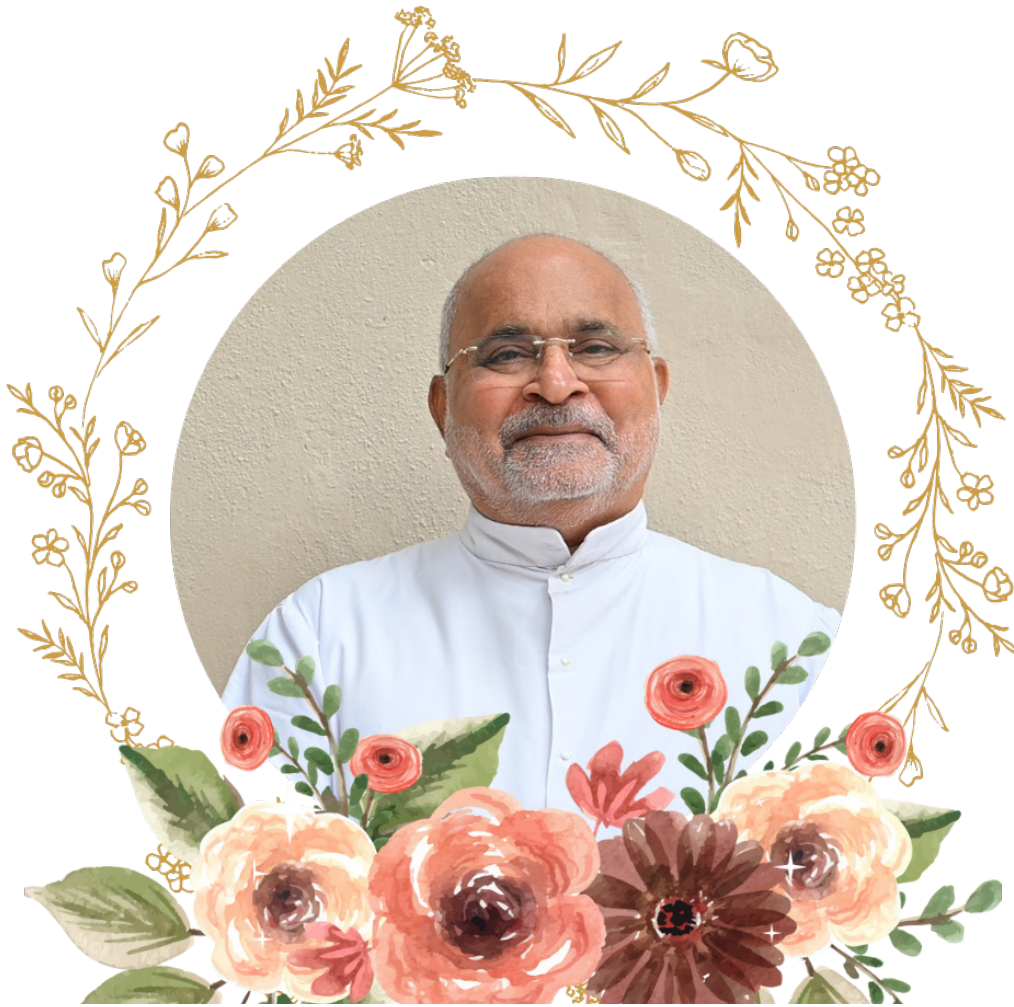


LEGACY ALIVE



**MEMOIR ON REV. FR. SEBASTIAN
THUNDATHIL CST**



Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST (1946-2025)

“Legacy Alive” reflects the enduring presence of Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST in the hearts of those he served. His life as a pastor, formator, and leader was not just a chapter in history but a seed that continues to bear fruit. Though he has completed his earthly journey, the values he lived by—faith, humility, guidance, and compassion—remain alive in his community, in the seminarians he formed, and in the faithful he nurtured. His legacy is not confined to memory; it is alive in action, inspiration, and the path he has shown to countless others.



Legacy Alive

റവ. ഫാ. സബാസ്മുന്ദ്യൻ തുണ്ടത്തിൽ സി. എസ്. ടി.
സ്മരണിക

*I never wanted to go away,
and the hard part now
is leaving you all.
I'm not afraid, but it seems as if
I should be homesick
for you even in heaven.*

Patron

Rev. Fr. Sabu Kandamkettiyil CST

Chief Editors

Rev. Fr. Joby Mamalassery CST

Editor, Cover Page, Design and Lay Out

Fr. Joseph Chavaranal CST



Pushpatarang
MEDIA

Little Flower Provincial House, Gorakhpur
(For Private Circulation Only)



Obituary of Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST (1946–2025)

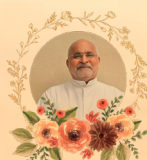
“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day” (2 Timothy 4:7)

The life of Fr. Sebastian was a beautiful journey of faith, dedication, and sacrifice. To recall him is to remember a man who nurtured God’s call with perseverance and bore abundant fruit through his ministry. His story is not just that of a single priest, but evidence of God’s grace working through a heart that sought only to serve.

Early Life and Vocation

Fr. Sebastian was born on 10 January 1946 in Thundathil family of Thomas and Mariyam at Moolamattam, the sixth among ten children. Drawn to God’s service from young age, he joined the seminary at Mookkannur on 8 June 1964. He entered the novitiate on 16 May 1965, made his first profession on 17 May 1966, and his perpetual profession on 16 May 1970.

He pursued philosophy at Little Flower Seminary, Aluva from 1967 to 70, and theology at the St. Joseph’s Pontifical Seminary, Aluva from 1970 to 74. On 23 December 1973, he was ordained priest, embracing a vocation that would define the rest of his life. His first ministry was as Superior of Marygiri Ashram, Kootumugham, Kannur, Kerala, but God soon prepared him for a greater mission far from home.



Missionary Zeal in Gorakhpur and Nepal

In 1975, Fr. Sebastian was sent to the CST Mission in Gorakhpur. Immersing himself in this new land and culture, he lived among the people with simplicity and love. His missionary presence touched many lives, wherever he was appointed. As Assistant Superior of Sachidananda Mission, Captainganj from 1975–77, Priest-in-charge of Masih Sevashram Mission, Nichlaul from 1977–79, Priest-in-charge of St. Thomas Mission, Dumriaganj in 1979 for a couple of months, Priest-in-charge of Basti Mission from 1982–88, and later as the Priest-in-charge of Bhairahawa Catholic Mission, Nepal from 2010–15, and Superior, Sushma Pushpa Ashram, Shehari, Nepal from 2015–2020.



He was not only a pastor but also a builder of communities. His compassion and closeness to people won their hearts. His missionary zeal extended to education as well: as Principal of St. Joseph's School, Civil Lines twice from 1988–91 and 2003–2006, and as Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church and St. Joseph's Cathedral Church Gorakhpur, he nurtured faith and values in younger generations.

Leadership and Administrative Service

Recognized for his responsibility and fairness, Fr. Sebastian was entrusted with several leadership roles. He served as Chancellor and Procurator of the Diocese of Gorakhpur from 1988–91 and 2000–2003, Mission Superior of the CST Mission in Gorakhpur from 1979–82, Provincial Superior of Little Flower Province from 2006–2009, and Vicar Provincial of the Province from



2012–2015. He carried each responsibility with humility, seeing them as opportunities for service, not prestige.

A passionate formator, he served as Rector of the Minor Seminary at Charga-wan from 1998–2001 and of the Major Seminary at Aluva from 2009–2010. Many priests still recall him as a mentor who combined firmness with kindness and guided them with wisdom and compassion.

Scholar and Teacher

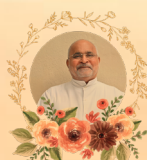
Fr. Sebastian's love for liturgy inspired him to go for further studies. He completed his Master's in Liturgy from 1991 to 1993 at Paurastya Vidya Peetham, Kottayam, Kerala, and continued research in Regensburg in Germany, and in Jerusalem. In 1997, he earned a Doctorate in Oriental Liturgy. His scholarly work was never for personal acclaim but to deepen the Church's liturgical life. He shared his knowledge generously, enriching the faith of many.



Later Years and Witness of Simplicity

Fr. Sebastian had been facing heart-related issues from 2020 onwards while serving in Nepal, and a pacemaker was implanted to regulate his heartbeat. From then onwards he was under medication and rest for heart-related problems and for diabetes.

Recently, on 16 August 2025, he was admitted to Fatima Hospital, Gorakhpur, with complaints of cold and cough. Following a series of medical examinations, variations were detected in his ECG, indicating serious cardiac complications and infections. Considering the gravity of the findings, he was immediately shifted to the Intensive Coronary Care Unit (ICCU) for close monitoring and specialized treatment.



Despite continuous medical attention, his health condition deteriorated. On 25 August, he developed acute kidney failure, which made it necessary to begin dialysis. Sadly, his condition further worsened, leading to multiple organ failure. To sustain his vital functions, doctors had to place him on advanced life-support systems, where he remained under intensive medical supervision until his final moments. On 30 August 2025 at 5.15 in the morning Fr. Sebastian breathed his last.

As we bid him farewell, we do so with deep gratitude for his life, his priesthood, and the many ways he touched us. The words of St. Paul resonate deeply in his journey, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” His race is complete, his mission fulfilled, his faith kept till the end.

Dear Fr. Sebastian, until now we have walked together, sharing joys and happiness, struggles and difficulties. Today, as you journey beyond our sight, we entrust you to the loving care of God. From now on, the angels will accompany you into eternal peace and joy. We will continue to pray until you hear the words: “Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Master.”

Eternal rest grant to him O Lord; and let perpetual light shine on him.

Fr. Sabu Kandamkettiyl CST Provincial Superior



In Loving Memory of Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST

With profound love and deep gratitude, I remember Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST, who was called to his eternal reward on 30 August 2025. Fr. Sebastian was a devoted pastor, a committed educator, and a missionary whose life was a testimony to joy, faith, and unwavering dedication.

Fr. Sebastian served the Diocese of Gorakhpur with remarkable zeal and devotion. As Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Cathedral, he nurtured the spiritual lives of all the faithful with love and pastoral sensitivity.



He guided the young minds and hearts of students as Principal of St. Joseph's Primary School, Civil Lines, fostering not only academic excellence but also the character of the children. In his administrative roles as Chancellor and Procurator of the Eparchy, he demonstrated integrity, prudence, and a deep commitment. He extended wholehearted collaboration in the missionary activities of the eparchy from the time of its inception in 1984.

As a member of Little Flower Province of the Little Flower Congregation (CST Fathers), Fr. Sebastian served faithfully in various





capacities, including Provincial and Rector of the Little Flower Major Seminary, shaping future priests with care, encouragement, and spiritual guidance. His missionary zeal was evident in his service in Nepal, where he brought the light of the Gospel with dedication, and heartfelt compassion.

I knew Fr. Sebastian during my minor seminary days at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Gorakhpur. I remember his jovial nature, his ready smile, and his ability to lift the spirits of everyone around him. He had a deep sense of the liturgical identity of the Syro-Malabar rite, and never compromised his convictions in following the same. His life reflected the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

As we mourn his departure, we also celebrate the gift of his life, a life of service, prayer, and missionary zeal. He is an inspiration to all the missionaries to serve Christ with joy, to love the people with compassion, and to live in faithfulness to our vocation. And may the Lord whom he served so faithfully now welcome him into the eternal joy of His presence, with these words; "well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your master." (Mathew 25:23). May his soul rest in peaceful communion with God, and may his memory continue to inspire generations to come.

Mar Mathew Nellikkunnel CST
Bishop, Eparchy of Gorakhpur



Father Sebastian Thundathil CST

I was quite shocked by the sad news of the sudden demise of my batchmate Fr. Sebastin Thundathil CST. I knew him for over 56 years. My personal impressions about his life and ministry as a religious priest and missionary could be summarised as follows.

As a human being Fr. Sebastian was a kind and compassionate person, who would help the poor and needy, without expecting anything in return. By nature, he was seen as a very serious and strict person. But those who knew him close-



ly, would testify that he was a kind-hearted person. “You also go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37), the legacy of Very Rev. Fr. Basilus Panatt CST the founder of the Little Flower Congregation, whom Fr. Sebastian knew personally, was the motivating force that led him throughout his life.

Fr. Sebastian was leading a life of simplicity and hard work understanding the meaning of the vow of poverty. He was never seen crazy for any kind of luxury or modern gadgets. He was content with the minimum requirements for his personal life. He would never hunt after titles or positions of authority.

He was a man of firm convictions who would never make any compromise when it was a matter of basic principles. As far as I know, he was always impartial in his judgements and had not entertained favouritism for his own advantage or that of others. Because of such a stand, he may have had to experience misunderstandings and rejection. Having been privileged to have received Priestly formation in a time of reforms, renewal and updating in the life and mission of the Catholic Church, after the historic event of the II Vatican council, Fr. Sebastian was enthusiastic about the changes that were taking place in the life and ministry of priest and



religious, particularly in the church's approach towards the services to humanity in the secular world.

Shortly after his priestly ordination, he was given the mission to go to the CST North Indian Mission in Varanasi- Gorakhpur. He became a down-to-earth missionary, learning Hindi and also the local dialect Bhojpuri. He greatly contributed to develop the Little Flower Mission Gorakhpur,

sion and Ashram in Shehari, Nepal is a clear proof of his pioneering missionary zeal even at an advanced age.

After having spent a good number of years of his Priestly life as a critic of traditionalism in the Church with regard to the liturgical practices and other ecclesiastical structures, he took interest for higher studies in Oriental Theology and Liturgy. That step, in fact transformed Fr. Sebastian into a pro-



which became later the Diocese of Gorakhpur in 1984, and The Little Flower Region, which is now developed into the Little Flower Province of the CST Congregation. His personal initiative to venture into the establishment of a new rural mis-

son of Oriental Liturgical Traditions and Theology.

His services in the diocese of Gorakhpur in various capacities, as chancellor, procurator and principal of the school are remembered with deep gratitude. His services were always people-ori-

ented. His innate sense of humour and gentleness attracted many to the circle of his friends. Fr. Sebastian was above all a deeply committed priest and religious who lived his consecration with profound faith in God and anchored in the Gospel values of unselfish love, justice, truth, and generosity.

I feel quite sad about the unexpected passing away of this precious confrere and friend whom I admire for his highly inspiring missionary zeal, pastoral charity and unselfish other- orientedness. May the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ be fulfilled for our departed brother priest: “Whatsoever you did to the least of my brothers, you did unto me. Now enter into the home of my Father.” May he rest in peace! May he continue to inspire us and intercede for us before the Lord.

Mar Thomas Thuruthimattam CST
Bishop Emeritus, Eparchy of Gorakhpur





Brother Priests bid farewell to Fr. Sebastian

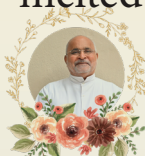


Whispers from Beneath the Neem Tree



As I sit beneath the Neem Tree in the campus of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Civil Lines Gorakhpur, where Fr. Sebastian Thundathil used to sit during his free time, I feel as though time itself bends and folds around me. The shade that now cools my body is the same shade that once comforted him, the winds that stir its leaves are echoes of the very breezes that whispered to him during his ministry in the campus. In this quiet moment, I do not merely see a tree—but share space with his memory, his thoughts, his spirit, and his love for the souls.

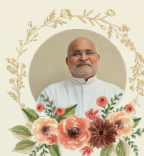
Among the many places that held significance for him, the platform around the neem tree was special. For him, it was more than a seat of rest—it was a symbol of comfort and community. Here, formal distance dissolved into informal interaction. Beneath the wide branches of this neem tree, he would sit offering his wise counsel, sharing heartfelt stories and delighting the listeners with his warm sense of humour. Under this protective canopy, barriers between senior and junior priests melted away, as all gathered around him



to listen. In the minds of those who knew him the tree and the priest became inseparable, both reflecting resilience, strength, and nourishment. As seminarians and young priests, we stood around him, absorbed not only in his words but also in the humorous anecdotes that he lovingly shared.

What made Fr. Sebastian Thundathil truly endearing was his remarkable ability to weave wisdom with light-heartedness. His gatherings under the neem tree were as much about laughter as about learning. He loved sharing jokes—simple, kind-hearted stories that brought smiles, eased worries, and nurtured a sense of community joy. His humour was never at someone's expense: it was a bridge that connected hearts and gently lifted the burdens of daily life. His laughter was not apart from his pastoral care but an extension of it, reminding everyone that faith is not only about solemnity but also about connection, and the celebration of life.

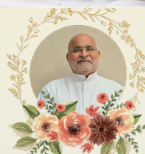
The neem tree became more than a physical landmark for the priests of the campus. It grew into a symbol of harmony in the campus. Its deep roots represented faith and tradition, while its wide-reaching branches stood for openness, fellowship, care, and protection. Today, it stands tall as a living monument to the legacy of Fr. Sebastian Thundathil.



From him we learn the power of simplicity and human connection. His life reveals that true leadership flows from genuine love, humility, and the ability to touch hearts through both seriousness and humour. His legacy inspires us to find strength in adversity, to share wisdom with warmth, and to never underestimate the healing power of a kind word or a shared smile. The neem tree still bears silent witness to countless stories of solace, encouragement, and celebration.

In gratitude, my heart will always carry the wisdom learned from Fr. Sebastian Thundathil, whose spirit sings among the neem tree's emerald rings. And may his memory continue to guide us always in wisdom, healing, compassion, and joy.

Fr. Sibi Joseph Cherusseril
Diocese of Gorakhpur



Unfading Memories of Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST, A Shepherd of Love and Simplicity



The 41st day memorial of our beloved Fr. Sebastian Thundathil invites us not only to pray for his soul but also to reflect with heartfelt gratitude on the life of a priest who touched countless hearts through his simplicity, generosity, and fatherly love. For me, his passing is deeply personal, as I was among the fortunate ones who journeyed closely with him both during my seminary formation and later in mission life.

Fr. Sebastian was my vocation promoter and then my rector during my first two years of formation. Those initial years, when every sem-

inarian struggles to adjust and dis- trip itself became a lesson in humility cover God's call more clearly, I found and generosity. I still remember viv- in him not just a superior but also a idly how, while everyone else was still guide, a friend, and above all, a fa- asleep, Fr. Sebastian would rise early therly presence. He combined disci- in the morning and begin serving food pline with affection, authority with for the seminarians. For him, travel was encouragement, and rules with gen- not just about reaching a destination uine compassion. Many of us who but about creating moments of joy, fra- passed through his hands felt that ternity, and care. He made those tiring he was shaping us not just as reli- journeys into experiences of communi- gious, but as men rooted in prayer ty and communion. His love was most and grounded in love. As seminar- evident when someone fell sick. In such ians, when we travelled together by moments, his presence resembled that train from Gorakhpur to Kerala, the of a parent. He was attentive, caring, and





deeply compassionate. He would not only provide for medicine and food but also spend time encouraging the sick person with his words, his smile, and his silent prayer. For us, the young seminarians, this left a lasting mark, as priest who embodied Christ's healing presence.

Later, Province gave me the opportunity to work with him in Chormara mission and then after in Narayangarh. These were not just assignments but moments when his true pastoral heart and missionary spirit unfolded before me. In those years, I saw the very same qualities that I had experienced as a



seminarian in formation years. His heart always beat for the people, especially the poor and the needy, and his entire life was an offering of service. Our community life in Nepal, especially during travels together, remains unforgettable. He had the ability to bring joy into ordinary moments, to create laughter even in challenging circum-

stances. Those memories of travelling, praying, eating, and working together continue to inspire me today, because they revealed a man whose priesthood was deeply rooted in love and simplicity.

One of the most striking qualities of Fr. Sebastian was his extraordinary hospitality. He had a unique gift of making every guest feel at home. No matter how late someone arrived, he would wait patiently to

welcome them and make sure they had enough to refresh. His joy was in serving others, especially at table. Many of us have fond memories of him personally arranging food for visitors, making sure no one left without taking care of. It was not duty for him; it was love in action.

Fr Roby Kizhakumkara CST
Mission Superior, Nepal

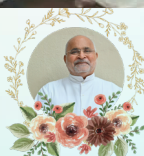


Life of Faith and Service: Remembering Fr. Sebastian

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished my race,
I have kept the faith” 2 Tim 4:7.

Fr. Sebastian was truly a remarkable person whose life was defined by commitment, courage, and a profound connection with the people he served. My association with him started following his visit to my home a couple of times during his visit to his own younger sister Thresiamma Teacher in my parish school. Our association continued when he returned from his higher studies in Vadavathoor. After his doctoral studies he emerged as a unique ‘Syrian encyclopedia of knowledge’, deeply rooted in Oriental liturgy and Syrian doctrines, yet always supporting his arguments and convictions with solid faith. His blend of deep scholarly knowledge and strong faith is a testament to his character and dedication.

As a missionary priest, he is remembered for his exceptional hospitality and the welcoming atmosphere he created during his period of service at St. Joseph’s Cathedral as parish priest, diocesan procurator, in our provincial house, in



He was a man who prioritised the charism of the congregation over his own positions or ambitions. He chose humility and obedience or maybe a silent protest over confrontation, demonstrating a profound love that transcended self-interests. His decision to just withdraw from the scene instead of engaging in a conflict to safeguard his rectorship was a poignant example of self-sacrifice. It implies he was more concerned with maintaining priestly dignity and avoiding scandal or division within the congregation than with asserting the correctness of his own dogmatic or liturgical stance.

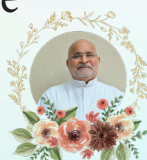


Fr. Sebastian always used to share his terrifying experience with him at the Raxaul mission in 2020, when he was there to replace me for a couple of weeks during my home holidays. While he was supervising the construction work suddenly a mason was trapped under foundation mud, and he was buried fully for 10 minutes under mud. Although by God's grace the mason was rescued, the incident caused intense anxiety and a scar of pain to Fr. Sebastian. 'I could not move

from my chair until the mason was rescued from the pit' he said.

Whenever I visited him from Raxaul, he used to recall that incident. The sense of loss and feeling of absence is palpable, especially when we come to the provincial house, and it's understandable that the vacuum created by his passing will take time to fill.

Fr Cherian Elavakunnel CST
Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nepal



Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST: His Love and Passion for Oriental Liturgy

The liturgy is the heart of the Church, the place where heaven touches earth and the faithful are nourished by the grace of Christ. For Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST, the liturgy was not merely a set of rituals but the living encounter with God and the vibrant celebration of faith. His life as a priest was marked by a profound love and passion for the liturgy, which shaped his ministry and inspired the communities he served.

Fr. Sebastian believed that the liturgy was the “source and summit” of Christian life, as taught by the Church, and he tried to make every celebration a moment of grace. The Eucharist was central to his priesthood; he prepared for it prayerfully, celebrated it with deep solemnity, and encouraged everyone to participate actively and meaningfully. His passion for liturgy was reflected



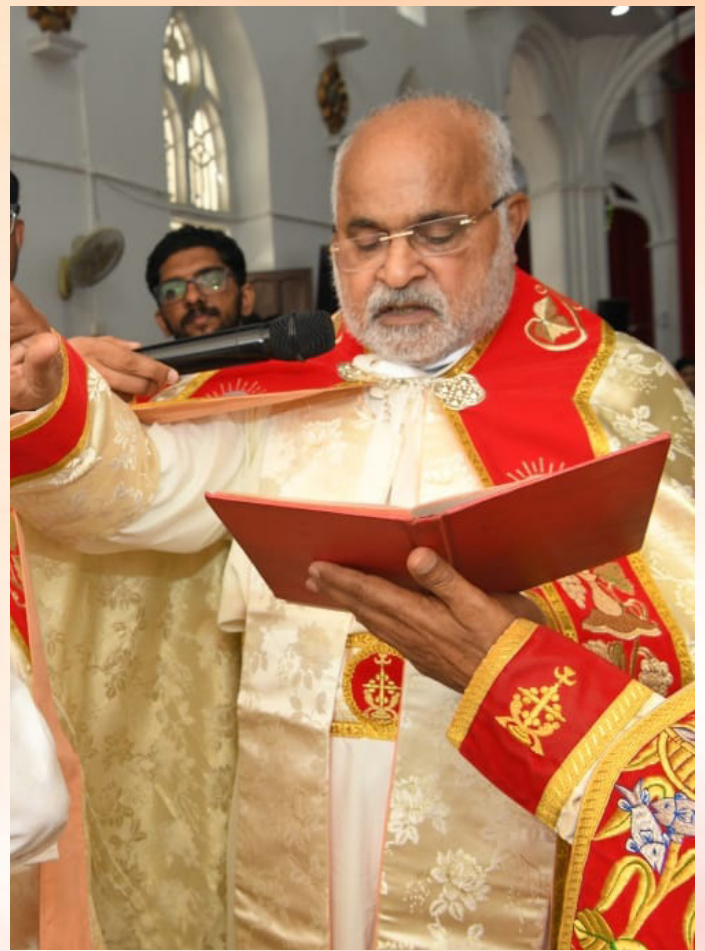
in the care he gave to every detail of the celebration. From the arrangement of the altar to the choice of hymns, from the proclamation of the Word to the gestures and silence within the Holy Mass, he sought to bring out the beauty and sanctity of worship. He was attentive to liturgical norms, yet he never reduced them to mere rules; rather, he understood them as pathways leading everyone into the mystery of God. His celebrations were marked by simplicity, dignity, and joy.

The love and passion for Oriental Liturgy made him dedicated to reviving and deepening the understanding of Oriental Liturgy within the Syro-Malabar Church and beyond. For this he travelled widely to study different Ori-



ental traditions to learn first-hand experience of their prayer life, rituals, and theological richness. He found his academic home at Paurastya Vidyapeeth, Vadavathoor, Kottayam, the leading institute for Oriental theology and liturgy in India. His research was not only an academic requirement for him, but also a pastoral need to identify the uniqueness of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Fr. Sebastian also had a special gift for preaching during the liturgy. His homilies were not lengthy discourses but heartfelt reflections rooted in Scripture and daily life. Because his words came from a prayerful heart, they resonated with people of all ages. Beyond the Holy Mass, he cherished the richness of the Church's liturgical seasons and devotions. Advent and Lent were times when he guided communities into deeper reflection and preparation. Feasts and solemnities were celebrated with a spirit of festivity that drew everyone closer to God and to one another. He encouraged choirs, altar servers, and lay ministers to take their roles seriously, reminding them that they were co-celebrants in making the liturgy meaningful.



In remembering Fr. Sebastian, we see a priest who lived and breathed the liturgy with passion. He leaves behind an enduring example that the liturgy is not performance but prayer, not ritual alone but encounter, not obligation but joy. His life reminds us that when the liturgy is celebrated with love, it has the power to transform individuals, families, and communities into true witnesses of Christ.

Fr. Sabu Kandamkettiyil CST
Little Flower Provincial House, Gorakhpur

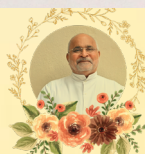


My Memories about Thundathilachan

“To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die.” – Thomas Campbell

I have had the opportunity to live and interact with Sebastian Achachan for the past four years. I first met him as a child when he visited my house along with my uncle, Fr. Francis Thekkumkattil CST. He stayed at our home, and I still have a vivid memory of my father and Fr. Sebastian engaged in conversation during the evening hours. He was a good friend of my father.

I first had the opportunity to live with him during my regency at Little Flower Provincial House, Chargawan, where I was serving as secretary to the Provincial. At that time, we also had the Minor Seminary at Chargawan. He was very strict about following the timetable, canonical prayers, meditation, and the Holy Mass. Very often, I could not attend community activities since I was working late into the night in the office with Fr. John Olickal, the then Provincial. Fr. Sebastian would often scold me for missing community prayers, as they were of utmost importance to him, and he consistently insisted that everyone participate in them.



I joined the Provincial House community in March 2021. At that time, Fr. Sebastian was already a member there, taking rest after his heart treatment. Over the last four years, he was a true companion, actively participating in all community activities.

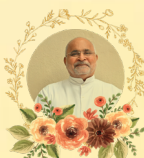
He truly was a different person altogether. He was very regular for morning prayers and the Holy Mass. I often woke up to the sound of Fr. Sebastian reciting the canonical prayers and hymns from his room in a loud, devoted voice. He was always ready to break the Word of God and preach the Sunday homily without any hesitation. Despite his low vision and other eye-related problems, he continued to take part



in community prayers and the Rosary faithfully. His dedication and perseverance were a great inspiration to me.

His love for simplicity and spirit of poverty were truly inspirational. When I joined the Provincial House community as the Provincial Econome, he came to my room and handed over his bank cheque book and other financial details to me. Until his death, he never asked me about them again.

I often used to ask him if he needed anything. Only once, in the beginning, he came with me to purchase some clothes for himself. About a week before he was admitted to the hospital, he came and asked me for three pairs of socks and two bath towels. I provided them the same day, and he was very happy.



Whenever he went home for vacation, he would ask me to book a one-way ticket and give him a small amount for travel expenses. After returning, he would always give a detailed account of his spending. When I asked about booking his return ticket, he used to reply humorously, "When the people at home get tired of me, they'll stop washing my clothes and book the return ticket!" Such was his delightful sense of humor.

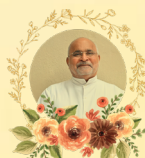
We often cherished his humorous jokes during mealtimes and thoroughly enjoyed his company. In the evenings, he would take a walk around the basketball court, meeting children and parents. It was a common sight to see children running up to him to receive his blessing as soon as they saw him.

Fr. Sebastian was a true polyglot; he could converse fluently in several languages. Whenever someone from Germany visited, he would switch to German; if the person was from Punjab, he spoke Punjabi; from Tamil Nadu, Tamil; and if they were from nearby villages, he spoke in Bhojपुरi. His ability to connect with people through their own language was remarkable and heart-warming.

On the morning of the day before he was admitted to the hospital, during breakfast, Fr. Sebastian mentioned that he would like to visit Fatima Hospital, as he had been suffering from a cough and cold. Later, when he came for evening tea, he told me that he was not feeling well and wanted to see the doctor soon. I immediately took him to the hospital along with Bro. Don Mathew.

The duty doctor examined him and advised that he be admitted, as he was having some pulse variation. The doctor explained that it might be related to the pacemaker already implanted in his body. Later, he was shifted to the CICU for close monitoring. After a few days, as his condition showed some improvement, he was moved to a regular room.

However, his blood sugar levels suddenly began to rise, leading to kidney complications, and he was shifted again to the MICU for dialysis. After two or three sessions of continuous dialysis, there was not much improvement, and the doctors informed me that his condition was critical. I immediately informed the Provincial and requested permission to administer the Last Sacrament.



Rt. Rev. Bishop Dominic Kokkat, though himself in a wheelchair, was kind enough to come to the MICU and confer the Sacrament of the Sick in the presence of the Fathers and Sisters. Later, Fr. Sebastian showed slight improvement for a short while, but his condition soon worsened, and he had to be placed on ventilator support.

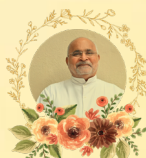
During his last three nights, I had the privilege of staying with him. In the early hours of August 30th, the doctors called and informed me that he had suffered a cardiac arrest. They performed CPR, and though he briefly responded, the doctors said his condition remained extremely critical. I informed the Provincial and his relatives immediately.

God granted me the privilege to be at his bedside, praying for him as he breathed his last. Truly, he was a devoted religious, a visionary, and a friend to all — one who led the Little Flower Province and the Diocese of Gorakhpur with faith and commitment.

May the good Lord grant him eternal rest.

Fr. Benny Paul Thekkumkattil CST

Little Flower Provincial House



A Beacon of faith, A Messenger of love and A True Teacher of the Soul

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”
2 Timothy 4:7

There are some people whose impact on our lives is so profound that their presence continues to guide us even after they are gone. Some people come to our lives quietly, leaving behind footprints so deep that we carry them with us forever. What made Fr Sebastian truly special was his ability to handle all



the situations with ease and joy. He came to my life as a teacher, confessor and spiritual mentor. So, to write a memoir of him is not just to recall the past, but to honor a life that shaped my own.

I still remember a time when I was struggling academically, Father noticed, even when I hadn't said a word, he talked to me after the class and told me pleasantly you are for Christ and he will take care of it. Really as a young for-mee it touched me and gave me an inspiration that God will take care of me. Fr Sebastian was there throughout my religious formation as a teacher and spiritual mentor. His life was a living testimony of faith in action. His very jovial personality was an inspiration and encouragement. His presence radiated warmth, wisdom and joy. Beneath his joyful spirit he was a man of deep discipline and devotion. He was rooted in prayer, passionate about justice and tireless in his service to others. His joy was not shallow; it came from a life lived with purpose and faith.

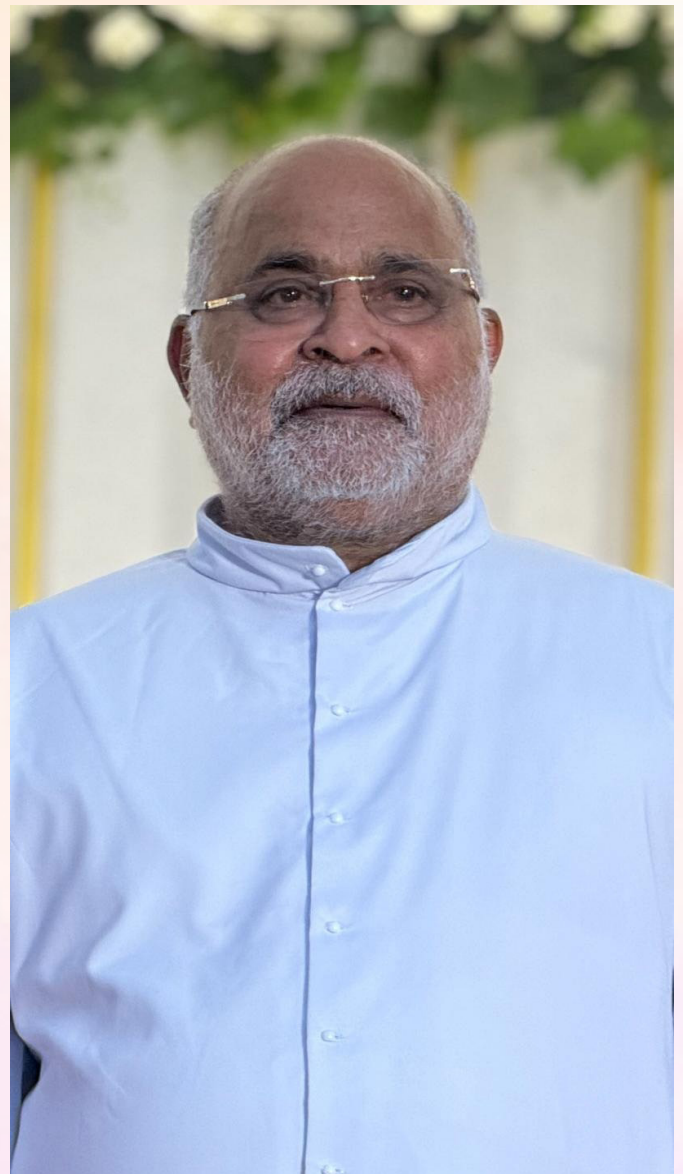


When I think of him, I don't remember grand speeches or elaborate ceremonies. I remember his smile, his gentle voice, his jovial nature and simple but powerful question—are you spreading the Good News? He often asked us with a smile are you spreading the Good News? I feel he meant it in the deepest sense, for him the Good News wasn't just a Biblical message. It was kindness in action, honesty in effort and joy in living. He wanted each of us to carry that spirit into the world. Just two days before his death as we were leaving his room, he asked us to be good, behave well and go on spreading the Good News. He was very jovial in nature, always approachable and never too busy to stop for a chat. At his silence we hear echoes of his laughter, his teachings and his ever-jovial spirit—reminds us that his life was a gift and his memory a blessing.

His passing was a great loss but his legacy lives on—not in monuments or medals but in the hearts of those he touched. I try to emulate his patience and love when dealing with others and his integrity in my decisions. Thank you so much dear Fr Sebastian for being a beacon of faith, a messen-

ger of love and a true teacher of the soul. May your soul rest in peace and may we continue to spread the Good News.

Sr Johncy Ozhakkanttu LST
Superior General,
LST Congregation



Smiles Among the Ashes: A Life of Gentle Fire



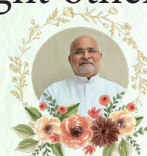
Ordinary Man with Extraordinary Values

In a world often dazzled by grandeur and status, there lived a man whose greatness lay not in wealth or fame, but in the quiet dignity of his values. He was, by all appearances, ordinary—his clothes simple, his manner unassuming. Yet within him burned a humble flame that lit the lives of those around him.

His choice of clothing reflected his philosophy: modest, practical, and free of vanity. He wore what he needed, never more, never less. It wasn't a lack of means—it was a conscious rejection of excess. His words, too, carried the same clarity. He spoke with kindness, never haste. Whether addressing a child, a laborer, or a dignitary, his tone remained respectful, his

language sincere. There was no pretense but truth wrapped in compassion. What made him truly remarkable was his openness to all people. He moved seamlessly between worlds—sharing tea with street vendors, listening intently to the concerns of farmers, and engaging with scholars and leaders without losing his grounding. He saw no hierarchy in humanity. To him, every person was worthy of attention, dignity, and care.

His life was a quiet revolution—a testament to how values, not titles, define a person. In his humility, he taught others to stand tall. In his simplicity, he



revealed the richness of character. And in his ordinary ways, he lived an extraordinary life, and his simplicity was always adorned with smiles.

Fr. Sebastian lived a simple life throughout—whether it was his personal choice of clothing, the style of words he used, or the people he met, from the lowest to the highest levels. Yet, his simplicity was always adorned with smiles.



Revolutionary Spiritual Man

When I think about his life, this aspect stands out. During his tenure as Provincial, we reached the Provincial House during the Christmas holidays. While we were preparing the crib during evening prayer time, Fr. Sebastian, then the Provincial, took his breviary and recited it from the parlour. This shows his uncompromising nature regarding spiritual life.

Secondly, during a priest meeting in his tenure as Provincial, he asked the members to share about their spiritual life and practices—topics that were not part of the agenda. This reflected how deeply he valued his own spiritual life and respected that of others. In the later part of his life, I witnessed him spending more time before the Eucharistic Lord, during the Provincial Chapter, and even writing Bible verses whenever he had time.

Option for the Poor

His simple life attracted everyone to the beauty of simplicity, and at the same time, he deeply loved and supported the poor. He often spent his own pocket

money to help them. During his term as Provincial and even afterward, poor people would visit him at the Provincial House, and he would give them food, money for clothing, and support for their families in times of dire need. Another occasion was during the flood in Nepal. When we sent vehicles to bring Father from Chormara, our vehicle reached there, but seeing the local people affected by the flood, he opened the ashram—the bamboo house—as a shelter for them, since the water level was rising.

Apostle After Paul

St. Paul, before his call, persecuted Christians, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. Fr. Sebastian was humorously called the second Paul—not for persecution, but for his views on the Syro-Malabar liturgy.

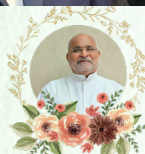
Whenever discussions around liturgy arose, he would be the first to speak passionately. In the initial years after his doctorate in liturgy, his thinking resembled that of Paul—believing there was no salvation outside the Syro-Malabar breviary. However, in the later years of his life, he became milder but remained consistently present for all spiritual activities.

During the last days of his life in the hospital, before being moved to the ventilator, I visited him with Fr. Provincial. He was reciting prayers and asked us to repeat them—showing that even in his unconscious state, prayer remained his medium of communication with God.

MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REWARD*

Fr Jubish Azhiyath CST

Little Flower School, Salempur



The Pioneering Spirit of Fr. Thundathil

Fr. Basilius Panatt, our venerable founder, very much wanted that the Congregation be a Missionary Congregation and looked forward to opportunities to venture into Mission areas. In 1970 Fr. Boniface Manayathumary and Fr. Robert Kalaran were sent to Bhopal for missionary experience. However, at the advice of Bishop Patrick D'Souza of Varanasi, with the intention of entrusting a Mission Area to the CST Congregation eventually, a team of six Fathers were sent to Gorakhpur in 1975. Fr. Sebastian Thundathil was one among those pioneering missionaries. As these Fathers were new to the place, language and culture of the people, they were placed in the Missions where experienced missionaries were working. Fr. Sebastian was fortunate to be appointed in Captainganj Mission where the veteran Canadian Capuchin Missionary, Fr. Jean Maria Vianney, was working.



Characteristic Marks of a Pioneering Missionary

One has to respond purposefully and resolutely to God's call to be a true missionary. Clarity of goal, trust in God, inner fire to propel forward, courage to meet the challenges, ability to assess new situations, sociability and closeness to the people, fearlessness to take new steps and initiatives, respect for the culture of the people and openness to accept the cultural differences, command of

local language and dialects, living in inconveniences and wants without complaints, ability to take appropriate decisions at critical moments are some of the characteristic marks of a pioneering missionary. In Fr. Thundathil's life most of these aspects were well knit together and he proved himself to be a successful pioneering missionary. In the beginning stage of the CST Mission, the Congregation very much needed persons of these qualities, and we were fortunate to have Fr. Thundathil in the very beginning of our missionary endeavors in Gorakhpur.



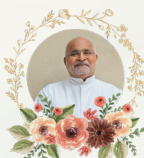
The Ever First Mission Center Started by CST Congregation

Fr. John Vianney informed the CST Fathers about the offer of Mr. Anirudh Das in Nichlaul. His family offered to donate a piece of land to establish a Mission School with no difficult conditions attached. The Fathers grabbed this opportunity and with the support of Fr. Vianney decided to start a Mission there. Spending one year with Fr. Thundathil, Fr. Vianney was confident that Thundathil was capable of pioneering this Mission. He was appointed the in-charge of the Mission in 1976 which is the ever first Mission Center started by the CST Congregation.

Nichlaul was a small town and Fr. Thundathil stayed in a rented room there.

However, the location where the land was offered to us was an isolated place then with no people living in the surroundings. The 7/5 pool, from where one takes a turn to reach the mission, used to be notorious for robbery and snatching away things. He had no fear to live in such lonely situations. When CST Fathers visited this place, they used to enjoy howling and shouting as they were sure that their noise would not reach anyone. Life was hard without sufficient money and without a vehicle for movements. Fr. Thomas Plathottam joined him in the work of establishing the Mission.

The Congregation also was very happy with the first Mission Center and it granted Rs. 25,000 to make a Priests' Residence. With some additional support from Fr. Vianney the Priest house was constructed and Fr. Thundathil started staying in his own house. However, the house was given to the Holy Cross Sisters in 1978. In 1979 he started Massih Sevashram Hindi Medium School. His contacts with the surrounding villages prompted him to undertake some charitable works for their well-being. Thus he gradually established the Mission with his dashing ventures and resolute spirit.



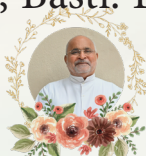


His Pioneering Works in Other Missions

(a) St. Basil Ashram, Basti

Fr. Francis Thekkumkattil was the first CST Priest appointed in Basti, later joined by Fr. George Adichilamackal. Both were living in a rented house in Narharia and engaged themselves in some charitable and skill development activities. The devastating floods of Dumariaganj motivated them to focus their attention there. They moved to Dumariaganj in 1981 and started many social activities, living in a rented room.

Fr. Sebastian Thundathil was appointed Priest in charge of Basti in 1982 after Fr. Francis left for Domariaganj. Initially, he stayed with Fr. Sebastian Sequeira and helped him to run St. Mary's School, Basti, as Fr. Sequeira had to go to college daily. However, when the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph (FSJ) came to Basti in 1983, Fr. Thundathil shifted his residence to a rented building in Pachperiya in Basti town. Money was a rare commodity with the CSTs during those times. With his daring spirit he ventured to start a school in the same rented building on 2 January 1984 with only 9 children on the rolls. This was the beginning of St. Basil's School, Basti. Later he had to shift the school and



residence to another rented building in Pickora Shivgulam. These frequent shiftings of the residence and the school created great hardships and problems, and Fr. Thundathil withstood them bravely with endurance and patience. In 1985 half an acre of land was purchased behind the Civil Court in Basti for a Priests' House. The Priest House was constructed and the school was shifted again to this building in July 1987.

(b) St. Thomas Mission, Hallaur

In August 1987 Fr. Thundathil was transferred to Hallaur. Although Fr. Francis Thekkumkattil and Fr. George Adichilamackal were the pioneering missionaries there, Fr. Thundathil also played a major role in establishing the Mission. A project to build a school, dispensary and a convent was granted for Hallaur Mission and Fr. Thundathil was given the responsibility of executing this project by Bishop Dominic. He did it successfully and rendered the Mission in Hallaur a well-established and socially useful one.

(c) Sukshma Pushpa Ashram Sehari, Nepal

Fr. Thundathil's another pioneering missionary work was in Sehari Mission, Nepal. Although the land was purchased in 2013 by the initiative of Fr. Roby Kizhakkumkara, and Fr. Gijo Panthackal had his role in making the preliminary settings of the Mission, it was Fr. Thundathil who started staying in the Mission in a permanent way and started some activities from the year 2015. He stayed in the "bamboo house" which was not a comfortable one, and he was badly affected by the floods several times. He was already in Bhairahwa for some years, and hence he had good mastery of the Nepali language and it helped him to mix with the local people very easily. He started a tuition center for the local students and undertook some relief programs during the floods and natural disasters. He spent his time visiting the houses and mixing with them. It made the people feel close to him and to the Mission. It was during his time that Kindermissionswerk, Germany, granted a project to establish a Primary School in Sehari, although the project was executed mainly by Fr. Gijo Panthackal.

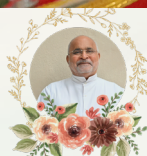


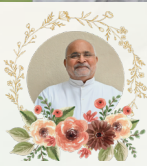


Fr. Sebastian Thundathil shouldered several major responsibilities in the Congregation and in the Diocese. I am not dealing with these areas where he has proved his caliber and enriched the Congregation and the Diocese in a remarkable way. I have made a small attempt to look into his contributions through his pioneering missionary works in some of the Missions. Wherever he worked he could emboss the stamp of his personality and succeeded

to steal the hearts of the people with his humour, mastery of the local dialect and wisdom. Today when we enjoy the fruits of his labour, let us remember the hard work he has put in, and the sacrifices he has endured in establishing the Missions. May his soul rest in Peace.

Fr. Michael Chirayath CST
Nepal





തമാശകളുടെ സുൽത്താൻ

നാം എത്ര പ്രഗത്ഭരാണെങ്കിലും അല്ലെങ്കിലും ഈ ലോകത്ത് ഒരു ചരിത്രം മാത്രം അവശേഷിപ്പിച്ചു കടന്നു പോകുന്നു. ആ ചരിത്രം നല്ലതാണെങ്കിൽ അടുത്ത തലമുറ നമ്മെ ആദരവോടെ ഓർക്കും. ഈ അർത്ഥത്തിൽ 'ചരിത്രത്തിനു മരണമില്ല' എന്നു പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. മഹാത്മജിയെ നാം ആദരവോടെ ഓർക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. തുണത്തിലച്ചൻ ഒരു നല്ല ചരിത്രം അവശേഷിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടാണ് കടന്നുപോയിരിക്കുന്നത്. എനിക്ക് അച്ചനുമായി 60ലധികം വർഷത്തെ പരിചയമുണ്ട്, സൗഹൃദമുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം ധീരനും റിസ്ക് എടുക്കുന്നവനും എല്ലാവരോടും സമഭാവനയോടെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നവനുമാണ്. ബോധ്യങ്ങളിൽ അടിയുറച്ചു വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും അവ ജീവിതത്തിൽ സദയവും പ്രായോഗികമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. ഏതു പ്രശ്നത്തെയും സമചിത്തതയോടെ നേരിടുവാൻ അച്ചനു കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ധാരാളം തമാശകൾ പറയുന്ന



ഒരു വളരെ നല്ല സുഹൃത്തായി ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കാണുന്നു. കേൾവിക്കാരിൽ വലിപ്പചെറുപ്പം പരിഗണിക്കാതെ യാതൊരു വിധ ശാരീരിക മാനസിക തടസ്സങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാതെ തമാശകൾ പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. കാരണം, ചിരിക്കാൻ ഇഷ്ടമില്ലാത്ത ആരുമില്ലല്ലോ. 2024 നവംബറിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ പഴയതമാശകൾ പലതും ഞങ്ങൾ വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞു ചിരിച്ചു. ഉറങ്ങാൻ പോയ അച്ചൻ 5 മിനിട്ടു കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ വീണ്ടും എന്റെ അടുത്തു വന്നു. വീണ്ടും ഞങ്ങൾ തമാശ പറ



ഞ്ഞു ചിരിച്ചു. അടുത്ത വർഷവും വരണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാണ് അച്ചൻ പോയത്. എന്റെ ഈ ഓർമ്മക്കുറിപ്പിൽ അച്ചന്റെ തമാശകൾ ആണ് ഞാൻ ചേർക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്. അത് എന്നോട് നേരിട്ടു പറഞ്ഞതാവാം, മറ്റു ള്ളവരോട് പറഞ്ഞതാവാം, മറ്റു ള്ളവരിൽനിന്നു കേട്ടതാവാം.

ബ്രൂണോ അച്ചനാണ് റെക്ടർ. അക്കാലത്ത് സന്തോഷം വരുമ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ അതു പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നത് കൈൾ പൊക്കി അടിച്ചു 'അടി വയറെ' എന്നു പറയുമായിരുന്നു. ഇക്കാലത്തു കുവുകയാണല്ലോ. പയർ ഒരു ഭക്ഷ്യവസ്തു എന്നതിൽ കവിഞ്ഞ പ്രാധാന്യം ഇല്ലല്ലോ. റെക്ടറച്ചൻ അതുകേൾക്കുന്നത് 'അടി വയറെ' എന്നായിരുന്നു. അച്ചൻ ഞങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞു, 'മേലിൽ അടി വയറെ' എന്നു പറയേണ്ട എന്ന്. തുണ്ടത്തിൽ മറ്റു ള്ളവരോടു പറഞ്ഞു, 'മേലിൽ അടി വയറെ' എന്നു പറയരുത് ആ ഭാഗത്താണല്ലോ ഇച്ചീച്ചി ഉള്ളത്!! എന്ന്. 'മറ്റൊരു കാര്യം കുടി ഇപ്പോൾ ഓർമ്മ വരുന്നു. സഭാസ്മാപകൻ വലച്ചൻ 78ാമത്തെ വയസ്സിലാണ് ഗോരഖ്പൂർ മിഷൻ കാണാൻ പോയത്. ദീർഘമായ ട്രെയിൻ യാത്രകഴിഞ്ഞ് വിവരങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരോടും പങ്കുവെച്ചു. അതിന്റെ അവസാനം that that എന്നു മുന്നൂന്നാലു പ്രാവശ്യം തപ്പിപരതിയിട്ട് നെറ്റി ചുളിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞു, "That ending doesn't sound well. We will say only..."- ഗോരകപുരം.' പറയു ബ്രദറെ ഗോരകപുരം എന്നു വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞു.

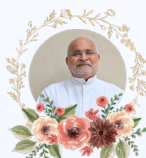
തുണ്ടത്തിൽ പറയുന്നു വലച്ചൻ ഗോരഖ്പൂരിനെ മാജോദീസാ മുക്കി 'ഗോരകപുരം' എന്നാക്കി എന്ന്.

ആലുവാ സ്റ്റുഡിഹൗസിൽ 5.00 AM ഉണർത്തുമണി അടിച്ചു 'ദൈവത്തേ നമുക്ക് സ്തുതിച്ചീടാം' എന്ന് ഉറക്കെ പാടണമായിരുന്നു. എല്ലാവരും കട്ടിലിലിരുന്ന് 'എന്നേരവും നിനക്ക്



സ്തുതിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ' എന്ന് പ്രതിവചിച്ചു പാടുകയും വേണമായിരുന്നു. ഒരു ദിവസം തുണ്ടത്തിൽ മണിയടിച്ചിട്ട് 'ദൈവത്തേ നമുക്ക് ഉരുട്ടീടാം' എന്ന് പാടി!

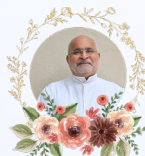
തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചനുമായി കൂടുതൽ ഇടപെടുന്നത് 1978 കാലത്താണ്. അന്നു ഞാൻ ഗോരഖ്പൂർ സർവ്വകലാശാലയിൽ എം.കോം പഠിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. ബനാറസ് ബിഷപ്പ് പാട്രിക് ഡിസുസ തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചനെ മുക്തകണ്ഠം പുകഴ്ത്തി. അച്ചൻ സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ അധികം പണച്ചിലില്ലാതെ ഒരു മിഷൻ സ്റ്റേഷൻ നിച്ചലോളിൽ ആരംഭിച്ചു എന്നതാണ് കാര്യം. അതെ, കഴിവു



പ്രാപ്തിയും തന്റേടവും നിശ്ചയദാർഢ്യവുമുള്ള ഒരു മിഷണറി. പിരിമുറക്കമുള്ള ഏതു സാഹചര്യത്തെയും സ്വതസിദ്ധമായ നർമ്മം കൊണ്ട് ശാന്തമാക്കാനുള്ള അസാമാന്യ കഴിവുള്ള വ്യക്തിയാണദ്ദേഹം. അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഒരു തടസ്സവുമില്ലാതെ പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ധൈര്യശാലിയാണദ്ദേഹം. ഒരു കാര്യം പറഞ്ഞു തുടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ, അത് ചിന്തിക്കാനാണോ, ചിരിക്കാനാണോ, കരയാനാണോ എന്ന് അറിയുക സാധ്യമല്ല. മുഖത്ത് യാതൊരു ഭാവവിത്യാസവുമില്ലാതെ അച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞു തുടങ്ങും. അവസാനമെ ചിരി പൊട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ.



നിചലോളിൽ 'സാത് പാഞ്ച് പൂൽ' കടന്നാൽ മണിയാകുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ സ്വതന്ത്രനാകുമായിരുപിന്നെ എല്ലാം വിശാലം. അച്ചന്റെ മിഷൻ നൂ. മൈക്കിളച്ചനുമൊത്ത് പലപ്രാവശ്യം പോയത് സ്റ്റേഷൻ ഒഴിച്ചാൽ പിന്നെ വീടുകൾ ഒന്നു എനിക്ക് ഓർമ്മയുണ്ട്. അത്താഴം കഴിഞ്ഞ് തുണ്ടമില്ല. ഒന്നുരണ്ടുദിവസം വിശ്രമിച്ചു താമത്തിലച്ചൻ എല്ലാവരെയും പാട്ടു പാടി ഉറക്കുമായി സിക്കുവാൻ ഏറ്റവും ഉചിതമായ സ്ഥലം. രുന്നു. എന്നും ഒരേ പാട്ടുതന്നെ. ഇൗണം അച്ചന്റെ തമാശകൾ കുടിയാവുമ്പോൾ അല്പം വിത്യാസം ഉണ്ടാവാം. പാട്ട് ഇങ്ങനെ. താമസം പൊടിപ്പൻ. CSTക്കാർ പലരും ഒരു ദിവസം ഒന്നൊ രണ്ടൊ വീട്ടിൽ പറന്നെത്തി എന്നെയുംക്കൂട്ടി ആഴ്ച്ചയവസാനം അവിടെ ഒന്നു കല്ലേലിരുന്നു, ഒന്നു കമ്പേലിരുന്നു പോയി അച്ചന്റെ ആതിഥ്യം സ്വീകരിച്ചിരു അവർ ടക്, ടക് സംഗീതം പാടി..... നൂ. യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിൽ പ്രഭാതക്ലാസ്സു രാവിലെ ഉണരുമ്പോഴും ചിലപ്പോൾ ആ പാട്ടുകൾ ആയിരുന്നതിനാൽ വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച്ച 12 പാടുമായിരുന്നു.



ആദ്യകാലത്ത് ബനാറസ് രൂപതയിൽ ഒരു നാട്ടു ഞി കാരിയറിൽ വെച്ചു തിരിച്ചുപോന്നിരുന്നു. കാരൻ വൈദികനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. 'ബട്ടുകാ സൈക്കിൾ ചവുട്ടി പോകുന്നതിനാൽ നാട്ടു ദൈയ്യ' എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ വിളിച്ചിരുന്നു. കാർ എന്നു കരുതി പോലീസ് പരിശോധിക്കു തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പരിചയപ്പെട്ടു. കയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ദീർഘദൂരം സൈക്കിൾ ചവി ദൈയ്യ ചോദിച്ചു, What is the meaning of Thundathil? മറുപടി അച്ചൻ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു കുടുംബത്തെ എനിക്ക് പരിചയപ്പെടുത്തി പറഞ്ഞു: 'ടൂക്കടാ, ടൂക്കടാ' അങ്ങനെ അച്ചൻ ഞന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം അവിടുത്തെ BDO. ആയി പുതിയ പേര് കിട്ടി. അച്ചൻ ഹിന്ദി പഠിച്ചുവരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ അച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞു, 'BDO എന്നാൽ The officer who blocks all developments എന്നാണ് എന്ന്.

ഏകദേശം 30 കി.മി. സൈക്കിൾ ചവുട്ടി 1978ലാണ് തോന്നുന്നു, മൺസൂൺ കാലത്ത് No Man's Land ഉം കടന്നു കടയിലെത്തി റാപ്തി നദിയിൽ അസാധാരണവെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമു യിരുന്നു. ആവശ്യമുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ വാ ണ്ടായി. ദൊമറിയഗഞ്ച് ടൗൺ മുങ്ങിപ്പോകുക



യും ചെയ്തു. പ്രളയശേഷം ബിഷപ്പ് പാട്രിക് ഒരു ദുരിതാശ്വാസ ക്യാമ്പ് നടത്തി. CST വൈദികരും ബസ്തിയിലെ ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ സെക്വേരും കുറെ സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സും ടീച്ചിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എനിക്ക് ക്ലാസ്സും പരീക്ഷയുമൊന്നുമില്ലായിരുന്നതിനാൽ ഞാനും ടീച്ചിൽ ചേർന്നു. പുതുതായി പണിത 10 കടമുറികൾ ഉള്ള ഒരു കെട്ടിടത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യത്തെ മുറിയിൽ ഞങ്ങളും അവസാനത്തെ മുറിയിൽ സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സും താമസിച്ചു. സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിനു മുറിയോട് ചേർന്ന് ടോയിലറ്റ് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ ഓർമ്മ. നോക്കെത്താദൂരത്ത് പരന്നു കിടക്കുന്ന ഗോതമ്പുവയൽ. ഇടയ്ക്കു ഒരു കെട്ടിടമോ മറയോ ഇല്ല. നേരം വെളുക്കുന്നതിനു

മുമ്പെ ലോട്ടയിൽ വെള്ളമെടുത്ത് ദൂരെ ഏതെങ്കിലും മരത്തിനു മറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു കാവും സാധിച്ചിരുന്നു. പ്രദേശം മുഴുവൻ ചെളിയായിരുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഒരേ വഴിയിൽ കൂടി എന്നും നടക്കേണ്ടിയിരുന്നു. അവസാനം ഗോരഖ്പൂർ വച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ് അവലോകന മീറ്റിംഗ് നടത്തി. ടോയിലറിന്റെ അപര്യാപ്തത പ്രയാസമുണ്ടാക്കിയോ എന്നു ബിഷപ്പ് വെറുതെ ഒന്നു ചോദിച്ചു. തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചൻ ഉടൻ മറുപടി കൊടുത്തു, 'പ്രശ്നമില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നലെ ഇരുന്നതിന്റെ മുകളിൽ ഇന്നുപോയി ഇരിക്കേണ്ടി വന്നതു പ്രശ്നമായിരുന്നു!' കൂട്ടച്ചിരി ഉണ്ടായി.

ഒരിക്കൽ അച്ചൻ എന്നോട് ഒരു സംഭവം പറഞ്ഞു. കനേഡിയൻ കപ്പുച്ചിൻ അച്ചന്മാർ ബനാറസ് രൂപതയിൽ മിഷൻ ജോലി ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. ഒരു അച്ചൻ ദിവസവും ആട്ടിറച്ചി നിർബന്ധമായിരുന്നു. ജോൺപൂർ ജില്ലയിലെ ഷാഹ്ഗഞ്ചിലാണ് താമസം. ദൂരെയുള്ള ഗ്രാമത്തിൽനിന്ന് ഒരാൾ ദിവസവും മട്ടൺ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന് കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു. ഒരു ദിവസം ഗ്രാമത്തലവൻ കുറെപ്പേരെക്കൂട്ടി നിവേദനവുമായി അച്ചന്റെയടുത്തെത്തി. നിവേദനം ഇങ്ങനെ, 'സ്വാമിജിയുടെ ഭക്ഷണശൈലി മാറ്റണം. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ ഇനി ഒരു പട്ടി മാത്രമെ ബാക്കിയുള്ളൂ.' ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ട രസകരമായ ഒരു

സംഭവം ഇങ്ങനെ. അച്ചൻ ദൈരവായിൽ മിഷൻ സുപ്പീരിയർ ആണ്. ഒരു ദിവസം രണ്ടുമൂന്ന് സുഹൃത്തുക്കൾ സന്ദർശകരായി എത്തി. ഉപചാരത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും അത്താഴം നൽകാൻ സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് തീരുമാനിച്ചു. അത്താഴത്തിനിടയിൽ ഒരു സിസ്റ്റർ അച്ചനോടു ചോദിച്ചു, Fr. Thundathil, how do you spend time after supper? അച്ചന്റെ ഉത്തരം ഇങ്ങനെ, I watch TV for some time, then pray the canon prayers followed by personal prayers, and then practice celibacy and sleep! വീണ്ടും നിചലോളിലെ ഒരു കാര്യം കൂടി ചേർക്കട്ടെ. അവിടുത്തെ സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് ഒരു ഫ്ളാസ്ക് വാങ്ങി. അതിന്റെ വാഷർ ശരിയല്ലായിരുന്നു.



അച്ചൻ ഗോരഖ്പൂരിനു പോയപ്പോൾ ബിൽ സഹിതം ഫ്ളാസ്ക് അച്ചന്റെ കൈയിൽ കൊടുത്തു വിട്ടു. വാഷർ തനിച്ച് മാറാനാവില്ലെന്ന് കടയിൽനിന്ന് അറിയിച്ചു. ഇക്കാര്യം പറഞ്ഞ് സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിന് ഫ്ളാസ്ക് തിരിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു. സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിനു തൃപ്തിയായില്ല. രണ്ടാമതും കൊടുത്തുവിട്ടു. അതെ മറുപടിതന്നെ കടയിൽനി



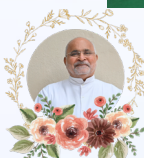
ന്നും കിട്ടി. എന്നാൽ മൂന്നാമതും സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് പിന്നിടാൻ കൊടുത്തുവിട്ടു. അച്ചൻ തന്നെ ഇത്തവണ പരിഹാരം കണ്ടു. ഗോരഖ് പൂരിന് പോകുന്നവഴിക്ക് വെള്ളം നിറഞ്ഞ ഒഴു കുന്ന ഒരു കനാൽ കണ്ടു. ഫ്ലാസ്ക് കനാലിൽ എറിഞ്ഞു. തിരിച്ചു വന്ന് സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിനോട് പറഞ്ഞു ഫ്ലാസ്ക് നന്നാക്കാൻ കമ്പനിയിലേക്ക് അയച്ചുവെന്ന്! ഇതുവരെ കമ്പനിയിൽ നിന്ന് തിരിച്ചുവന്നിട്ടില്ല.

അച്ചൻ എന്നോടു ഒരു സംഭവം പറഞ്ഞു. പ്ലാത്തോട്ടമച്ചൻ നിച്ചലോലിൽ കുറെനാൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം എന്റെ ഒരു നല്ല സുഹൃത്തായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്വഭാവത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകത ഭയങ്കര മുൻകോപിയായിരുന്നു എന്നതാണ്. കോപം വന്നാൽ മേലുകീഴു നോക്കാതെ സംസാരിക്കും. അതുപോലെ സ്നേഹിതനു വേണ്ടി എന്തു ത്യാഗവും ചെയ്യുമായിരുന്നു. നിച്ചലോലിൽ കെട്ടിടം പണി നടക്കുന്ന അവസരമായിരുന്നു. അച്ചന് അത്യാവശ്യം എവിടെയോ പോകാനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഒരു സിസ്റ്ററിനെ ചില ജോലികൾ ഏല്പിച്ചിരുന്നു.

അടുത്ത ദിവസം അച്ചൻ വന്നു നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ സിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്തതു പലതും അച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞതിനു വിപരീതമായിരുന്നു. അച്ചൻ സിസ്റ്ററിനെ വിളിച്ചു വല്ലാതെ ദേഷ്യപ്പെട്ടു, നന്നെന്നയൊക്കെ സൂഷിച്ചവനെ കുറ്റം പറയണമെന്ന് എന്നൊരു ഡയലോഗും അടിച്ചു. അച്ചൻ എന്നെ ചീത്ത വിളിച്ചു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ് സിസ്റ്റർ, ബിഷപ്പ് പാട്രിക്കിന് പരാതി കൊടുത്തു. ചീത്ത വിളിച്ചു എന്നുകേട്ടപ്പോൾ ബിഷപ്പിന് താല്പര്യമുണ്ടായി. മലയാളം അറിയാത്ത ബിഷപ്പ് എന്തു ചീത്തയാ



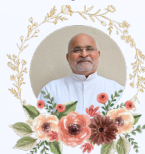
ണ് വിളിച്ചതെന്നു തിരക്കി. സിസ്റ്റർ പറഞ്ഞു, “He asked me, ‘Who created you?’ ബിഷപ്പ് ചിരിച്ചു. ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞു സിസ്റ്ററിനെ സമാധാനിപ്പിച്ചു. It is very simple, Sister. You should have answered him, ‘God created me.’ സിസ്റ്ററും ഹാപ്പി, ബിഷപ്പും ഹാപ്പി, അച്ചനും ഹാപ്പി. ഞാൻ പഠിക്കുന്ന കാലത്ത് ഗോരഖ് പൂരിൽ രണ്ട് നല്ല സ്വഭാവമുള്ള പെൺകുട്ടികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ലീനായും ലോറായും. ലീനയുടെ അമ്മ എല്ലാ ദിവസവും കുർബാനയ്ക്ക് വരുമായിരുന്നു. അപ്പൻ റെയിൽവേ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനുമായിരുന്നു. തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചൻ ലീനായുടെ അമ്മയെ മുത്തിയമ്മ എന്നാണ് വിളിച്ചിരു



നന്ത്. അത് അന്തസ്സുള്ള പേരാണെന്ന് അവർ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ലീനായെ ഞാൻ വിവാഹം ചെയ്താൽ നല്ലതാണെന്ന് അച്ചൻ ശിപാർശ ചെയ്തു. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു, ആനക്കൊമ്പു പോലെ മുൻവശത്ത് നീണ്ടുനില്ക്കുന്ന രണ്ട് പലകപ്പല്ലുകൾ അടിച്ചു പഠിച്ചു കളഞ്ഞാൽ നോക്കാം എന്ന്. അച്ചൻ മുത്തിയമ്മയോടും വിവാഹക്കാരും പറഞ്ഞു. അവർ അതു നേരാണെന്ന് കരുതി. മുത്തിയമ്മക്ക് എന്നോട് സ്നേഹം കൂടി. ക്രിസ്തസിന് എനിക്ക് ഒരു പാൻറും ഷർട്ടും സമ്മാനം തന്നു. പഠിത്തം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ഞാൻ നാട്ടിലേക്കു പോന്നു. മുത്തയമ്മ തിരക്കി. അച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞു, അയാൾ പോയെങ്കിലും തിരിച്ചുവരും എന്ന്. പിന്നീട് ആറുതൊട്ടിയിലച്ചനാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു ഞാൻ തിരിച്ചുവരില്ലെന്ന് മുത്തിയമ്മയോടു പറഞ്ഞത്.

ഞങ്ങൾ വളരെ അടുത്ത സുഹൃത്തുക്കൾ ആയിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും അല്പം അകൽച്ച ഉണ്ടായ ഒരു സംഭവമാണ് അടുത്തത്. 1990കളിൽ അച്ചൻ M.Th. Ph.D. യും വടവാതുർ സെമിനാരിയിൽ ചെയ്തു. സാധാരണ, ഞായറാഴ്ചകളിൽ, ഒരു സാധാഹ നടത്തം എന്ന നിലയിൽ എന്റെ വീട്ടിൽ വരുമായിരുന്നു. ദീർഘമായ സംസാരത്തിനു ശേഷം സന്ധ്യയോടെ ഞാൻ കൊണ്ടുപോയി വിടുമായിരുന്നു. കൽദായനിസം എന്നെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുക എന്നതായിരുന്നു സംസാരലക്ഷ്യം. എന്റെ കുടുംബവുമായി നല്ലൊരു ആത്മബന്ധം രൂപപ്പെട്ടു.

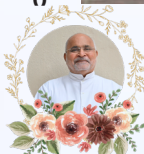
ഒരു ദിവസം അച്ചന്റെ തീസിസിന്റെ ഒരു സിനോപ്സിസ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നു തന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞു, അടുത്ത മാസം വൈവ പരീക്ഷയാണ്. വരണം. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുകയും വേണം. സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം ഞാൻ സമ്മതിച്ചു. ചോദ്യം ഏതാണെന്നു മുൻകൂർ പറയണമോ? ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചു. അച്ചൻ എന്നെ കളിയാക്കി പറഞ്ഞു. മുൻകൂർ ചോദ്യമൊക്കെ നിങ്ങളുടെ സർവ്വകലാശാലാതലത്തിൽ. ഇവിടെ അങ്ങനെയല്ല എന്ന്. വൈവയ്ക്ക് അച്ചന്റെ Presentation കഴിഞ്ഞ ഉടനെതന്നെ ഞാൻ മൈക്ക് വാങ്ങി. അച്ചന്റെ തീസിസിന്റെ വിഷയം **Inculturation** ആണ്. കുരിശ്, കുർബാന വിവാദങ്ങൾ സജീവമായിരുന്ന



കാലമായിരുന്നത്. എന്റെ ചോദ്യം ഇങ്ങനെ
 We know that Kerala is formed by
 merging three princely states: Tra-
 vancore, Cochin, and Malabar. We
 can find differences in customs,
 culture, and even language in these
 three areas. According to your the-
 ory, there should be three types of
 Holy Mass in these three areas. Do
 you agree ഞങ്ങളുടെ വാദപ്രതിവാദം 7
 മിനുറ്റ് ദീർഘിച്ചു. അവസാനം അച്ചൻ
 ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞു, There is a point in
 what you say.” ഉടൻതന്നെ ഞാൻ
 പിൻവാങ്ങി. MG സർവ്വകലാശാലയിൽ
 നാലുപ്രാവശ്യം Adjudicating Chairman
 ആയി Ph.D. വൈവ നടത്തി പരിചയമുള്ള
 എനിക്ക് അച്ചന്റെ ആ സമ്മതം ഇഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടില്ല.
 സർവ്വകലാശാലയിലാണെങ്കിൽ ഉടൻതന്നെ
 ചെയർമാൻ വൈവ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കും.
 Scholars, you include that point
 and resubmit the thesis. എന്ന് പറയു
 കയും ചെയ്യുമായിരുന്നു. ഇവിടെ അച്ചൻ
 82 മാർക്കോടെ വൈവ പരീക്ഷ ജയിച്ചു.
 അതിന്റെ പേരിൽ അച്ചന് എന്നോട് ഒരു
 സൗന്ദര്യപിണക്കം തോന്നിയെങ്കിലും അത്
 ഞങ്ങളുടെ ദീർഘകാല ബന്ധത്തിന് തടസ്സമാ
 യില്ല.
 തുണ്ടത്തിലച്ചൻ ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹിത വൈദി
 കനാണ്. മറ്റുള്ളവരെ സന്തോഷിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ
 കഴിയുക എന്നത് ചില്ലറക്കാരുമൊന്നുമല്ല.
 അച്ചന്റെ മൃതസംസ്കാരശുശ്രൂഷ ഞാൻ എന്റെ

മൊബൈൽ ഫോണിലൂടെ കണ്ടു, പങ്കു ചേർ
 ന്നു. തൊടുപുഴയിൽനിന്ന് PTMS ബസ്സിൽ
 കയറിയ കാര്യം മുതൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ നവമ്പറിൽ നേ
 റിൽ കണ്ട കാര്യം വരെ എന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ കുടി
 കടന്നുപോയി. ചിരിയുടെ, തമാശയുടെ സുൽ
 ഞ്ഞാൻ ദൈവം സന്തോഷം നൽകട്ടെ.

സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ ഐക്കര



FR. SEBASTIAN THUNDATHIL: AN EPITOME OF WIT, COMEDY, HUMOUR AND LAUGHTER

Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST was renowned for his ability to make people laugh and reflect deeply, combining humour with wisdom in his ministry. There is no exaggeration if I say that he is really an epitome of wit, comedy, humour and laughter.

His warm and engaging personality shone in daily interactions, where he used conversation and gentle jokes to uplift those around him. He was known for his lively wit and ability to bring smiles to faces, fostering joy and a sense of community within the Church and among the faithful. He used humour as a tool to communicate effectively

Alongside his light-hearted spirit, Fr. Sebastian had a profound intellect and a passion for deep reflection. His teachings and sermons encouraged people to think about life's purpose, faith, and values. By blending humour with thoughtful insights, he touched hearts and inspired minds, leaving a lasting impression as a spiritual guide who motivated others both to rejoice and to ponder deeper truths. His legacy continues in the laughter and contemplative spirit he cultivated among his clergy, students, and parishioners.

Fr. Sebastian's reflections on his life and ministry describe key qualities that characterized his pastoral approach. He was known for lightening difficult moments with humour, using laughter to connect people and make them feel at ease. He was very thoughtful and compassionate. While engaging others with humour, he inspired deeper reflection on faith, life, and values, showing care and empathy in his counselling.

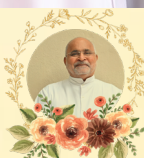
His pastoral work involved building strong relationships within his community, encouraging collaboration and shared mission. His pastoral style was action-oriented, emphasizing service in education and outreach as vital expressions of faith. He used humour to diffuse tension during difficult community



discussions. His style of telling simple, relatable stories in sermons that leads to both laughter and meaningful reflection among the people. His pastoral approach is described as blending humour with deep compassion and thoughtfulness, using laughter to connect with people and reflection to inspire faith. His style emphasized warmth, practical service, community building, and leading with both kindness and integrity. Personal stories and testimonies that highlight his use of humour to ease difficult moments and his capacity to make people both laugh and think are found mostly

in personal gatherings. While reflecting on his personality and legacy, it is well understood that Fr. Sebastian had a warm sense of humor and a lively spirit that brought joy and laughter to those around him during his ministry.

His humour often surfaced in everyday interactions, where he balanced making others laugh while provoking thoughtful reflection, making him a beloved figure among his colleagues and community members. Fr. Sebastian used humour as a way to connect with his congregation, lighten the mood, and help people feel comfortable and engaged in deeper reflection during sermons. His humour was likely natu-



in personal gatherings. While reflecting on his personality and legacy, it is well understood that Fr. Sebastian had a warm sense of humor and a lively spirit that brought joy and laughter to those around him during his ministry.

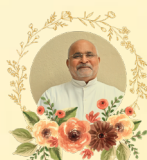
His humour often surfaced in everyday interactions, where he balanced making others laugh while provoking thoughtful reflection, making him a beloved figure among his colleagues and community members. Fr. Sebastian used humour as a way to connect with his congregation, lighten the mood, and help people feel comfortable and engaged in deeper reflection during sermons. His humour was likely natural and situation-based, avoiding forced jokes, which helped break down barriers and keep people attentive, much like how effective preachers use light-hearted moments to refresh a congregation's focus.

His pastoral approach combined warmth and wit, using humour to make spiritual teachings more relatable and memorable while illustrating points that encouraged congregants to both laugh and think. Stories and gentle jokes in sermons have been used to provide “breath-

ing spaces” for listeners, helping them absorb challenging spiritual or moral teachings in a balanced way. His humour reflected humility and humanity, qualities important for a pastor, helping the community see a relatable and approachable shepherd.

However, general insights into his pastoral style show that he used humour naturally and warmly to connect with people, lighten the atmosphere, and engage congregants deeply. His humour was likely situational and humble - breaking down barriers, helping listeners relax, and making spiritual teachings more relatable and memorable. Such humour in sermons provides breathing spaces for reflection and encourages both laughter and thoughtful engagement.

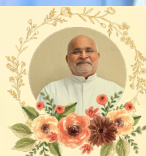
This epitome of humour and laughter is no more but everything goes smoothly. When he left for the hospital for treatment he may not have thought that he is saying good - bye to the inmates of the ashram with whom he lived and used to crack jokes and make them to laugh and think. And thus he makes the community active and vibrant; he never thought that he will not come back to his community again he will not be able to sleep in his



own room. It seems everything was well prepared and everything happened all of a sudden. For three days he was saying goodbye silently to everyone. The call came from above all of a sudden informing him that the role he was playing in the world is successfully completed and now he has to depart from this terrestrial abode to the heavenly abode permanently to join with the company of saint singing, praising and adoring God in the heavenly places and thanking God for having lead a satisfactory life making everyone laugh and think. His abrupt departure from this world reminds us that our life in this world is fleeting and transient and we are the pilgrims in this world and nobody is indispensable in this world. The short time we get to stay in this world be used for making others think and laugh and thus making our life fruitful. We give adieu to you dear Fr Saban, till we meet you again in the heavenly places. Good - bye dear Fr Sebastian! God bless you!

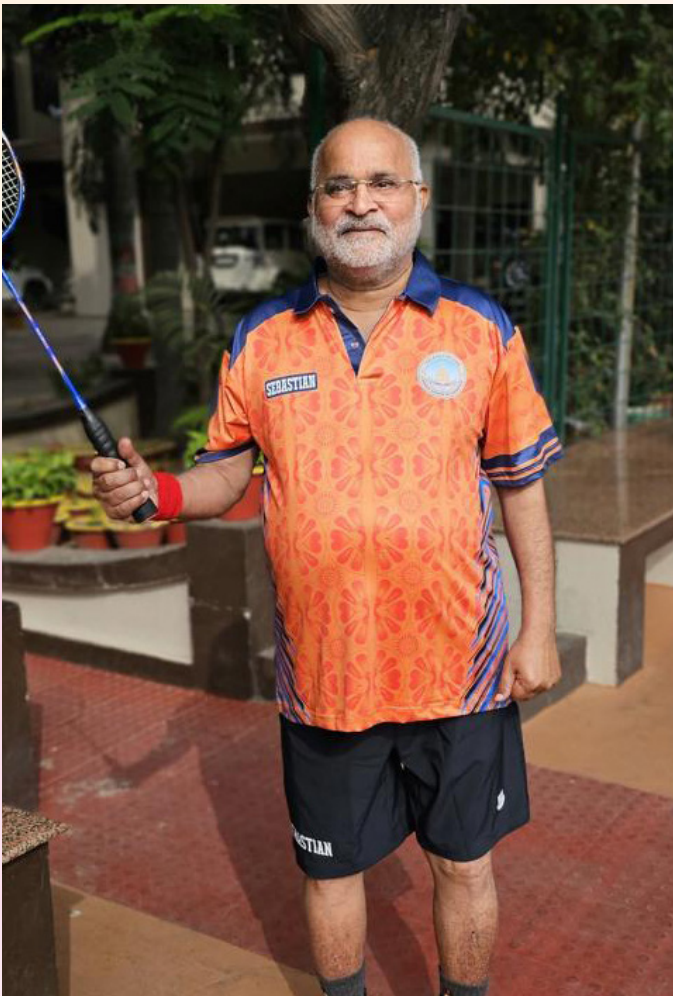
Fr. Baby Tharappath Chacko CST

Little Flower Ashram, Harraiya



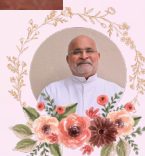
Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST, A Friend and a Batchmate

I like to remember Fr. Sebastian Thundathil as a man of prayer and contemplation, a man of courage and commitment, a man of humour and friendship, a man of principles and integrity. Fr. Sebastian and myself joined the Little Flower Congregation's Minor Seminary at Mookkannur in June 1964 and made our religious profession in 1966. We spent 8 years in the Little Flower Seminary, Aluva under the formation of our founder, Very Rev. Fr. Basilius Panatt CST, and were ordained priests in December 1973. We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of our priestly ordination in 2023. Over the years of his life in the congregation, Fr. Sebastian was always willing to take up any responsibility entrusted to him with total commitment and courage.



Religious life is a life dedicated to prayer, in a personal relationship with God, and serving others, especially the poor and the marginalized. Fr. Sebastian was a person totally committed to Christ and his people, and he derived his strength from his personal relationship in prayer and liturgy. This was visible in his personal life and ministry. Many of the priests who lived within our seminary in Aluva remember Fr. Sebastian as a man of prayer who spent hours in the chapel with the Lord. That was a great example for the seminarians.

Fr. Sebastian was a very committed and courageous person. I remember an incident during our minor seminary



days. We were about twenty minor seminarians and went for a picnic to Ezhatumugham Dam near Athirapally. We were allowed to swim in the river provided we knew swimming. Some of us jumped into the river, but we noticed one brother was not able to swim and was drowning, and suddenly Sebastian jumped into the water and pulled him out and saved his life. During our seminary life in Aluva, the construction work of the seminary was under way, and we, the seminarians of that time, did most of the concreting work. Fr. Sebastian was always in the forefront to do the most difficult jobs like carrying the cement bags and mixing the concrete. Others used to carry the mixture to the concreting location. Even during the early days of our mission in Gorakhpur in the early 1980s, Fr. Sebastian did so much hard work to build up the Nichlaul and Basti missions. He started the Basti school with a lot of hard work and commitment.

Fr. Sebastian is known for his humor and friendship. His presence in the community was very positive with innocent humor, and everyone enjoyed his humor and jokes. His presence gave life to the community, and all

enjoyed his company and friendship. Fr. Sebastian was a man of principle and integrity. The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We believe that every person is precious, and that people are more important than things. Fr. Sebastian upheld this principle in all his pastoral and mission work. When he was the rector in Little Flower Seminary, Aluva, or when he was the Provincial Superior of the Gorakhpur Province, he was constantly guided by this great principle of Catholic teaching. He never wanted to compromise on the principles which he held close to his heart. He was a man who followed the Oriental liturgy very faithfully. When he could not promote this same in the seminary as a rector, he decided to resign from his post rather than compromise his conviction.

Fr. Sebastian was a great missionary, totally committed to Christ and his people. He was a man of prayer and exemplary religious life. May his example inspire us in our religious life and social and pastoral commitment.

Fr. Jose Meletukochyil CST



Smiles, Simplicity, and the Sacred: My Time with Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST

My first acquaintance with Fr. Sebastian Thundathil, CST, goes back to my college days in Calicut. I still remember the quiet dignity with which he carried himself when he came for the recruitment of seminarians for Chargawan Seminary. Gorakhpur was part of the St. Thomas Province then, and his visits were always marked by a sense of purpose and calm. Though our interactions were brief at the time, something about his presence stayed with me—his gentle manner, his clarity of mission, and the way he spoke about the Church's work in North India with such conviction.



It wasn't until the year 2000, during my regency in the minor seminary formation, that I had the privilege of living and working closely with him. Those months were far more than a training period—they were a deeply personal and transformative experience. Sharing daily life with Fr. Sebastian gave me a front-row seat to a life lived with quiet strength, deep faith, and a deep knowledge and devotion for the Syro-Malabar Liturgy. He wasn't someone who taught through lectures or grand gestures; he taught through example. His discipline, his simplicity, his reverence for liturgy, and his pastoral sensitivity were woven into everything he did.

Fr. Sebastian's presence in the seminary was marked by a rare steadiness. He was not one to seek attention, yet his consistency in prayer, his disciplined routine, and his gentle guidance made him a pillar of formation. He lived the vows of religious life not as obligations but as expressions of love—poverty as solidarity with the poor, obedience as harmony with the Church, and chastity



as undivided love for God and neighbour. In a context where resources were limited and comforts few, he embraced a lifestyle that was modest, purposeful, and deeply missionary.

He held significant responsibilities within the Little Flower Province in Gorakhpur, yet there was never a trace of self-importance in him. Whether coordinating seminarians, guiding mission strategies, or serving as Mission Superior or Provincial Superior or as a member at the Provincial House, he carried himself with a humility that made everyone around him feel at ease. He didn't lead from above; he led from beside. I saw him work hand-in-hand with fellow Religious, lay collaborators, benefactors, and even village people, building institutions that were not just functional but deeply rooted in faith and community.

What made his leadership even more endearing was his wit and humor. Fr. Sebastian had a way of lightening even the most serious moments with a well-timed joke or a clever remark. His smiling face was a constant presence—



whether during formation sessions, community meals, or casual conversations. That smile, paired with his gentle humor, created an atmosphere of warmth and approachability.

Fr. Sebastian was a remarkably gifted linguist, fluent in Hindi, English, Bhojpuri, Nepali, Sanskrit, and even foreign languages like Deutsch and Syriac. His command over languages wasn't just academic—it was pastoral, relational, and deeply missionary. I still remember how he introduced me to Deutsch

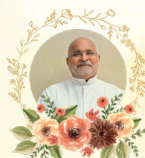
during our time together, sparking an interest that later became invaluable in my pastoral ministry in Germany. He also inspired me to explore Syriac, the ancient liturgical language of our Church. His love for languages was contagious, and it reflected his broader commitment to connecting with people—across cultures, across traditions, and across hearts.

His closeness to the local people was something I admired deeply. It wasn't just about knowing the language or customs—it was about truly belonging. Fr. Sebastian had immersed himself in the life of the people he served. He listened, he learned, and he lived among them. That incarnational style of mission—being present, being approachable, being real—was something I witnessed every day.



I remember vividly the time when I was serving as the provincial econome and Fr. Sebastian came to the Provincial House after having a pacemaker implanted. Despite the physical strain, he arrived with his usual smile, his calm demeanor intact, and his spirit undiminished. That moment spoke volumes about his inner strength and his love to his vocation.

What moved me most was his profound love for the liturgy. As Cathedral Parish Priest and Procurator of the Diocese of Gorakhpur, he gave wor-



ship its rightful place at the centre of Christian life. I watched him prepare for Mass with care, teach seminarians the meaning behind each gesture, and ensure that the liturgy was celebrated with dignity. His reverence was contagious. It made me see the Eucharist not as a routine, but as a sacred encounter. His attention to detail, his respect for tradition, and his deep prayerfulness shaped my own understanding of what it means to worship. Fr. Sebastian had a rare ability to balance the spiritual and the practical. He was deeply rooted in prayer, often spending long hours in adoration, lost in communion with the Lord. Yet he was also a builder—of schools, Ashrams, and communities. We saw how he started St. Basil's School with just nine children in a rented space, and how that humble beginning grew into something lasting. He believed in education not just as academic training, but as formation of the whole person—mind, heart, and soul. I remember his choice to stay in the bamboo house in Sheri, a modest dwelling that reflected his missionary spirit and his preference for being close to the people. He didn't seek comfort; he sought connection. That

bamboo house became a symbol of his groundedness, his humility, and his deep sense of purpose.

The challenges he faced in the initial years of his missionary journey were poverty, illiteracy, cultural gaps, logistical hurdles—but he met them with quiet courage. Whether it was finding land for a new school, supporting teachers in difficult conditions, or ensuring liturgical beauty in places with limited resources, he never lost sight of the mission. His perseverance was steady, and it inspired me to stay grounded even when things felt overwhelming.

Living with Fr. Sebastian taught me that religious life isn't about dramatic gestures—it's about daily faithfulness. His mentoring wasn't loud, but it was consistent. His love for God's people wasn't abstract—it was tangible. He showed me that mission is not just preaching—it's building, educating, accompanying, and loving. That small beginnings, like a few students in a rented room, can grow into institutions that change lives.

Even now, his life continues to speak to me. He taught me that being faithful to principle matters more than being popular. That liturgy is not a

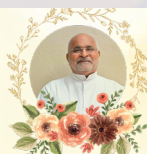


duty—it's our identity. That religious life is both a gift and a sacrifice. That mission is about presence, about relationships, about grace. And that the most powerful witness is often the quietest one.

Fr. Sebastian Thundathil CST, is not just a missionary priest to me—he is a living witness. During my regency and beyond, he has remained a mentor, a model, and a quiet inspiration. His life reminds me every day what it means to serve with love, lead with humility, and live with faith.

Fr Joby Mamalassery CST

Vicar Provincial

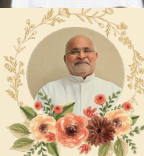


A Tribute to Rev. Fr. Sebastian CST

The memories I cherish of Fr. Sebastian remain ever vivid and enduring. He was a man whose radiant smile left a lasting impression on all who met him. It was his nature never to let anyone pass by without a warm greeting. His cheerful disposition and delightful sense of humor ensured that no one who approached him ever departed without a smile. Wherever he went, his presence was felt — marked by joy, kindness, and a genuine concern for others. When his mortal remains were brought to the Provincial House, I had the opportunity to sit beside him for some time. Throughout the night, I observed a few individuals keeping vigil beside him in the chapel. The next morning, moved by their quiet devotion, I asked them what had inspired them to spend the whole night in prayer for Fr Sebastian. Their responses were deeply touching. One said, “It is because of Fr. Sebastian that I am who I am today.” Another shared, “It was through his guidance that I was able to come this far in life.” Though he has left this world, the memories he has left behind continue to speak eloquently of his goodness, his compassionate heart, and the countless lives he enriched through his selfless service. May he rest in peace.

Fr Bony Venattu CST

Little Flower Provincial House, Gorakhupur



A Tribute to Rev. Fr. Sebastian CST

Introduction

The passing of Rev. Fr. Sebastian, CST, at the age of 79, has left a deep emptiness in our hearts. He was more than a priest—he was a fatherly figure, a courageous guide, and a man of truth and simplicity. His life reflected faith, honesty, and humility, and his presence brought encouragement and joy to all who knew him. It is with gratitude and love that we recall his life and pay tribute to his memory.

A Fatherly Figure

Rev. Fr. Sebastian was not only a priest but also a true fatherly figure in my life. His passing has left a deep void, yet his memory remains a source of strength and inspiration.

His Courage and Truthfulness

Father Sebastian was a man of remarkable courage and conviction. He always stood for truth, even when it was difficult, and encouraged others to do the same. His strong principles were matched with a compassionate heart, which made him both respected and loved by all who knew him.

His Appreciation for the FSJ Sisters

He had a deep appreciation for the FSJ Sisters working at Little Flower School. He often recognized our commitment, hard work, and dedication. His words of encouragement lifted our spirits, and his appreciation reminded us that our efforts were seen and valued.

A Guide in Difficult Times

On a personal level, Father Sebastian was a guide during my most challenging moments. He listened with patience, advised with wisdom, and supported me with genuine concern. His fatherly guidance helped me face situations with courage, and his constant encouragement gave me hope and confidence.

A Life of Simplicity and Joy

Despite his strength and seriousness when it came to truth, he lived a life of simplicity and humility. There was no pretension in him—what he believed, he lived out. Alongside his honesty and integrity, he also had a



delightful sense of humor. He often made us laugh with his witty remarks and joyful spirit, reminding us that faith and joy go hand in hand.

His Lasting Legacy

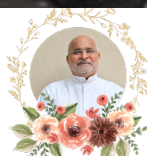
Father Sebastian's life was a testimony of faith, simplicity, and service. He touched countless lives with his kindness, inspired many with his words, and guided others with his wisdom. We are missing his presence deeply, but his memory continues to encourage us to live with faith, honesty, and courage.

Conclusion

May the Lord reward him for his life of dedication and love. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Rev. Sr. Kala Powlose FSJ
FSJ Convent, Raptinagar





In Loving Memory of Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathil



My memories of Sebastian Achachachan (my father's elder brother) go back to my childhood, when he was at Vadavathoor Seminary for his PhD studies. During that period, while his beloved mother Ammachi was ill, he regularly visited his family home in Moolamattom every weekend. Those visits remain among the golden memories of my early years.

Achaachan's presence brought joy and warmth to everyone around

him, especially children. Every weekend we eagerly awaited him—for his coffee bite toffees, his evening walks, and his cheerful presence. At the age of 9 or 10, I walked with him in the evenings to many houses in our hilly area of Moolamattom. Together, we children visited almost every home, without discrimination of rich or poor, or of any religion. His way of speaking and connecting with people touched every heart. On those walks, he shared his childhood memories,



Bible stories, and tales from Gorakhpur, including his missionary experiences in the Basti. He played with us, laughed with us, and made us feel loved. At that time we visited many distant relatives' homes with him.

From him, I learned simplicity, compassion, gratitude, and the value of relationships with neighbors and family. Through his life stories, he taught me never to waste food and to appreciate its value. Even now, after 30 years, those lessons and memories remain alive in me, and I remember the way we walked together.

After completing his studies, he returned to Gorakhpur for his missionary work, but we always looked forward to his yearly visits. Even when I forgot to call during my studies, he never forgot me—he would call, ask about my well-being, and encourage me. He always kept in touch with my parents and our four siblings. My mother was always ready to serve him whenever he visited our home. He blessed my marriage and later the baptism of our three children.

Through his life, he showed us Christ in action. I believe he was a true missionary and now a saint in heaven, interceding for me and my family. In daily Holy Mass, I lovingly remember him along with my grandparents.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Dr. Amitha Antony

From the Thundathil family



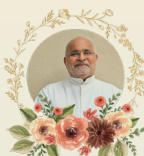
Memories forever

I remember so fondly those childhood days, when during Lent, mother would gently remind us that at least two members of the family should attend Mass every morning throughout the season. Somehow, the lot almost always fell to Sebastian and me. He accepted it with quiet joy, faithfully waking me each morning to be sure I went with him just as mother wished.

That steadfast devotion never left him. Even the last time we were together at home, he continued to go for Holy Mass every single day, despite the pain and difficulty of walking. Our kind neighbour would often give him a ride, but it was Sebastian's unwavering faith and determination that truly carried him there.

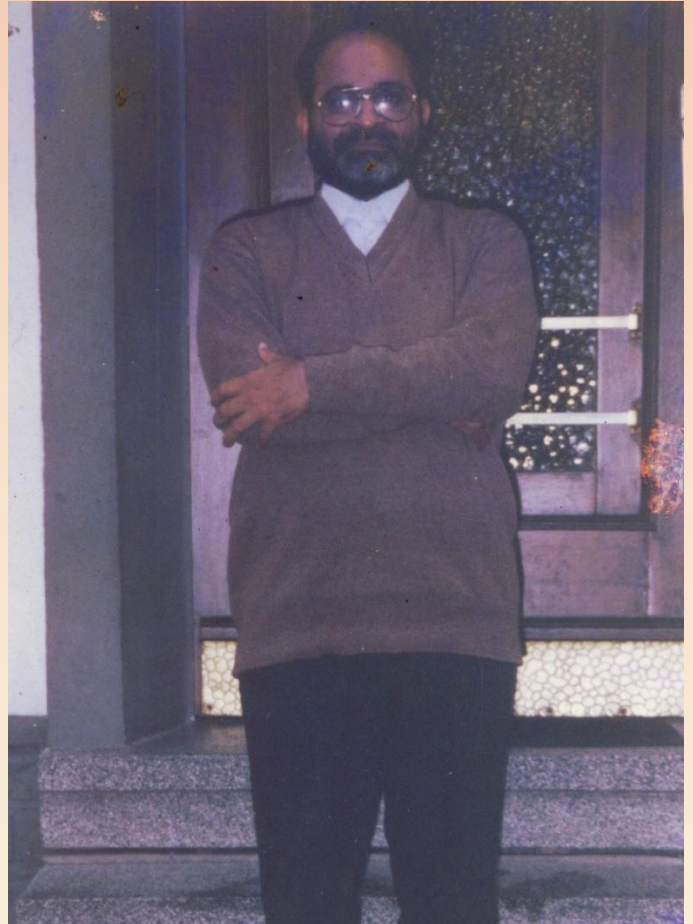
His simple, steady example has left a lasting mark on my heart—a reminder of the strength of faith and the love that binds a family together.

Fr. Mathew Thundathil

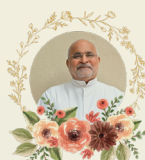


ഓർമ്മ

അച്ചനെ കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഓർമ്മകളിൽ ആദ്യം എന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ കടന്നുവരുന്നത് വർഷങ്ങൾക്കു മുൻപ് അച്ചന്റെ പുത്തൻകുർബാനക്ക് പോയ കാര്യം ആണ്. ഡാഡിയുടെയും മമ്മിയുടെയും കൂടെ ആ ചടങ്ങിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചത് വലിയ അനുഗ്രഹമായി ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നു. പിന്നീട് അച്ചൻ അവയിൽ മൂലമറ്റം വീട്ടിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം കാണാനായി ആലക്കോട്ടുള്ള വീട്ടിൽ വരുന്ന് ചെറുപ്പകാലത്തു ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ സന്തോഷം ഉള്ള ഒരു കാര്യം ആയിരുന്നു. അച്ചന്റെ കൂടെ പള്ളിയിൽ പോകുന്നതും എല്ലാം നല്ല ഓർമ്മകളായി മനസ്സിൽ തങ്ങി നിൽക്കുന്നു. വർഷങ്ങൾക്ക് ശേഷം 1993ൽ എന്റെ വിവാഹം ആശീർവദിക്കാനായും അച്ചൻ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നു. പിന്നീട് 2023 ജനുവരിയിൽ എന്റെ മകൻ ജിയോയുടെ വിവാഹം ആശീർ



വദിക്കാനായി ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ അവഗണിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഒരുപാട് ദൂരം യാത്ര ചെയ്ത് മാലക്കല്ല് വരെ എത്തി. 2023 ഡിസംബറിൽ അച്ചന്റെ ജൂബിലിയിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ എനിക്ക് സാധിച്ചതും ഒത്തിരി മധുരിക്കുന്ന ഓർമ്മകൾ നൽകുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ എന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിലെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട നിമിഷങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാം അച്ചൻ കൂടെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഒരുപാട് നല്ല ഓർമ്മകൾ തന്നെ, ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുമായിരുന്ന ഒരാളെ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് നഷ്ടമായിരിക്കുന്നു. സ്നേഹനിധിയായ അച്ചന്റെ പാവനമായ സ്മരണകൾക്ക് മുന്നിൽ ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി പ്രണാമം
ഷാന്റി ജോൺ മാലക്കല്ല്
(മാമ്പുഴക്കൽ / തുണ്ടത്തിൽ)



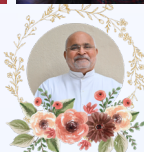
My Memories about Fr. Sebastian Thundathil



I was asked by his sister, Sr. Bosco ASMI, to provide some information to be included in the book about Fr. Sebastian. Accordingly, I append below some relevant memories and details.

Rev. Dr. Sebastian is my first cousin and the son of the late T. J. Thomas Thundathil (popularly known as Kutty Perappan, 1912–1987). Kutty Perappan was the eldest brother of my father, the late T. J. Antony Thundathil, Kanjikuzhy, Idukki District (1931–1997). They were the sons of my grandfather Ouseph Thommen Thundathil (1889–1946), who in turn was the son of Thommen the Great (Thommen Devasia Thundathil, 1864–1943) of Kaveekunnu, Palai.

Rev. Dr. Sebastian was born in January 1946 at Moolamattam. After completing his schooling, he joined the CST Congre-



gation and was ordained a priest in 1973. After serving for a year in the Malabar area, he moved to the Mission Province of Gorakhpur, where he engaged in missionary work among the local people and also managed a school that has since grown into a Junior College.

In 1998, he obtained his PhD from the Oriental Institute, Vadavathoor. In connection with his studies, he travelled widely abroad, including to Israel and Germany. Our relative, Rev. Fr. Shimmy Joseph CST (Vayalil, Chemperi), the son of my second cousin Aleykutty Thundathil, is also a priest of the same CST Congregation and is currently pursuing his PhD in Austria. He was once a student of Rev. Dr. Sebastian at the Seminary.

In 1985, while working as a Bank Officer in Lucknow, I paid a visit to Rev. Dr. Sebastian's mission location in Basti (a district in eastern Uttar Pradesh). I was deeply impressed by his simplicity



and his popularity among the local people. Later, he went to Nepal and carried out missionary work among the poor, despite facing many health problems.

After his retirement, he resided at Little Flower Provincial House, Gorakhpur, U.P. Anyone who met Rev. Dr. Sebastian could not fail to be impressed by his humility, simplicity, and well-developed sense of humour. He also served as the Provincial of the CST Little Flower Province of Gorakhpur, Eastern U.P. For several years, he was actively engaged in missionary work in Nepal.

On 24 April 2019, we had organized an informal local get-together of our Thundathil family members at the MILK BAR A/C Auditorium, Palai. Rev. Dr. Sebastian travelled all the way from Nepal just to attend the gathering upon our invitation. He conducted the meeting with supreme mastery, making the event a grand success.

He always showed a keen interest in our family history. Several years ago, he even encouraged me to compile the Thundathil Family History.

It is touching to recall that when our grandfather, Ouseph Thom-

men Thundathil (57 years), was on his deathbed in July 1946 due to liver disease, he expressed his desire to see the newborn six-month-old child, Fr. Sebastian. After seeing the infant, he peacefully passed away shortly thereafter.

Down Memory Lane

I recall an incident from 1985....On 4 June, I joined the Indian Overseas Bank, Madras, as a Probationary Officer after passing an all-India compet-



itive examination. I had to undergo a training-cum-probation period of two years, posted at various branches across North and South India.

In April 1985, I was transferred from the Cochin branch to the Lucknow main branch in the capital city of Uttar Pradesh. At that time, Fr. Sebastian was running a school at Basti, a city as well as a district in eastern U.P. He became my local guardian when I was in Lucknow. He often visited my bank



and ensured my welfare. I was only 25 years old then, while he was 39.

One of my most valuable life lessons came through him when I visited him at his residence in Basti.....

I took the 8 a.m. passenger train from Lucknow's Charbagh Railway Station and reached Basti by 1 p.m. I still remember that five-hour journey through the mango plantations of eastern U.P. along the Lucknow–Gorakhpur railway line. After reaching Basti, I



decided to walk the two kilometres to his residence instead of taking a rickshaw. Being new to North India and unfamiliar with the place, I lost my way. To make matters worse, my newly bought footwear began to hurt and peel the skin on my feet. Limping in pain, I finally hailed a rickshaw, which brought me to his house.

Fr. Sebastian gently scolded me for not taking a rickshaw in the first place. I stayed with him as his guest for a few

days. When I returned to Lucknow, my feet became infected, and I ended up spending Rs. 120 on tetanus injections and antibiotics—all because I had tried to save Rs. 2 by walking! This incident taught me a lifelong lesson in managing money wisely.

When I left Basti, Fr. Sebastian himself dropped me at the railway station on his scooter and even purchased my return ticket at his own expense—an unnecessary but deeply generous gesture that left a lasting impression on me.

I was profoundly moved by his caring nature, and his example greatly influenced my conduct in later years. Ever since, whenever he visited me, I always made sure to cover his local transportation and return fares, as a mark of gratitude for the generosity he once showed me.

Mr. T. A. Thomas Thundathil
Ettumanoor, Kerala

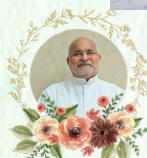


ദ്രിക്തലും മറക്കാത്ത ഓർമകളുമായി

റവ. ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യന്റെ ചെറുപ്പകാലത്തെ അതായത് സ്കൂൾ ജീവിതകാലത്തെ കുറിച്ച് അധികമൊന്നും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ ഒരു പുരോഹിതനായതിനു ശേഷമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെ എനിക്കറിയാവു.

ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ ചൈതന്യവും തേജസ്സും ഓജസ്സും വിളക്കും ആയിരുന്ന ഒരു വ്യക്തിത്വത്തിന്റെ ഉടമയായിരുന്നു. ലീവിനു വീട്ടിൽ വന്നാൽ മിക്കവാറും എല്ലാ ബന്ധുവീടുകളിലും പോവുകയും എല്ലാവരുമായി വളരെ അടുത്ത സ്നേഹബന്ധം പുലർത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുമായിരുന്നു. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെറിയ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായാൽ അത് വളരെ സംയമനത്തോടും സ്നേഹത്തോടും സൗമ്യമായി പരിഹരിക്കുകയും അതിനു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ഉപദേശവും പരിഹാരമാർഗങ്ങളും പറഞ്ഞു തരുമായിരുന്നു.

ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യന്റെ പ്രാർത്ഥന ജീവിതം, വളരെ ധന്യമായിരുന്നു. എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നിടത്തോളം വളരെ കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠയോടെ ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. വീട്ടിലായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, രാവിലെ നാല് മണിക്ക് ഉണർന്ന് പ്രഭാത കൃത്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ശേഷം സപ്ര ചൊല്ലും. അതിനു ശേഷം മാത്രമേ, വി. കുർബാനയ്ക്കായി പള്ളിയിലേക്ക്



പോയത്. പള്ളിയിൽ വികാരിയച്ചനെ എല്ലാ കാരുത്തിലും വളരെ സന്തോഷത്തോടെ സഹായിക്കുമായിരുന്നു.

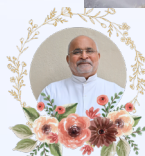
ഇടവക ജനങ്ങൾക്കും വികാരിയച്ചനും വളരെ സ്നേഹമുള്ള ഒരു വ്യക്തിയായിരുന്നു ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ. എല്ലാ കാരുത്തിലും വളരെ കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠ പാലിച്ചിരുന്നു. വൈകിട്ട് വീട്ടിലായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ വീട്ടിലെ സന്ധ്യാ പ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്ക് മുൻപ് റംശാ ചൊല്ലുന്ന കാരുത്തിൽ നിർബന്ധമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിനുശേഷം കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളോട് കൂടി ജപമാലയും മറ്റു പ്രാർത്ഥനകളും ചൊല്ലിയിരുന്നു. ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ വെജ് ഭക്ഷണം മാത്രമേ കഴിച്ചിരുന്നത്. ഷുഗർ കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്യുവാൻ അങ്ങേയറ്റം പരിശ്രമിച്ചിരുന്ന വ്യക്തിയായിരുന്നു. പിന്നെ എങ്ങനെ എത്രമാത്രം കോംപ്ലിക്കേഷൻ ഉണ്ടായി എന്ന് ദൈവത്തിനെ മാത്രമേ അറിയാവൂ.

അതുപോലെ എല്ലാ കാരുത്തിലും നീതിനിഷ്ഠ പുലർത്തിയിരുന്ന വ്യക്തിയായിരുന്നു. CST സഭയിലെ ഒരു വിശ്വസ്ത സന്യാസി-യായിരുന്നു, ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ എന്ന് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. വീട്ടിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ തമാശയായിട്ടും (സത്യമായിട്ടും) പറയും. ഞാൻ ഒരു സഭക്കാരനാണ് അതുകൊണ്ട് നിങ്ങളാരും പണമൊന്നും ആവശ്യപ്പെടരുത് എന്ന്. അച്ചന്റെ നീതിനിഷ്ഠയ്ക്ക് ചെറിയ ഉദാഹരണം, എന്റെ മൂത്ത സഹോദരന്റെ മകൾ പട്നയിൽ നഴ്സിംഗ് നു പഠിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യന്റെ അടുത്ത

ഹോളി ഡേയ്സ് നു വന്നു. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ അച്ചന്റെ ഹൗസിൽ കെയർ വിദേശ തുണിത്തരങ്ങൾ പാവപ്പെട്ടവർക്ക് വേണ്ടി വന്നു. എന്റെ നീസ് അത് കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഒരു സ്വെറ്റർ അതിൽ നിന്നും എടുത്തു. ഉടനെ അച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞു അത് അവിടെ ഇടുക. അതെടുക്കരുത്, അത് പാവപ്പെട്ടവർക്ക് വേണ്ടി കിട്ടിയതാണ്. നിനക്ക് വേണമെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ വേറെ വാങ്ങി തരും. ആ കാരുത്തിൽ വളരെ കർക്കശക്കാരനായിരുന്നു അച്ചൻ. കുട്ടികളെ വളരെയധികം ഇഷ്ടമായിരുന്നു.

ഡോക്ടറൽ സ്റ്റഡീസ് കോട്ടയത്തു പഠിച്ചിരുന്ന കാലത്തു മിക്കവാറും വീട്ടിൽ വരുമായിരുന്നു. അപ്പോഴൊക്കെയും വീട്ടിലെ കൊച്ചുകുട്ടികളുടെ കുട്ടുകാരനായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബ വിളക്കായിരുന്ന ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യന്റെ വേർപാടിൽ വേദനയോടെ ഈ കാരുങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു.

സി. ബോസ്കോ മരിയ തുണ്ടത്തിൽ ASMI

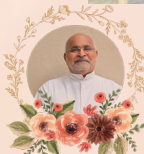


A Personal Note

As a nephew who had the blessing of spending his childhood in our family house, I grew up watching how deeply Fr. Sebastian Thundathil dedicated his life to Christ and to the welfare of society. His priestly life was not only about his ministry but also about being a strong pillar of faith and strength for the entire Thundathil family and our extended relatives. I had the privilege to visit his different mission stations where he has worked in Gorakhpur and Nepal.

On a personal note, I cannot forget how immensely Fr. Sebastian guided me and stood by me in all the major occasions of my life. From blessing my marriage in 1992, to being present for my son's baptism and first Holy Communion, and later, despite his health challenges, blessing my son Tony and daughter-in-law Tincy on their wedding day - Fr. Sebastian always made sure his prayers and presence were with us.

He was not only a priest but truly a missionary at heart. His life was a testimony of care, compassion, sacrifice, and friendship. Everyone who met him felt his warmth, and during his

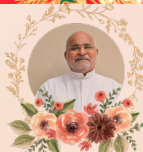


funeral, it was so moving to hear people share countless stories of how he touched lives in simple yet meaningful ways.

Even during his last days, I witnessed the care and love shown to him by the priests and sisters at the hospital, and I remain grateful for the CST community who stood by him with such commitment and affection.

I thank the Lord Almighty for blessing me with a father figure like Fr. Sebastian, whose presence strengthened my faith and whose memory will continue to guide me. I will always remember his loving nature and the special way he fondly called me “Tomy.”

With gratitude and love,
Thomas Joseph (Tomy)
Thundathil Family
Chandigarh



സ്നേഹാദരവോടെ ജെഷ്ഠസഹോദരനെ സ്മരിക്കാം



ജീവിത യാത്രയിലെ സഞ്ചാര പഥങ്ങളിൽ ഞാനുൾപ്പെടുന്ന പത്ത് മക്കളിൽ ആറാമനായി 1946 ൽ ജനിച്ചു, നീണ്ട 79 വർഷക്കാലത്തെ ഭൗതിക ജീവിതത്തിന് വിട നൽകി നടന്നു നീങ്ങിയ ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ തുണ്ടത്തിൽ (ദേവസ്യാച്ചൻ) എന്റെ സഹോദരൻ എന്നതിലുപരി നന്മ നിറഞ്ഞ ഒരു മനസിന്റെ ഉടമ കുടിയായിരുന്നു. 27ആം വയസ്സിൽ കണ്ണൂർ കുട്ടുമുഖം മേരിഗിരി ആശ്രമത്തിൽ സുപ്പീരിയറായി ചുമതലയേറ്റതോടെ, സമർപ്പണത്തിന്റെയും സേവനത്തിന്റെയും പാതയിലേക്കാണ് അച്ഛൻ നടന്നത്. ഉയർന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കഴിവുള്ള കുറച്ചുപേരിൽ മാത്രം കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചിരുന്ന ആ കാലഘട്ടത്തിലും, അച്ഛൻ അതുല്യമായ പരിശ്രമത്തോടെ ദൈവശാസ്ത്രത്തിൽ പി.എച്ച്.ഡി. നേടി. സമർപ്പിത ജീവിതം വഴിയായി അച്ഛൻ മനുഷ്യസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെയും ആത്മീയ ബോധത്തിന്റെയും പ്രതീകമായി, സമൂഹ

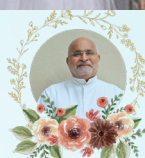


ത്തിനാകെ ഒരു നിയമം വെളിച്ചമായി മാറി. ഞങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലാം മാർഗ്ഗരീപമായി വർത്തിച്ച പ്രിയപ്പെട്ട പിതാവും, മാതാവും (തോമസ് & മറിയം) ദേവസ്വാച്ചൻറെ ജീവിതത്തിലെ വഴികാട്ടിയായിരുന്നു എന്നത് പ്രത്യേകമായി ഇവിടെ സ്മരിക്കട്ടെ. ദൈവിക വഴിയിലൂടെ തന്റെ വിശ്വാസത്തെ മറുപടികൊടുത്തു മുന്നേറുവാനും, ജീവകാരുണ്യ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിലും, കുടുംബ ബന്ധങ്ങളെ ചേർത്തുപിടിച്ചു മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുന്നതിലുമൊക്കെ ദേവസ്വാച്ചൻറെ റോൾമോഡൽ അമ്മയായ മറിയം ആയിരുന്നു എന്നത് ഈ അനുസ്മരണകുറിപ്പ് എഴുതുമ്പോൾ എനിക്കും ഏറെ അഭിമാനത്തിന് വക നൽകുന്നു. വർത്തമാന കാലത്ത് വിശ്വാസ സമൂഹത്തിനു സംഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അപചയത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി അത്ഭുതങ്ങളും, അടയാളങ്ങളും തേടിയുള്ള ക്രൈസ്തവ സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ നിലയ്ക്കാത്ത ഓട്ടത്തിൽ, യഥാർത്ഥമായ അത്ഭുതം ദിവസേനയുള്ള ദിവ്യബലിയെന്ന സത്യം വിശ്വാസികൾക്ക് പകർന്നു നൽകുവാൻ ദേവസ്വാച്ചനു കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നത് തന്റെ ആത്മീയ ജീവിതത്തിലെ വഴി വിളക്കായി മാറുമെന്ന് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാം .

ഈ സ്മരണികളിലൂടെ ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ വ്യത്യസ്ത തുറകളിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നവർ കുറിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വാക്കുകൾ ആലങ്കാരികമായ പദാവലികൾക്കപ്പുറം, കരുണയുടെയും, സഹനത്തിന്റെയും വഴികളിലൂടെ വിശ്വാസ ധാരയിൽ മുന്നേറുവാൻ പുതു തലമുറയ്ക്ക് പ്രചോദനമായി മാറട്ടെ എന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ ചെറുപുഷ്പ സഭ സുപ്പീരിയർ ജനറൽ ഫാ: ജോജോ വരകുകാലായിൽ അച്ചനും ഗോരഖ്പൂർ പ്രൊവിൻഷ്യൽ സുപ്പീരിയർ ഫാ. സാബു കണ്ടംകെറ്റിയിൽ അവറുകൾക്കും, പ്രൊക്കുറേറ്റർ ബെന്നി പോൾ തേക്കുംകാട്ടിൽ അച്ചനും ചെറുപുഷ്പ സഭയിലെ അഭിവന്ദ്യരായ മറ്റു വൈദികർക്കും പ്രത്യേകമായ നന്ദി അറിയിക്കട്ടെ.

സ്നേഹാഭിവാദനങ്ങളോടെ

അഡ്വ ജോയി തോമസ് തുണ്ടത്തിൽ

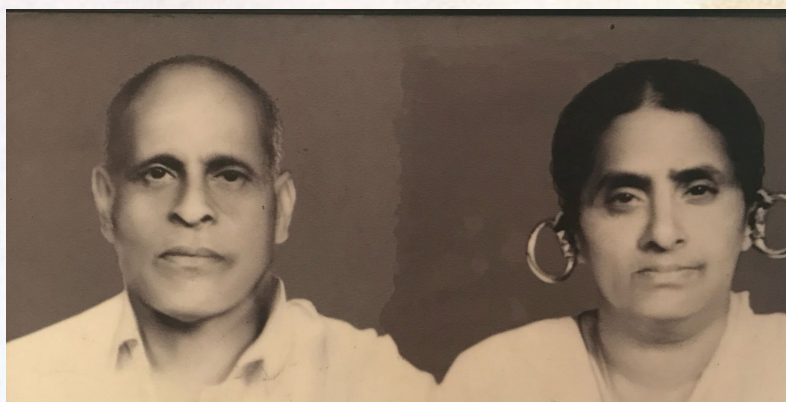








First photo Thundathil family after the ordination of beloved Fr. Sebastian.



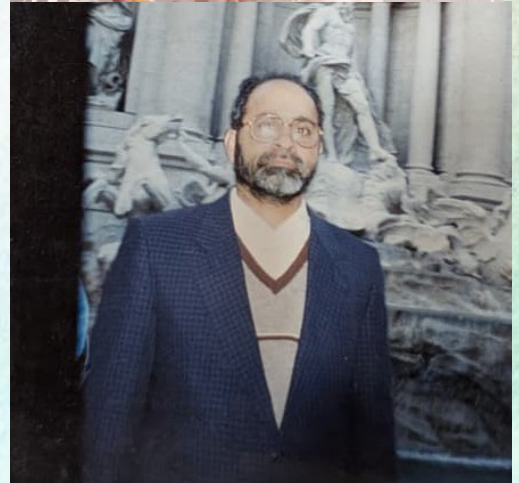
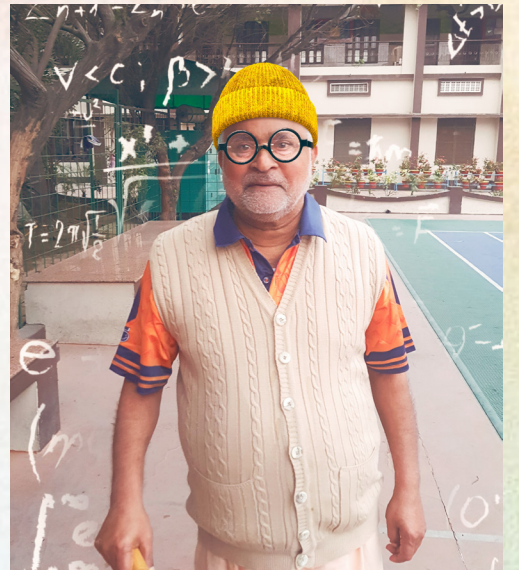
Parents of Fr Sebastian

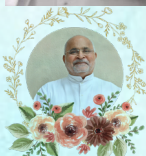


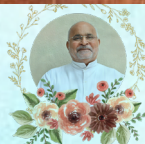
Prayerful Festal Greetings
 150th Birthday &
 Centenary Year of Beatification

मयुराक्षीनर
 सिद्धिपुष्प...

A Little Flower Province Gorakpur - Nepal Production





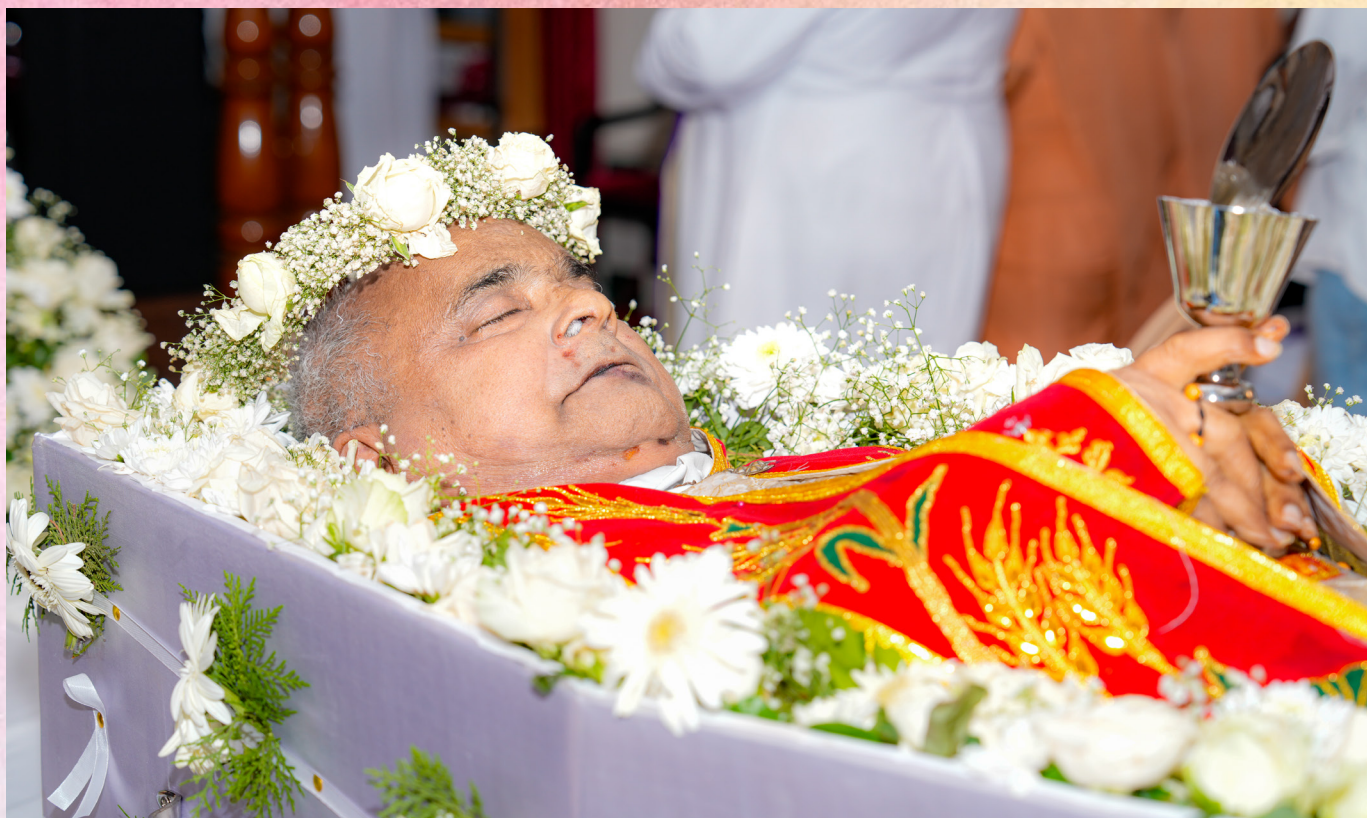


















Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them:
They can be injured by us, they can be wounded;
They know all our penitence,
All our aching sense that their place is empty,
All the kisses we bestow on the smallest relic of their presence.



ദേവാലയമേ...പോകുന്നു ഞാൻ
കർമ്മങ്ങൾക്കായ് വരികില്ലിനി ഞാൻ
ഇനിയെൻ പ്രിയരേ... പോവുന്നു ഞാൻ
അന്തിമയാത്ര വന്ദനമോടെ



SCAN TO WATCH
THE FUNERAL
VIDEO ON YOUTUBE





Pushpatarang
MEDIA

LEGACY ALIVE

Memoir on Fr Sebastian
Thundathil CST

