

Bishop's House
283, Roorkee Road
Meerut Cantt. – 250 001
Date: July 14, 2015

Rev. Fr. Jacob Lobo – R.I.P.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). These words of St. Paul have come true in Rev. Fr. Jacob Lobo as he slept in the Lord.

It was almost two years passed now that Fr. Jacob Lobo was diagnosed having cancer of ***Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma***. As a result he was given the treatment from **Sir Gangaram Hospital** one of the best hospitals in New Delhi. He responded to the initial round of Chemotherapy quite well and he was happy with the healing process and we all thought that he was really out of danger now. However, the best of treatment could not kill the dreaded sickness that he was suffering from. The latest report from Sir Gangaram Hospital shows that it is ***Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Relapse) with Liver and skeletal lesion*** and the treatment 3rd Cycle 3rd Line of Chemotherapy continued. However, the recent treatments did not give him much comfort or hope rather he suffered unbearable pain. Yet because of his strong enduring capacity he could accept the pain cheerfully and was offering it for the church, the mystical body of Christ. Imitating Jesus his master he lived his life of priesthood identifying it with the victimhood of Christ. In spite of all his bodily ailments he was active in the ministry till June 16, 2015. Since his condition was deteriorating and he needed intense medical care, he was brought to St. Luke's Parish, Saket on June 17, 2015.

On July 2, 2015 he went for his Chemo in Gangaram and returned to Saket on July 4, 2015. Since then he was feeling weaker as a result of his very poor H.B. and Platelet count. On 13th night he felt uneasiness and breathlessness. His nephew Oliver Lobo was beside him. On 14th morning he was shifted to St. Luke's Hospital ICU. He was fully conscious and asked for the anointing of the Sick which was administered immediately. And at about 10.45 a.m. he peacefully breathed his last. He was very well prepared and his was a very holy and good death.

Fr. Jacob Lobo was born on July 6, 1963 in Nirkan, Mangalore to Late Mr. Paul Lobo and Mrs. Lily Lobo. He was the third among eight children. On the 7th day of his birth he was baptized in St. Thomas Church, Nirkan. In 1979 he joined St. John's minor seminary Sardhana. He did his Philosophical and Theological studies from St. Charles' Seminary, Nagpur. On April 18, 1989 he was ordained a priest for the diocese of Meerut by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Ignatius Menezes of Ajmeer-Jaipur in St. Thomas Church, Nirkan, Mangalore.

He served as asst. priest in St. Joseph's Cathedral Church Meerut from 1989 to 1993; Holy Family Church Isanagar from 1993 to 1996; St. Francis Church Dehra Dun from 1996 to 1997; St. Anthony's Church Moradabad from 1997 to 1998. He served as parish priest in St. Antony's Church Paduapuram from 1998 to 2004 where he built the beautiful church; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Baghu from 2004 to 2010; and finally in St. Teresa's Church Modinagar from 2010 to June 2015.

He also served efficiently the diocese as **Diocesan Director for Youth** and **Regional Coordinator of Holy Childhood**; and the region as **Regional Youth Director**. While in Baghu seeing his ecumenical relationship in Baraut area, he was appointed as the **Diocesan Director for Dialogue and Ecumenism**. Besides, he was a very much sought after retreat preacher, a powerful instrument in the hands of Our Lord. He was also a well talented resource person who could conduct motivational and inspiring seminars for teachers, students and youth. He was very social, affectionate in relationship and always smiling and cheerful even in moments of terrible pain. Though from the very beginning he did not enjoy a very good health he did not allow his sickness to be an obstacle in his priestly life and commitment. He enjoyed and cherished his priesthood. At the completion of the 10 year of his priesthood he had this to say at the gathering in the St. Charles' Seminary, Nagpur "I am fully satisfied as a priest. Prayer, fasting and penance are my strength."

May his soul rest in peace and may he intercede for us from heaven.

+Francis Kalist
Bishop of Meerut