

Eulogy – Rev. Fr. Joseph Kalathil

Fr. Joseph Kalathil after a prolonged illness went for his eternal reward on January 10, 2016 at 4.00 a.m. Since 2012 he was at his native place Vaikom looked after by his relatives. However, from last a few months it was observed that his health was deteriorating day by day. His devoted relatives took a good care of him and given him the best medical care possible. When he became very ill they took him to Mercy Hospital, Pothy, Thalayolaparambu, Kerala for a better treatment and got him admitted on January 5, 2016. On hearing the seriousness of his condition I visited him at the hospital on January 8, 2016. He was conscious but unable to speak. His condition was rather serious. When I spoke he recognized me but he was not able to talk. I could feel from his eye contact and mouth expression that he was struggling to speak. He breathed his last this early morning at 4.00 a.m.

Fr. Joseph Kalathil was born on September 9, 1933 at Udayanapuram, Vaikom, Kerala. His parents were Late Mr. Varkey Kalathilparambil and Late Mrs. Alikutty. He was the only son of his parents. After his elementary schooling he joined St. John's Minor Seminary, Sardhana in 1954. He completed his Philosophy and Theology from St. Albert College, Ranchi where he was ordained a priest for Meerut diocese on June 8, 1963 by His Grace Most Rev. Pius Kerketta, Archbishop of Ranchi. His first appoint was in Dehra Dun parish where he served as an Assistant Priest from 1964 to 1966. In 1966 he was appointed Parish Priest of Bhikanpur where he served two years. From 1969 to 1972 he was in Lalyana Parish as Parish Priest. From there he was transferred to Holy Family Church, Jwalapur where he served as Parish Priest and Manager till 1982. Then he was sent to Muzaffarnagar Parish till 1989 as Parish Priest. He was in Holy Cross Church, Laksar as Parish Priest and Manager from 1989 to 1991. From 1991 he stayed in Dehra Dun Parish as resident priest without any specific assignment. In 2006 he went home for his treatment and came back to the diocese in 2009 and stayed in Bishop's House. Again in 2012 he was taken ill and his relatives came and took him to Kerala for treatment as per his wish. From that time onwards he was looked after by his cousin brother and his family. There he celebrated his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee on June 8, 2013. On behalf of the diocese I thank the relatives of Fr. Joseph Kalathil for taking care of him till date.

Fr. Joseph Kalathil was a very frank person. He never kept anything in his mind. He was sincere to speak out his mind always. He was affectionate and humorous. He was faithful to his daily Eucharist and the prayers of the Church. Even when he was not well he used to offer Holy Eucharist in his room which he continued to do even at his home in Udayanapuram. He received the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the hospital. His funeral was conducted in Udayanapuram Parish Church on June 12, 2016 at 10 a.m. His mortal remains are buried in the parish cemetery. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

+Francis Kalist
Bishop of Meerut