



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

## DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

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EMT/16 Circular

22 May 2022



*in loving memory of*

**REV. FR. SUDHIR JOHN KULLU MSFS**

FEBRUARY 18, 1962 - MAY 18, 2022

## **My dear Confreres,**

Together with our Congregation family, we the members of MSFS Dibrugarh Province are deeply mourning the sad demise of our dear confrere, Rev. Fr. Sudhir John Kullu, whom the Lord has chosen to be the first from our new Province to be with Him in His Eternal Presence, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2022! Sometimes it is very difficult for us to understand God's ways for us, but in deep faith and trust in the Lord, we submit ourselves to God's Will for him.

As informed to you all, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May we could organise a Requiem Mass at MSFS Provincial House Silapathar at 05.00 pm, after which the mortal remains of Fr. Sudhir John Kullu was transported to Shillong, where he was laid to rest at the MSFS Study House Cemetery after the funeral mass at 01.00 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Although not very exhaustive a brief report of the same is given below:

**Requiem Mass at Silapathar:** The mortal remains of Fr Sudhir John Kullu were brought to SFS Church Silapathar on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 03:30 pm. At 05:00 pm a Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of the soul of Fr Sudhir by Most Rev. Albert Hemrom, the Bishop of Dibrugarh Diocese and concelebrated by Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Provincial and several confreres from Upper Assam and Arunachal and a few fathers from Dibrugarh. The Mass was attended by our Novices from Chabua, several religious and faithful from Assam and Arunachal, especially from the parishes where Fr. Sudhir had ministered. After the Mass, a simple meal was served for all. After the supper, the mortal remains of Fr Sudhir John were transported to Shillong from Silapathar by 08:00 pm, accompanied by the confreres.

**Funeral Service of Fr Sudhir John Kullu at Shillong:** The mortal remains of Fr Sudhir John Kullu reached MSFS Study House, Shillong by 10:00 am on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The Funeral Mass began at 01:00 pm in MSFS Study House, presided over by Fr Sabu Francis the Provincial of Guwahati Province. It was attended by almost 60 priests (mainly our confreres from both Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces) and 40 Religious, 03 family members of Fr Sudhir and a few faithful from Shillong. After the Mass, condolence messages were given by Fr Milkus Tirkey, Fr Shaju Ambiyil (it was read by Fr Carlus Barowa) and sister of Fr Sudhir. A vote of thanks was proposed on behalf of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, by Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, Admonitor and Provincial Councillor, Dibrugarh Province. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province led the funeral rites and laid the mortal remains of Fr Sudhir to rest in the cemetery of MSFS Study House Shillong. Thanks to Fr Sabu Francis, the Provincial of Guwahati Province together with his Administration and members, as well as Fr Athnas Kerketta, the Rector of MSFS Study House together with his community, for making all the arrangements for the solemn burial of Fr Sudhir John Kullu in MSFS Study House Shillong.

Here below is the tribute that I, as Provincial on behalf of all of you, paid to Fr. Sudhir John Kullu at both Requiem Mass and Funeral Mass on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May respectively: **Adieu dear Fr. Sudhir John Kullu MSFS!**

**“Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord” (Rom 14:8)**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,**

We are still in the Easter Season, reminding us that the resurrection of Jesus is a promise God gives to us that one day we will be with Him and it is this hope that gives us meaning both to our life and our death – a reason to live

and a reason to die. And as Christians, it is this thought that leads us forward: whether we live or die, we do belong to the Lord.

The Constitutions of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Article No. 116 says: Following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, our life is a continuous offering to the Father till we can say with him, "it is accomplished" (Jn 19:30). On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May early morning at about 12 05 am Fr. Sudhir John Kullu, as a true Fransalian, has made his final oblation to the Father saying with Jesus, 'it is accomplished'. Fr. Sudhir, aged 60 years, 34 years as a Religious and a priest for 26 years in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, after many months of suffering, died of Chronic Liver Disease (CLD) and Ascites on 18<sup>th</sup> May at VG Hospital Dibrugarh. He has been under the treatment for the same for the past one year, by staying in MSFS Provincial House Silapathar.

Fr. Sudhir John Kullu was born at Jampani Village, Jharkhand on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1962 as the fifth child of late Alois Kullu and Mary Rosalia. He hailed from the Parish of St. Therese of Child Jesus, Bhukumunda in the Diocese of Simdega. He joined the Minor Seminary at Fransalian Vidyajothi, Nidadavole in Andhra Pradesh in 1984. He made his First Profession on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1988, at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 1988 to 1991. Before he joined St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1992, he did one year of regency at SFS Parish Tening, Nagaland. He made his perpetual profession on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1994 and was ordained deacon on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1995 in Vinayalaya, Bangalore. After the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained Priest at his home Parish Bhukumunda on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1996 by Rt. Rev. Joseph Minj, Bishop of Simdega.

Fr. Sudhir began his pastoral ministry as an Associate Priest in SFS Parish Hamren in the Diocese of Diphu. Then from 2000 – 2003 he was part of the Formation Team in Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala. After that he was appointed as the Parish Priest of the then newly opened MSFS Parish, Khristu Jayanti Parish, Galsi, in the Diocese of Asansol, West Bengal. Then he came back to Assam and was the Associate Priest at Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Guwahati. Then from 2006 – 2016 for 10 long years he worked in our Arunachal Missions as a Missionary: As Associate Priest at Holy Rosary Parish Basar and St. Mary's Parish Aalo as well as (as) the Parish Priest at St. Mary's Parish Aalo and Holy Angel's Parish, Tato. Here in Arunachal Missions he has touched the lives of many through his healing ministry. Then he came back once again to Assam and was Associate Priest at SFS Parish Narengi, Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Guwahati and SFS Parish, Chabua in the Diocese of Dibrugarh.

As he was in SFS Parish Chabua we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination on the Province level on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020, at SFS Church, Silapathar in the presence of Rt. Rev. Albert Hemrom, the then the Coadjutor Bishop of Dibrugarh. In May 2021 he went home for the celebration of his Silver Jubilee and there he suddenly fell ill and he was brought to Constant Lievens Hospital and Research Centre Ranchi with the help of our confreres there. After his treatment there he was brought to MSFS Provincial House Silapathar for further follow-up. So from July 2021 onwards, he was under constant medication for Chronic Liver Disease and Ascites, being taken care from the MSFS Provincial House Community Silapathar, especially by Fr. Peter Parankimalil, the Provincial Bursar and the House Superior. But on 8<sup>th</sup> May he was admitted in VG Hospital, Dibrugarh, due to low B. P and less haemoglobin. Though in between he showed signs of improvements his condition deteriorated and he was sustained with oxygen and other medical supports. Meanwhile he was administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and on 16<sup>th</sup> of May, together with some of our confreres, I visited him, prayed for him and with him at his bed. He seemed to be happy about it and looked peaceful interiorly, although at times he looked disturbed due to his physical discomforts. The doctors, Sisters and the nurses took care of him in the best way possible, but during the course of the next few days his condition deteriorated drastically and we informed his family members of the seriousness of the matter. Our confreres, family members and all his well-wishers constantly accompanied him through their prayers and presence, during these trying times. On 18<sup>th</sup> May, early

morning at 12.05 am Fr. Sudhir breathed his last peacefully, in the presence of Fr. Peter Parankimalil, Sisters and other medical staff. May the good Lord grant him eternal rest!

With Fr. Sudhir Kullu's passing away, the new MSFS Dibrugarh Province, has lost its first member, but gained an intercessor with the Lord for the Province. Condoling Fr. Sudhir's death, our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, who visited our Province, recently wrote to me: "I am saddened to hear the news of Fr. Sudhir Kullu's death. We bow our heads before God's will for him. I join you as you and the Province family grieves the loss of our dear confrere. He has touched the lives of many with his anointing and healing ministry. He has gone through lots of suffering. In fact, when I met him he would not let me know his suffering as he wanted to suffer silently..."

Yes, that was Fr. Sudhir John Kullu! He was a gentle, humble, unassuming and a cheerful Fransalian Missionary! Although he had faced a lot of problems in his Life and Ministry, with patience and trust in the Lord, he remained committed to the Lord and touched the lives of many whom he had ministered, especially with his healing ministry. Wherever he engaged himself in pastoral ministry, people loved him and appreciated him for his simple life and availability. Thank you Fr. Sudhir for inspiring us to be a simple, available and cheerful missionary!

At this moment I thank everyone who accompanied him throughout his life and ministry, and especially during the past one year when he was sick. Special words of appreciation for our confreres and the Sisters as well as the medical staff of VG Hospital for their accompaniment and service to Fr. Sudhir during his final days!

I am also grateful to all those persons, who sent us the condolence messages and assured their prayers and support on the sad demise of our beloved confrere Fr. Sudhir John Kullu and at this trying time of our new Province.

And we are here now to thank God for the person of Fr. Sudhir as well as for everything that God accomplished through him within the short span of life that God had gifted him.

At this moment we would also like to continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Sudhir and pray for his bereaved family members (of whom his Sister Miriam, Sister-in-law Ranjita and Nephew Rakesh are present here) and for all those who hold him dear to their hearts, that they may find comfort, strength and hope in the Lord.

We, the members of MSFS Dibrugarh Province would also like to remember with gratitude Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial and the members of MSFS Guwahati Province, together with Rector & Community of MSFS Study House, Shillong, who will make/made all the arrangements for the funeral of Fr. Sudhir John Kullu at our MSFS Study House Cemetery, Shillong.

As we gather here to bid farewell to you dear Fr. Sudhir, we would like to tell you that we will really miss you, miss your loving and smiling presence with us! May God look kindly upon you and bless you with His Eternal Presence! Adieu and May you rest in peace dear Fr. Sudhir!

### **May you rest in peace dear Fr. Sudhir John Kullu!**

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who sent us the condolence messages and assured their prayersupport on the sad demise of our beloved confrere Fr. Sudhiras well as at this difficult time of our new Province, (especially toRev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General and the members of General Administration, Rev. Fr. Provincials of various MSFS Provinces, Bishops and Provincials of Northeast India, MSFS Confreres and Well-wishers of Fr. Sudhir)

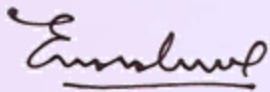
I thank also the Confreres and Administrations of both Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces for their prayers and support! A special word of thanks and appreciation for the MSFS Community of Silapathar, especially to Fr Peter Parankimalil, the Provincial Bursar and Superior of MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar for taking good care of Fr Sudhir for the last one year and organising the Requiem Mass at Silapathar as well as the transportation of the mortal remains of Fr Sudhir to Shillong with the help of our confreres! May God bless you dear confreres!

MSFS Dibrugarh Province is grateful to Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial and the members of MSFS Guwahati Province, together with Rector & Community of MSFS Study House, Shillong, who made all the arrangements for the funeral of Fr. Sudhir John Kullu at our MSFS Study House Cemetery, Shillong. Thank you dear Confreres!

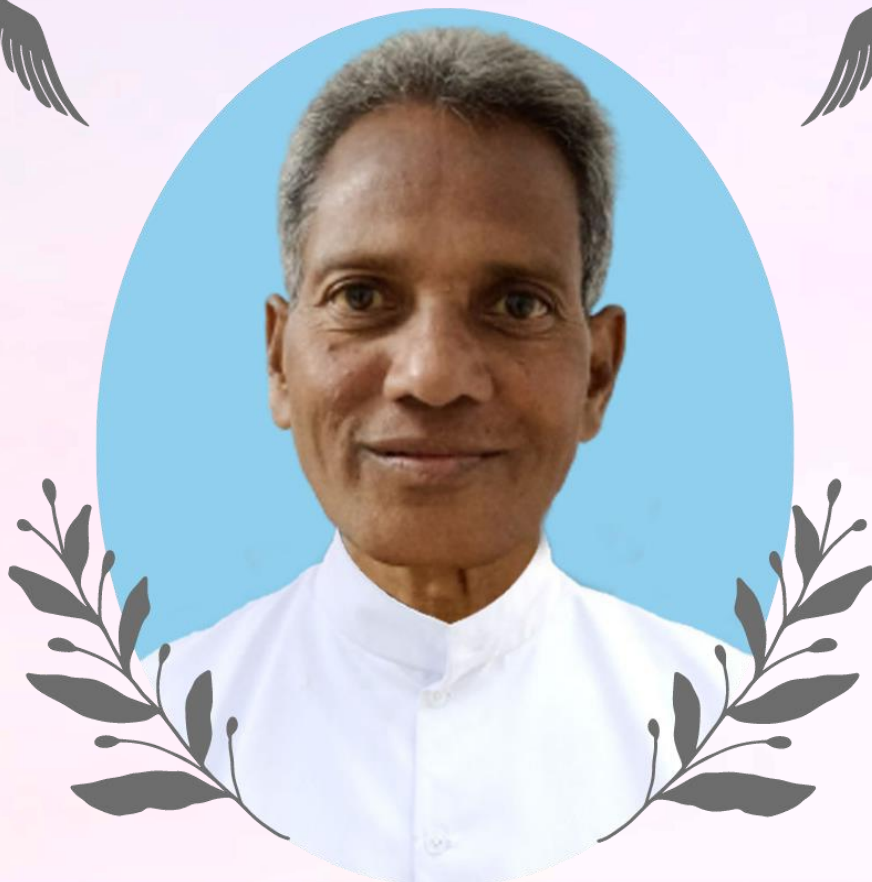
May the Lord grant you, dear Fr. Sudhir His Eternal Presence! Although we will miss you physically, being in the company of God, please do intercede for our beloved Congregation, especially for our Dibrugarh Province! May you rest in peace dear Fr. Sudhir John Kullu!

United in prayers for one another at this trying time of our Province,

Yours fraternally in the Risen Lord,



**Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS**  
(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)





Requiem Mass in SFS Parish Silapathar





Funeral Mass at MSFS Study House, Shillong

*In Coena Memoria*

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE









*In Loving Memory*



**REV. FR SUDHIR JOHN KULLU MSFS**

Born to life: 18-02-1962

Ordained : 18.04.1996

Called to eternal life: 18-05-2022



**MAY HIS SOUL  
REST IN PEACE**

