had a really difficult time for him.

Even after the medical science gave up having made all possible attempts, Fr. Jose went ahead proving that a deep faith, strong will and a positive outlook to life can work miracles. He was really grateful to God for all the years, months and weeks that he got as gift and also to the saintly intercession and intervention of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara. Out of this gratitude he made use of every chance to reach out to the people and to be among his loved ones even without confining to the boundaries set by his serious sickness. He was active even till the last day and last moment as he was admitted in Caritas hospital on Saturday when the call of the Lord reached him.

Fr. Jose was born on 1st March 1941 at Changanacherry. His parents were the late Mr. Philip and Mrs. Mary of Palathara family. He joined the CMI Congregation on 3rd June 1956 and had his initial formation of priesthood at Mannamam and in Mutholy. He had his novitiate at Sacred Heart Monastery Chethipuzha and made his first profession on 16th May 1960. He made his final commitment on 16th May 1962. He had his graduation in B. Tec. Engineering Civil and Post Graduation (P.G. Diploma in Health Care Administration) in Bangalore. He had his Philosophy (1960-1963) and Theology (1967-1971) at Dharmaram College, Bangalore. He was ordained on 18th May 1970.

After his ordination he rendered his service as new priest at Deepika, Kottayam. When the Jagdalpur mission was entrusted to the undivided St. Joseph’s Province in 1972 he joined Jagdalpur in 1974. As a trained engineer many of the houses in Jagdalpur diocese and province were planned and designed by Fr. Jose Palathara. The present St. Joseph’s Cathedral, the Nirmal Vidyalaya and the MPM Hospital (Mar Paulinus Memorial) in Jagdalpur are a few among many buildings planned by him.

He served the Nirmal Province as Aspirants’ Rector at Suman Ashram Palligaon and later the Provincial Administration first as Councillor for Social Work and then for a second term as Vicar Provincial and Councillor for Finance. During this time the first extension work of the present Provincial House was made.

“तुम ऐसा न चाहो कि लोग तुमसे खोफ खायें बल्कि ऐसा चाहो कि तुमसे प्यार करें-
From 1990 to 1996 he rendered his valuable service at Dharmaram College Bangalore and DVK as finance administrator. During this time he designed the St. Thomas Forane Church at Bangalore and some of the faculty buildings in the DVK campus.

After his services at Bangalore Fr. Jose was appointed as director of MPM Hospital at Aghanpur, Jagdalpur. He made significant contribution to lay foundation for a memorial for the first bishop of Jagdalpur – a place where we provide quality treatment for the poor tribals and people of Bastar. After a committed service of five years he left for the States for Pastoral work in Texas and Louisiana. During his stay there diagnose of bone marrow cancer was made. He accepted gracefully and underwent all the possible treatments available for the sickness. He himself made thorough study of his sickness and never hesitated to tell about it to others. As it was clear for him that there was not much be done for his fatal illness, with the permission of his superiors he returned to India and was in Nirmal Ashram Thellakom taking rest and continuing his treatment at Caritas Hospital.

Fr. Jose made valuable contributions to the mission Jagdalpur, to the province and to the congregation at various levels and in different capacities. He was committed to the mission and assignment that was entrusted to him. He maintained contact with the people whether it is in the family circle or in the congregation and did visit them whenever possible even in the midst of his serious sickness. He fostered a special devotion to St. Chavara.

Now the time has come to say adieu as we prepare to lay him to eternal rest on Thursday, 3rd of September at Sacred Heart CMI Monastery Cemetery at 2.30 pm. Let us remember Fr. Jose Palathara, one of our Nirmal Family members, with gratitude for his valuable services and presence that enriched our province. I do take this opportunity to thank the Palathara family for the gift of Fr. Jose to the CMI Congregation and to Nirmal province in particular.

I also take this opportunity to thank very Rev. Fr. Sojan Madathil CMI, Provincial St. Joseph’s Province Trivandrum and Rev. Fr. Paul Thamarassery CMI, Prior and Community of Sacred Heart Monastery Chethipuzha for the generous and committed service offered to make arrangements for the funeral at Chethipuzha. I do also thank Fr. Baby Mangattuthazhath CMI, Superior, Fr. Anoop Kadiamkuttiiyil and Br. Prince Punnan of Nirmal Ashram, Thellakom as well as the previous superiors for taking care of Fr. Jose in his sick days and also for all the arrangements made for the last journey of Fr. Jose Palathara.

May the good Lord grant Fr. Jose Palathara eternal rest!

Fr. Josey Thamarassery CMI
Provincial Superior

Death Anniversary Commemoration

25th death anniversary commemoration of Late Bp. Paulinus Jeerakah CMI, the first Bishop of Jagdalpur, was held at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Jagdalpur on 6th August 2015. After the Divine Liturgy there was a symposium on Bp. Paulinus. The occasion was blessed with the presence of Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara, Archbishop of Nagpur; Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Augustine, Archbishop of Raipur Archdiocese; Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, Bishop Emeritus of Balasore; Bishop Ephrem Narikulam, Bishop of Chanda.

- प्रिय सहजातों तुम्हारे बीच संबन्ध ऐसा हो जैसे एकही घराने के हो, -
Bon Voyage

A send-off was given to Fr. Sunny Kaniyamnadackal and Fr. Sebastian Pulingappallil, Paraguay veteran missionaries of Nirmal Province Jagdalpur, on 22nd August 2015, at Provincial House. They will be leaving for Paraguay on 14th September 2015. Nirmal Province Jagdalpur wishes them God’s blessings for a successful ministry!

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Canonical Visitation and Renewal Programme

The province level renewal programme along with the canonical visitation of the Prior General is scheduled to be held from 03-07 November 2015 at Nirmal Sadan Provincial House, Jagdalpur. It begins at 7.00 pm on 3rd November 2015, with the orientation talk for canonical visit by Very Rev. Fr. Prior General. All the members of the province are requested to save the date and be present for the renewal programme without fail. The schedule of the Prior General’s visit and Renewal Programme is given below:

**November 2015**

03 Nov. 2015, 07.00 pm - Commencement of Canonical Visit (With Ramsa)
04 Nov., 09.00 am - Personal Interviews
06.00 pm – Commencement of Renewal Programme (With Adoration)
05 Nov. to 06 Nov. – Renewal Programme
07 Nov., 09.00 am – Province Gathering
02.30 pm – GCPC Meeting
07.00 pm – Conclusion of Canonical Visitation

**NB:** Members of the Province are welcome to meet Fr. Prior General or any of the General Councillors after fixing a time in consultation with Fr. Provincial.

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New Assignment

Fr. George Vadakkinezhath CMI has taken charge as the Parish Priest of St. Peter and Paul, Bissingen, Germany on 1st September 2015.
Fr. James Karangattil CMI joined Nirmal Aram community at Naktisemra on 14th August 2015.
Fr. Thomas Srampickal CMI joined Suman Ashram community at Sangam, Metguda on 22nd August 2015.
Fr. Patrick Kaipuzhavakel CMI is back after his treatment at Nirmal Ashram Thellakom. He is appointed member of Nirmal Farm Nelasnar.

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Novitiate Entrance at Anudhavana Mission Novitiate

Nirmal Province is blessed with four postulants who will be officially commencing their canonical novitiate along with other 19 Postulants from the North Indian Provinces on 8th September 2015 at Anudhavana Mission Novitiate, Mancherial. Prayerful wishes to all the Postulants!
Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony

Lamp Lighting and Oath Taking Ceremony of the 1st and 2nd batch of B.Sc. Nursing students and 2nd batch of A.N.M students were held on 7th August 2015, at Christ College of Nursing, Palligaon. Students performed beautiful and excellent cultural programmes. Congratulations to Fr. James Tharakan CMI, the Director, Mrs. Shereysi R. Sing, the Principal, staff and students of the college!

Youth Orientation Programme

A one day youth orientation programme was organized for the youth of Dantewada Parish at Karli from 8 to 9 August 2015. Twenty five youth participated in the seminar and Mr. Nirmal Minj, District and Sessions Judge of Dantewada, was the resource person. He spoke on the importance of the goals in one’s life and the ways and means to achieve it. Congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Mavunkel, the Parish Priest, Brs. Insteen and Shibin from Samanvaya Kolchoor for conducting the youth orientation programme!

Province Level Chavara Year Conclusion

Chavara Year was officially concluded on Wednesday, 12th August 2015, at Nirmal Sadan Provincial House, Jagdalpur. It began with a prayer dance staged by the students of Christ College of Nursing. On this beautiful occasion, talks on St. Chavara and St. Euphrasia were delivered by Fr. James Thayyil CMI of Rajkot Province and Sr. Sheeba CMC. Different programmes were staged by candidates of CMI and CMC Congregations. The occasion was blessed with the presence of our Bp. Joseph Kollampamballpam, Sr. Superior CMC and major superiors of different congregations, Fathers, Sisters, candidates. Thanks to all for their presence!

RIP

Fr. Emmanuel Thelly CMI (91) Paternal Uncle of Fr. Mathew Thelly CMI, was called to eternal reward on Tuesday, 25th August 2015. Heartfelt condolences and prayers to the bereaved family and to Fr. Mathew Thelly!