

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati, Assam, India

JS – 29/2020

8 January 2020

*RIP: Fr Milon Narjary SDB (1965-2020)*

## Homily and Funeral Oration of Fr Provincial

### Introduction

We are here in humble submission to God and to His Holy will who desired that this faithful son of Don Bosco, his servant and priest, Fr Milon Narjary, leave the pain and suffering of this world on 4th January 2020 and enter eternally into the joy of his Master.

Fr Milon Narjary, born in 1965 lived a heroic Christian and religious life, from his younger days up to now. He can courageously say to death and sin, “Behold I have fought a good fight against physical pain, loneliness, sickness and now a crown of righteousness awaits me. I have kept the faith in the one who redeemed me.”



We behold the bright and shining mortal remains of him who is loved for his simplicity, for his humility, for his integrity, for his piety and religious discipline, for his gentleness and kindness, for his love for the mission and God's people.

As we pray for his soul, we pray for the Province, we pray for the family and we pray for vocations to the Church and our different Congregations.

### **Homily**

Every Christian is expected to live his or her life here on earth according to the Scriptures: the Bible, the Book of life. This world is not our home, we are just passing through. The treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.

When we conform our lives according to the Good News, then our lives become blessed. At the end of our lives, it becomes possible to hear the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful. Enter into the joy of your Master."

When we have the Scriptures as our foundation, then we understand life and death more clearly. The Scriptures and for us the religious, our Constitutions, which is described as the Gospel way of life, traced out by our founder, make us into people who love without limits, and love everyone as our brother or sister. Christ however says, my brothers and sisters, my mother and my relations are those who hear and listen to God's word and live according to it. Hence it is very important that we live as per the directives of the Gospel and not just listen to it and deceive ourselves.

The Scriptures have the power and potentiality to make us, human beings virtuous, holy and righteous.

I, as the companion and the same age group of Fr Milon, strongly feel that my dear friend Fr Milon endeavoured hard to make his life truly Biblical. I found him a man with lots of virtues and human qualities which have made him beloved and respected by one and all, whom he came into contact with.

And the first reading of today from the book of Wisdom which is given by the Mother Church to be read and meditated when a baptised person departs, says beautifully about virtuous people. It says that the virtuous man, though he die before his time will find rest.

"Virtuous" does not mean absence of shortcomings, I suppose, for no human person is perfect. Our perfection lies in being faithful and making all efforts to increase our being virtuous through continuous effort on ourselves to make ourselves better and better every passing year, through repentance, making use of the spiritual helps such as the Word of God, the sacraments especially the Eucharist and confession to become holy and more fully like Christ, alter Christus.

If we look up the meaning of the word VIRTUOUS in the theological dictionary, the meaning is thus,

1. Morally good; acting in conformity to the moral law; practicing the moral duties, and abstaining from vice;
2. Being in conformity to the moral or divine law;
3. Chaste; applied to women.
4. Efficacious by inherent qualities.

Yes, indeed he seemed to have died before his time, at the age of 54. All of us would want him to be alive. It looks to us that he has many more years to work and contribute especially because he was one with his people and also one who was loved and appreciated by the people.

The Salesian Constitutions beautifully speaks about confreres who die, early or late but who have died working for souls. Article 54 reads thus: “The community supports with greater love and prayer the confrere who is gravely ill. When the hour comes for him to bring his consecrated life to its highest fulfillment, his brothers help him to enter fully into Christ’s paschal mystery.”

“Death for the Salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord and when it happens that a Salesian dies working for souls, the congregation has won a great triumph”.

Just to recall. It was on 13th December, 2017, when Fr Milon was very busy right from the beginning of the day, with so many pastoral works that he met with what was fatal, and eventually two years later took his life. What I knew from the community members and the catechist was that he celebrated Mass in the parish in the morning. Then he went to one village for the confessions and Holy Mass, those days being days nearing Christmas. He then proceeded to the prison to celebrate Christmas with those in captivity, the prisoners. Again he went to another village and then returned home to celebrate the advance Christmas before the boys and girls could leave for Christmas holidays. The catechist told me that it was while going to the convent and then coming back from the convent to the house that he noticed his inability to walk properly. He thought it was because he was not being able to see the path properly and so he put on his mobile light for him and held him with his hand.





Fr Milon reached the room and it was in the night that he vomited and got the stroke. Indeed, that was the beginning of his, so to say, dying and so we can say that he died working very hard for souls. And so, in his death, the Province has truly won a great triumph.

The first reading still tells us something noble when it says, “Length of days is not what makes age honourable nor number of years the true measure of life”. It is possible that we live a short life but very intensely and passionately, as it happened in Fr Milon’s life and conversely it can also be possible that we live long but half heartedly and without being passionate about God, souls, mission and community.

“He has sought to please God and so God loved him. Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life. His soul being pleasing to the Lord. Grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord.”

The Beatitudes which we heard in the Gospel reading today could be used to crosscheck our lives. Standing on the mountain top, perfectly conveying to the listeners the Jews that he is the new Messiah, that he is God, Jesus pronounced the eight blessings, happiness-es.



“Blessed are the poor in spirit.” This speaks of dependence on God daily and living in close relationship with Him. Fr Milon was someone who was renowned for his being humble and radically faithful to the practices of piety every morning which

most probably animated his work and his relationship with others.

“Blessed and Happy are the gentle.” Gentleness is a virtue which will win souls in the long run. Gentleness towards everyone, in happy times as well as in times of irritation and tension, misunderstandings and unfair treatments and remarks.

“Blessed and Happy are those who hunger and thirst for what is right.” Seeking to discern God’s will and relentlessly choosing what is right and good give deep and lasting joy in life.

“Blessed and happy are those who are merciful, pure in heart.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers.” These are the virtues and true human qualities that we see around and which we need to promote.

As a formator, charismatic leader and ardent missionary, Fr Milon lived his life based on the teachings of his Master especially those taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

In his pain and suffering, which became more because he could not express them, he radiated the indescribable joy to those in the Provincial House. He attended the Holy Mass and adoration earlier when his condition was better and while in the verandah, he cheered us through his peculiar and endearing smile. All these we shall miss but these have planted lasting happy memories to us, his dear ones.

God rewarded him already because before he passed away, he received the anointing of the sick and the absolution for his shortcomings. He lived for Christ with undivided attention and commitment and so whether he lives or whether he dies, he belongs to the Lord and Don Bosco tells him, “I wait for you in heaven”. May our Blessed Mother Mary lead his soul to Jesus and present him to God the Most High.

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### **Funeral Oration**

Fr Milon Narjary SDB passed away at 11.00 pm on 4th January 2020 at Apollo Hospital, Guwahati. He would have been 55 years old on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

Two years ago, when Fr Milon was the Incharge and Parish Priest of Gojapara, he suffered a stroke on 14th December 2017. After he was taken to Nirmala Hospital, Goalpara, he was rushed to Nemcare Hospital, Bhangagarh, Guwahati. He had to undergo a major surgery on the back of his head to remove the blood clot, which involved a craniotomy, that is, the surgical removal of a part of the skull in order to remove the clot. For a few weeks, he was in the ICU as he needed an extended critical care. Then he was shifted to the Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre, 9th Mile, Guwahati, run by the Sacred Heart Sisters, where he was showing gradual improvement in his health. Though there was some amount of recovery, his memory was not proper. He could not remember much of the past. Later, he was shifted to the Provincial House.

Later, he had to undergo another surgery to replace the bone flap taken out from the skull and preserved in the abdomen. After this surgery, he was once again taken to Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre, at the 9th Mile, for nursing care from the Sisters there. After he had received sufficient nursing and medical attention, he was once again shifted to Provincial House for further care. He showed progress in health though it was very slow. He even joined the community for the Holy Mass and the Adoration regularly. Assisted by his attendant and his physiotherapist, he would do regular exercises in the verandah of the Provincial House.

Seeing his steady improvement, early last year he was taken to Kerala for a naturopathic treatment. It seemed to have helped him, though there was no visible improvement with regard to his memory. On his return from Kerala, it was decided to take him closer to his home so that he could meet with his brothers and sisters and his dear ones. He was taken to Bengtol and then to Dotma. It was then at Dotma that he seemed to have had a fall, and also contracted typhoid. Also, without, at least my knowledge, he seemed to have been given a message especially on his head and neck. After his return from Dotma, he was not able to speak and became increasingly unresponsive. Earlier he could at least speak a few words to the visitors and others, and even say a few prayers. No amount of medical treatment could help him, and the medical reports at this stage suggested that he was increasingly moving towards a vegetative state.

Fr Milon suffered much. The last two years he suffered much. He was not even able to express his own body condition, and needed round the clock help from someone or another. As is clear, he had to be shifted from one hospital to another, from one treatment to another, perhaps even this causing him more suffering. He was mostly bedridden in these two years, and in the last six months he was not able to speak, completely bedridden. At times he was only fed through the riles tube through the nose.

During his last few days on earth, Fr Milon was only on liquid diet, and was increasingly becoming very weak. It was at this time we decided to take him to the hospital. We thought it would be like one of the many visits that he had earlier in the past two years. But all the same, we thought it would be good to anoint him and give him communion before taking him to the hospital. The communities of Provincial House and Don Bosco School came together for praying for him and Fr Milon was administered the Anointing of the Sick; and that was last time he received Jesus in the form of bread. So on 2nd January, he was admitted to St John's Hospital, Guwahati, but immediately on the next day he had to be shifted to the ICU of Apollo Hospital as he became critical. He had difficulty in breathing—as his lungs showed infection, and his kidneys had failed. His body condition allowed just one dialysis. His BP also became very low. He had to be put on life support, but all the efforts were in vain. All these developments were so sudden, and we wonder how it all happened, and how it all ended. It was late night at 11.00 pm on 4th January that the doctors confirmed that Fr Milon passed away.

His suffering on earth was over. Fr Milon left for the other world, where there are no tears or suffering. He had the courage to accept all the difficulties silently, and his life was one of complete surrender even in his sickness and pain. The Lord found him worthy to take him sooner than we expected. Perhaps, Fr Milon does not have to undergo the pain of purgatory once more. His suffering had a deep meaning for him and for all of us, encouraging us to journey ahead in this vale of tears but at the same time it becomes a haven of joy and happiness if only we are willing to accept and endure the various troubles and trials that come our way.

### *His Life and Vocation*

Milon Narjary was born on 4th April 1965 to Late Mr Bovendra Narjary and Mrs Bonsri Narjary at Ladanguri, Assam, in the parish of Bengtol, now in the Diocese of Bongaigaon (earlier belonging to the Diocese of Guwahati). Milon was the second of the eight children: four brothers and four sisters. One brother had passed away two years ago, and now, Fr Milon too is no more. His father passed away two years ago; and his mother is still alive (but not able to be present today).

Milon began his novitiate on 24th May 1984 in Sunnyside, Shillong and professed on 24th May 1985. After his profession, he was sent to Salesian College, Dimapur for his postnovitiate formation and philosophical studies. He did his Practical Training in the parish of Barpeta for two years and in the Salesian novitiate of Sunnyside, Shillong for one year. He made his perpetual profession on 7th April 1991 in Shillong. The final phase of his theological training was at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong from 1991 to 1994. He was ordained a priest on 22nd January 1995. After his ordination, Fr Milon continued with his Masters in Theology, which he completed in the year 1996. Later he also did a one-year formation and counselling course at NVSC, Pune (2007-2008).

### *Fr Milon's Ministry*

There are two special features that characterised Fr Milon's religious and priestly ministry: one is formation work, and the other is pastoral-missionary work. Fr Milon was known as an effective and compassionate formator as well as a kind, people-centred pastor. He was Counsellor in the aspirantate at Bosco Mount, Tura during the year 1997-98 and was Rector in the same community between the years 2004 and 2007, and again from 2008 to 2013. Yet, the majority of his priestly and religious years were spent in the parishes and mission stations of Dotma, Damra and Gojapara. Being kind-hearted he was close to the people wherever he worked.

As a religious, he was a community man, soft-spoken, humble and unassuming, regular for prayers and practices of piety. Lover of the Eucharist and of Mother Mary, he was a committed religious and priest. He avoided the limelight, but was there for others whenever needed. He connected to the simple and poor people easily. While he was sick, he would suddenly remember his boarding boys and ask me to take him back to Gojapara as he had to feed them, and buy provisions for them. He would remember some others and weep suddenly. Even in his broken memories we could see him as a man for others, a man who wanted to keep his word, a man who was committed to his mission.

It is sad and really unfortunate that a young and dynamic priest has left for his heavenly abode sooner than we could imagine. Fr Milon could have many more years of active service for the Lord as Salesian and pastor of the people. He could have achieved many more things, and could have even outlived many of us. But unfortunately that is not so. He is gone before us. Suddenly perhaps, but sooner than our human plans. But God's plan



is certainly better than our human plans for him. We will certainly miss him. We have lost an endearing and sweet person in Fr Milon. But let me say that it is not ours to decide what is best. God knows better, and He has willed to take Fr Milon to himself. God will continue to work through Fr Milon. His memory and life will continuously inspire each and every one of us who has been close to him. His prayers and sacrifices, and especially his suffering will never go waste. All what he did, and all what he was not able to accomplish, everything has a meaning in our lives. Let God's will be done. As it was done in Fr Milon's life, let God continue to work in our lives too.


Dear Fr Milon, we wish you good bye. Though it is difficult to let you go, we know it is best for you and best for all of us. God wants the best for each and every one of us. Thank you for having inspired us when you were on earth. Continue to inspire us, continue to pray for us. You never gave trouble while you were living, you never gave trouble while you were dying. You lived your life silently and gently, and in the same you left this life silently and gently. We want to thank you for everything that you were, and everything that you did. We want to thank God for your gift to us. We are happy to have known you, and even to have lived with you and shared with you a bit of our lives. May the merciful Lord grant eternal peace and rest to you! May you receive all the joys that the Lord has kept hidden for you! Please pray for me and all of us. Adieu and good bye, till we meet at the feet of Jesus.

The Salesian Province of  
Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati, Assam, India  
deeply mourns the passing away of

**Rev. Fr. Milon Narjary SDB**

at 11:00 pm on 4 January, 2020  
at Apollo Hospital, Guwahati.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 am, on Monday, 6 January, 2020  
at St Joseph's Co-Cathedral Church, Panbazar, Guwahati  
followed by the funeral rites  
at the Christian Cemetery, Uzanbazar, Guwahati



Birth: 04.04.1965 (Ladanguri, Assam)  
First Profession: 24.05.1985 (Shillong)  
Perpetual Profession: 07.04.1991 (Shillong)  
Ordination: 22.01.1995 (Bengtol)  
Death: 04.01.2020 (Guwahati)

All Religious, Priests, Faithful and Friends are invited to attend the services and pray for  
the repose of the departed soul.

**Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB**  
Provincial

On Sunday, 5 January, 2020, there will be a Concelebrated Requiem Mass  
at 6:30 pm at Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati.



**Fr Januarius S. Sangma SDB**  
Provincial

