



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

MSFS Provincial House, SFS Campus, Silapathar P.O

Dhemaji Dt., Assam-787059. Mob: 9871379382/8848649759

Email: provincialdibrugarhmsfs@gmail.com/provincialsecretarydibrugah@gmail.com

www.msfsdibrugarh.com

TA/02- CIRCULAR
18 November 2022

in loving memory of



REV. FR. TOMY JOSEPH THEKKEL MSFS

JUNE 1, 1964 - NOVEMBER 10, 2022

My dear Confreres,

Together with all the members of our Fransalian family, we the members of MSFS Dibrugarh Province deeply mourn the sad and untimely demise of our dear confrere, Rev Fr Tomy Joseph Thekkel, whom the Lord has chosen to be with Him in His Eternal Presence, on the 10th November 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 surrender ourselves to God's Will for him.

Fr Tomy breathed his last on 10th November 2022 at 11: 45 pm in Kozhuvanal, Kottayam Kerala, at his home. After the liturgical services at home in which the local bishop, many priests both of our congregation and others, religious sisters, family members, and friends paid homage to him, the mortal remains of Fr. Tomy Joseph Thekkel was transported to Shillong, where he was laid to rest at the MSFS Study House Cemetery after the funeral mass at 10.30. am on the 15th of November 2022. A brief report of the same is given below:

Funeral Service of Fr Tomy Joseph Thekkel at Shillong: The mortal remains of Fr Tomy Joseph Thekkel reached MSFS Study House, Shillong by 9:30 am on 15th November 2022. The Funeral Mass began at 10:30 am in MSFS Study House, presided over by Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong. Fr Tomson Aerathedathu preached the homily of the funeral Mass. The service was attended by almost 80 priests (mainly our confreres from both Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces) and 50 Religious, 15 family members of Fr Tomy and a good number of faithful from SFS Parish Medziphema and Christ King Parish Gogamukh. After the Mass, condolence messages were given by Fr George Thomas, the Provincial delegate of Guwahati Province, Fr Jose Karipadathu, one of the batchmates of Fr Tomy, Fr Johny the representative of Kohima diocese who read out the condolence message of Most Rev. James Thoppil the Bishop of Kohima, Mr Luke from SFS Parish Medziphema, Mr Jerom Tudu from Christ King Parish Gogamukh and Mr. Manu Mathew, one of the family members of Tomy Joseph Thekkel. A vote of thanks was proposed on behalf of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, by Fr. George Vadakkeperincherimannil, the Provincial Councilor for education of Dibrugarh Province. Rev. Fr Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province led the funeral rites and laid the mortal remains of Fr Tomy to rest in the cemetery of MSFS Study House Shillong. We are indebted to Fr Sabu Francis, the provincial, and other Curia members of the Province of Guwahati and to Fr Athnas Kerketta, the Rector of



MSFS Study House together with his community in particular, for making all the arrangements for the smooth and solemn conducting of the funeral services of Fr Tomy Joseph Thekkel in MSFS Study House Shillong.

Here below is the tribute that I, as Provincial on behalf of all of you, pay to Fr. Tomy Joseph Thekkel

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

Adieu dear Fr. Tomy Joseph Thekkel MSFS!

In Baptism we die with Christ and rise with Him. The resurrection of Jesus gives us the unwavering hope that one day we will be with Him. It is this hope that gives meaning both to our life and to our death. 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 10th of November 2022 late night at about 11:45 am, Fr. Tomy Joseph Thekkel, as a true Fransalian, has made his final oblation to the Father saying with Jesus, ‘it is accomplished’. Fr. Tomy, aged 58 years, 37 years as a Religious and a priest for 29 years in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, after many months of suffering, died of kidney failure and a massive heart failure on 10th November 2022 at Kozhuvanal Kerala. He has been under treatment for the kidney related issues from CIHSR - Referral Hospital Dimapur and of late from Lisie Hospital Ernakulam and Marian Hospital Pala. He died in office as the Parish Priest of St. Francis De Sales Church Medziphema.

Fr Tomy Thekkel was born at Kozhuvanal, Kottayam, Kerala on 1st June 1964, as the second child of Late Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Mariamma. He hails from the Parish of St. John Nepuntiance Church, Kozhuvanal, Kottayam, from the Diocese of Palai. He joined the S.F.S. Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala on 18th June, 1981. Then he was promoted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and after the completion of his novitiate, he made his First Profession on 15th December 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 1986 to



1989. Before he joined Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune for his theological studies in 1990, he did one year of regency at SFS Church, Kangpokpi Manipur from 1989 - 1990. He made his perpetual profession on 01st December 1992 at Fransalianum, Pune. He was ordained deacon on 13th February 1993 at S.F.S. Church, Shaanwadi, Pune by Rt. Rev. Valerian D'Souza, the Bishop of Pune. After the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained Priest on 11th October 1993 at his home Parish St. John Nepuntiance Church, Kozhuvanal by Rt. Rev. Joseph Pallickaparampil, Bishop of Palai.



Fr. Tomy began his pastoral ministry as an Associate Priest in SFS Parish Tening Nagaland and he worked there 3 years from 1993 to 1996. Then from 1996 - 1997 he was part of the Formation Team in Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala as the Procurator. Thereafter he was appointed Parish Priest of the newly established SFS Church and principal of the SFS School, Narengi, Assam from 1997 to 1999. Then he came back to SFS Parish Tening Nagaland as the Parish priest in 1999 where he served the parish and school as headmaster for a year. Then he served as a Vic-Rector, in SFS Seminary, Medziphema, Nagaland from 2001 - 2002. From 2003 - 2005 he worked as the Principal of Fransalian School, and from 2005 to 2009 he worked as the Parish Priest of SFS Parish Jonai, Assam. Then from 2009- 2013, he worked as the Parish Priest, SFS church Sindukpathar, Tripura. After which he pursued his MSW (Masters in Social Work) from Assam Don Bosco University where he secured the first rank. From 2015-2021 he served as the Parish Priest of Christ King Church, Gogamukh and as Principal from 2017-2021 of Christ King School, Gogamukh. Of last, from 2021 onwards he served as the Parish Priest of SFS Church, Medziphema till his death.

Fr Tomy was admitted in the CIHSR - Referral Hospital Dimapur on 23rd June 2022 due to low hemoglobin level and high level of blood urea, sugar and serum creatinine. Hence, he was administered blood and started undergoing dialysis. He was responding well to the dialysis and medication, and was able to bring down his creatine level to some extent. On 30th June he was discharged from CIHSR - Referral Hospital Dimapur and was back to the Parish Community, Medziphema. He was undergoing frequent dialysis often from CIHSR Dimapur. For better care and treatment, he was taken to Kerala on 17 August 2022 accompanied by Sir Pius from Medziphema. He underwent dialysis Fistula surgery at Lisie Hospital Ernakulam on 27th Sept 2022 and was doing frequent dialysis from Marian Hospital Pala. He did his dialysis on 10th November and came back home. After dinner, he went to bed as usual and by 11:30 pm he experienced breathlessness and informed his brother Mr. Roy about it and after a few minutes he collapsed. The family rushed him to the hospital and by the time he breathed his last around 11: 45 pm on 10th November 2022.

With Fr. Tomy's passing away, MSFS Dibrugarh Province, has lost another member. But even after his death he continues to live in our fond memories. He has touched the lives of many and inspired many with his pastoral care and education ministry. In all his suffering he was patient, gentle, and cheerful as a true Fransalian Missionary! Although as a Missionary he had to face a lot of difficulties and hardship in his Life he bore it with patience and trust in the Lord, and thereby touched the lives of many whom he had

ministered. Wherever he engaged himself in pastoral ministry, the people loved him and appreciated his simple life and availability. Thank you Fr. Tomy for inspiring us to be simple, available and cheerful missionaries!

Last six months in the life of Fr. Tomy was difficult and painful. There are many persons who accompanied him with care, expressed in words, actions and prayers. We remain grateful to all of them. I thank everyone who accompanied him throughout his life and ministry, especially during the past six months when he was sick. Special words of appreciation for our confreres in Medziphema, Fr George V and Fr Panii Paul who took good care of him with the help of the confreres of SFS Seminary, Sir Pius, Sir Nelson and the sisters.

We thank God for the person of Fr. Tomy as well as for everything that God had accomplished in him through him within the short span of life. We would also continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Tomy and pray for his bereaved family members particularly for Mr. Roy and Mrs. Kochurani who were taking care of him at the last days of his life 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 The Provincial administration of Guwahati Province together with Rector & Community of MSFS Study House, Shillong, who made all the arrangements for the funeral of Fr. Tomy at our MSFS Study House Cemetery, Shillong.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who sent us the condolence messages and assured their prayers on this occasion. I thank Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General and the members of General Administration, the Provincials of different MSFS Provinces, Bishops and Provincials of Northeast India, MSFS Confreres and Well-wishers of Fr. Tomy.

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 to Fr Peter Parankimalil, the Provincial Bursar for rushing to Kerala, and making all the arrangements for bringing the mortal remains to Guwahati and from there to Shillong and also for accompanying the family members thereby. Thanks to Fathers Joseph Kannamangalathu and Babu Kudakachirakunnel, from Vinaya Bhavan seminary Thamarassery for the timely help and assistance in reaching out to the Family of Rev. Fr Tomy as soon as the news reached them. Special thanks to Fr Jose Parapillil (south-west Province) for



animating the funeral rites at the home of Fr Tomy. May God bless you dear confreres!

Dear Fr Tomy, we really miss you, miss your gentle presence. But you are alive in our fond memories. May God look kindly upon you and bless you with His Eternal Peace! Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!

United in prayers

Attyoumsfs

Fr Tomson Aerathedathu MSFS
(Provincial, Dibrugarh Province)



“Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine upon him”





Funeral service



at the home of Fr Tomy



Funeral Service at Shillong

