

EULOGY - FR. PETER RAWAT


With great pain and sorrow and at the same time trusting in the power of Jesus, the Risen Lord who alone claims, "I am the Resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live" (John 11:25), I take strength to write these a few lines about Fr. Peter Rawat who breathed his last at 4.30 P.M. on April 28, 2021, as we lost another young priest Fr. Sanjay Francis exactly a week before on April 20, due to Covid-19. For the past couple of years Fr. Peter Rawat has not been keeping good health and that was the reason that he preferred to continue in Muzaffarnagar parish, a small parish, though he completed his term in 2020. On April 16, Fr. Mukesh Rawat and Fr. Martin Rawat, the brother of Fr. Peter Rawat, brought him to St. Luke's Hospital, Saket with the complaint of fever and breathing difficulty. In Saket our doctors, seeing his condition advised to take him to Holy Family Hospital, Delhi. On 17th April he was taken to Holy Family Hospital. Though there was no bed available Fr. George, the director of Holy Family Hospital made arrangements and got him admitted. Since his oxygen saturation was below 50 he was placed on ventilator support. With the good treatment he made improvement and after a couple of days he was weaned out of the ventilator and shifted to Semi ICU. But his oxygen saturation was not picking up and so on April 23, he was again shifted back to ICU and supported with 'Bipap'. His condition further began to deteriorate and again he needed ventilator support. On April 26th, night he was once again placed on ventilator support. On April 28th, at about 2 P.M. when I enquired about Fr. Peter to Mrs. Jeena, the Nursing Superintendent, she informed me that he is very critical. I requested her to make arrangements for administering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Fr. Sherin, the Assistant Director anointed Fr. Peter Rawat. At 4.30 P.M. the doctor from the ICU called me to tell me that Fr. Peter Rawat breathed his last.

Fr. Peter Rawat was born on October 10, 1949 at Kanakheri village in Ajmer, as the first child to Late Mr. Gordan S. Rawat and Mrs. Anna Maria Bholi Rawat. He has four brothers and one sister. The youngest child Fr. Martin Rawat followed his eldest brother and became a priest for the Diocese of Meerut. Fr. Peter Rawat was baptized on August 15, 1969 at St. Martin's Church, Bhawanikhera. He is a Rajput convert and being the only Catholic in the family had to undergo lots of problems, hardships and difficulties from his community to keep up his newly embraced faith. He persevered due to his strong faith in the Lord and eventually decided to join the seminary to become a priest. In 1972 after 3 years of his baptism he joined St. John's Minor Seminary to become a priest for Meerut diocese. He studied both Philosophy and Theology in St. Albert College, Ranchi. Having completed his formation, he was ordained a priest on December 29, 1981 by His Lordship Rt. Rev, Patrick Nair, as the first priest from the Rawat community. After his ordination he was appointed as assistant in St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish, Meerut for a year. From there he was transferred to St. John's Minor Seminary as Vice-Rector where he served for two years. From there he was transferred to serve as an assistant in St. Anthony's Church, Moradabad for two years. After that for nine years he served in Bishop's House, Meerut as Secretary. From there he was transferred to Holy Rosary Church, Rataul. After five years of his service in Rataul, he was transferred to St. Agnes' Church, Kazikhera

where he served for four years. His next appointment was in Sacred Heart Church, Mussoorie where he served for six years. It is at that time he took the initiative and got renovated St. Peter's Church, Landour, Mussoorie which was neglected over seventy years. Then he was transferred to Holy Family Church, Isanagar. After four years of his service in Isanagar, due to his poor health on request he was sent to the small parish, Good Shepherd Church, Muzaffarnagar where he rendered his service till he breathed his last.

Fr. Peter Rawat was a person of deep faith and strong conviction. He was a Rajput convert. Once he encountered Jesus he never looked back. I admire his perseverance in this new found faith in spite of the opposition, hardships he faced from his people and the Rawat community. After becoming a priest he baptised his younger brother Martin Rawat who is a priest now for the Diocese of Meerut. In this way he managed to bring his family to faith. He was kind hearted and compassionate to the poor. He had a pastoral heart. We, the priests, religious and the faithful of the Diocese of Meerut are in grief at the loss of Fr. Peter Rawat due to Covid-19 but we gained him in heaven. May he enjoy the eternal bliss in heaven.

I take this opportunity to thank the doctors, nurses of both St. Luke's Hospital, Saket and the Holy Family Hospital, Delhi. My special thanks to Fr. George, the director and the assistant directors Fr. Sherin & Fr. Arockiadas of Holy Family Hospital for being always ready and willing to help us with immediate care and attention. May Jesus bless them and their selfless service.



+Francis Kalist
Bishop of Meerut