

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES



Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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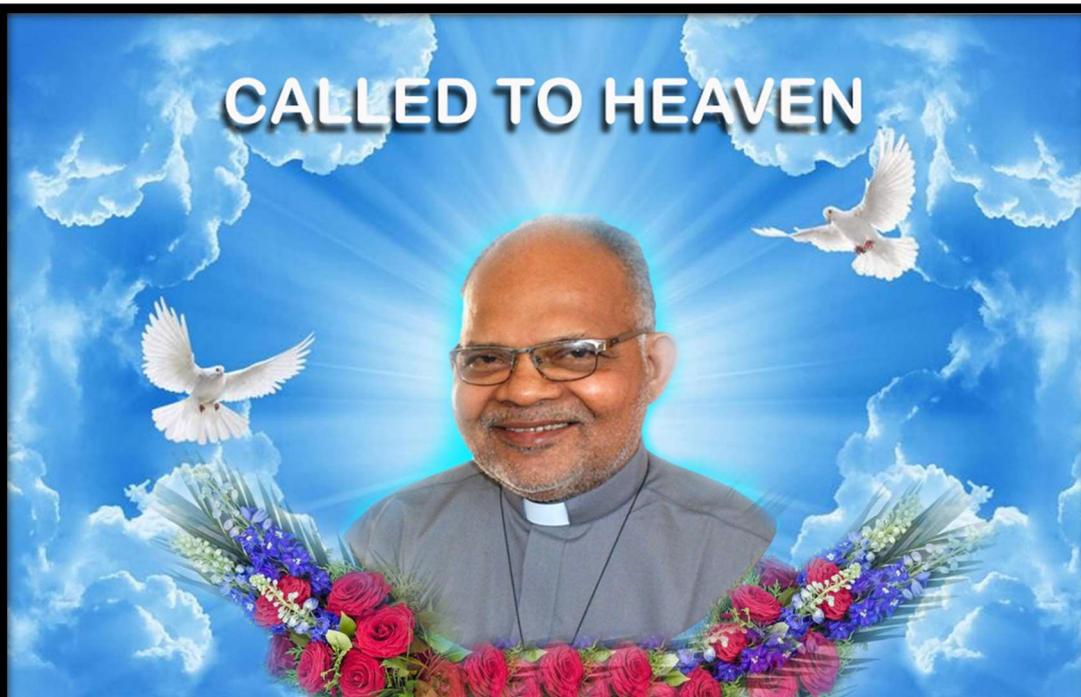


Provincial Circular EAP - MT.36

June 29, 2022

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED HEALING PRIEST,
REV. FR. SEBASTIAN KUZHUPIL MSFS

CALLED TO HEAVEN



FR. SEBASTIAN KUZHUPIL MSFS

Born
25.03.1951

Death
26.06.2022

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS (Senior) was born of Mr. Ittycheria and Mrs. Aelikutty Kuzhupil on March 25, 1951 at Athirampuzha, in the Archdiocese of Changanassery, Kottayam Dt., Kerala, India. He was baptized on March 29, 1951 at St. Mary's Church, Athirampuzha. He had seven siblings and two of them are religious sisters. One of his sisters, Sr. Vincent, a member of the Society of Sisters of St. Ann, Luzern, is working in Tanzania.

Fr. Sebastian had his primary and secondary school education at St. Aloysius High School, Athirampuzha from 1956 – 1968. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1968. He did his Philosophical studies at St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur from 1971 to 1974. Thereafter, he did his Regency at Vinayakumar Estate, Nilambur, Kerala, from 1974 to 1975. At the completion of the canonical year of Novitiate, he made his first profession on June 10, 1976. He did his Theological studies from 1976 to 1979 at JDV, Pune.

He made his final commitment in religious life on June 10, 1979 and was ordained a deacon on the following day. He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1979 at St. Mary's Church, Athirampuzha, by Rt. Rev. Cornelius Elanjickal, the then Bishop of Vijayapuram.

After almost a decade of missionary work in Nagaland and in Kerala, India, he came to Tanzania on December 31, 1987 as one of the pioneers. He learned the culture and language of Tanzania and engaged himself fully as a missionary in the various missions of Tanzania and dedicated himself for the healing ministry through alternative medicine and holistic healing.

On April 30, 2022, he was taken to St. Joseph Hospital Dumila, as he was not keeping well. He had a stroke as he reached there and the right side of his entire body was paralysed. But, since the proper medication was administered immediately he recovered. However, at night he fell down in the wash room and collapsed. His right side was again paralysed and his saturation level was low. He was rushed to Aga Khan Hospital at Dar es Salaam on May 01. The MRI report suggested that he was having a brain tumour which was malignant. Further scanning revealed that one of his lungs also had collapsed. After a week, he was put on the ventilator as his saturation level was very unsteady. Doctors suggested that they conduct a tracheostomy so that he could breathe easily. Though his situation level improved slightly they told that they cannot do anything more. We took him to Muhimbili Hospital where he remained until June 23rd. His situation improved and he was breathing without the help of the ventilator for a week. Doctors told us that we can take him to another hospital where palliative care can be given. So we moved him to the Immaculate Heart Hospital at Dar es Salaam. On Sunday, 26th June, all of a sudden his situation deteriorated and he passed away at 17.45 (East Africa Time). May his soul rest in peace!

A requiem Mass will be celebrated on June 30th at SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro at 16.00 hrs. Emeritus Bishop Telesphor Mkude will preside over the Holy Mass. The funeral Mass will take place at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza/Kibaha on July 01, at 11.00 hrs and he will be laid to rest at the Fransalianum Novitiate Cemetery. The funeral Mass will be presided over by Bishop Stephano Musomba, the Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam.

PRIESTLY MINISTRY OF REV. FR. SEBASTIAN KUZHUPIL MSFS

No.	Place of Appointment	Designation	Year
01	Peren, Nagaland	Asst. Parish Priest	1979 - 1981
02	St. Mary's Church, Thelpara	Parish Priest	1981 - 1987
03	Reaching Tanzania (Pioneer)		31.12.1987
	Language Course, Kipalapala		Jan – June 1988
	Ussongo Parish	Pastoral Experience	July – Dece 1988
04	Lububu Parish	Asst. Parish Priest	Jan – June 1989
	Lububu Parish	Parish Priest	July 1989 - 1991
05	Itaga Parish	Parish Priest	1991 - 1995
	Itaga Parish	Full time healing ministry	1995 - 1997
06	MSFS Provincial House	Director of Mermier Holistic Healing Centre	1997 - 2022

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil was a committed religious missionary priest who imbued the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, our patron and our Venerable founder Servant of God Father Peter Mermier, all through his life. After his ordination, he served as a missionary at Peren, Nagaland (North East India) and later he served as parish priest at Thelpara in Kerala (South India). He opted to join the African Mission and came to Tanzania in 1987 as one of the four pioneers. After learning the local language, Swahili and pastoral exposure in the Archdiocese of Tabora, he served as an Assistant Parish Priest at Lububu and later as Parish Priest there. Thereafter, he served as the Parish Priest of Itaga.

He had a Call within the Call of his religious and priestly life to dedicate his life for the poor and helpless patients who came to him seeking remedies for various ailments after the example of our divine master Jesus Christ who exhorted his disciples saying: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." (Mt. 10:8). In the 80's and 90's, Tanzania did not have many medical facilities and the great majority of the people could not afford allopathic medicines.

Fr. Sebastian had a divine charism to diagnose sicknesses and to find alternative medicines for his patients. His knowledge in Homeo medicine and herbal medicine coupled with prayer brought a lot of people to him. Since 1995, he was totally involved in the healing ministry. He began it at Itaga and in 1997, he established the Mermier Holistic Healing Centre in Mororogo. He had a psychosomatic approach to sickness of the people. Through prayer, counselling, herbal medicines and other alternative medicines, he healed thousands of people. People from all walks of life came to him. He used to meet daily an average number of 100 patients. He served the people with total dedication without bothering much about his own health. He was fondly known as the "Father Mganga" (Doctor Father).

Fr. Sebastian was a committed religious who loved the Congregation and its mission. He was a person who was completely dedicated to the mission of the Congregation in Africa. He always rejoiced whenever we undertook a new mission in the province or in other parts of Africa. He also was an epitome of Salesian virtues such as optimism, gentleness, patience, humility, simplicity and hospitality. He endured patiently pain and suffering during the two months of hospitalization. There was always a smile on his face. The spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary zeal of Fr. Mermier guided his life and ministry.

Our Congregation and our Province has lost a committed religious and missionary. His death is a huge loss for our missions in Africa. Let us be inspired by the dedication of Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil and continue the mission that God has entrusted to us in Africa. We are grateful to God for having given us a loving friend, brother and a healing priest in the person of Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil. Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of our beloved confrere. May his soul rest in peace!

United in prayer,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province



“I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live,
even though that person dies, will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

(Jn. 11:25-26)