

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

JS – 44/2020

1 November 2020

*My Dear Confreres,*

Greetings from Tura! I had rushed to Tura on 29th October, when my sister Sr Marcellina FMA called me informing that my father, who had been serious for many days previously, seemed to have breathing problem due to chest congestion and flu, and advised me to come home. I was still on my way home, when my father George N Marak breathed his last. He was 101. I thank God for his long life and all that he was able to accomplish in his life. I thank all the blessings that we as a family received through him.

In my own name and on behalf of all the members of my family, I express our heartfelt gratitude to you for the prayers that you offered for my father, Late George N Marak. Your presence, the prayers, and the condolence messages brought much hope and comfort to us. Since the time, he breathed his last, all the programmes that we planned to give him a fitting farewell went off well. In a special way I thank Fr Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial, Fr Benny P. Basil, Economer and the confreres from communities around Tura who went out of their way to render their valuable help and assistance. Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity.

I also take this opportunity to wish you a happy feast of All Saints (1st November) and the feast of All Souls (2nd November). Called to be saints (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1: 2), let us remember that the seeds of holiness are already in us and through our co-operation with God's grace, sanctity sprouts, flowers, and fructifies. The souls in purgatory share a strong communion with us and await our prayers for them. Though we pray for them every day, the Church sets aside the month of November for our greater union with them. We shall gratefully pray for the deceased benefactors on 5th November; and on 25th November, when we remember Mamma Margaret, we shall pray for the deceased parents of the Salesians.

## **FACING DEATH**

In the preface of his book, *Voices from the Edge of Eternity*, John Meyers writes that "Death is a subject no one can treat lightly. It is too final for that. Beauty, honour, wealth, earthly power, hopes, and dreams – all are swallowed up in that finality. Man was born with his hands clenched; he dies with them wide open. Entering life he desires to grasp everything; leaving the world, all that he possessed has slipped away. But it is not so much death itself, as the mystery of what lies beyond that closed door that has haunted mankind since time immemorial."

Meyers adds, “Thousands of men and women – unbelievers as well as believers – standing on the very edge of eternity, caught up in life’s most dramatic experience, have quite clearly seen beyond the grave. What they saw and sensed not only bears evidence as to the fact of man’s immortality, but also answers many very pertinent questions that perplex the minds of thinking people today. I refer to such questions as the accuracy of the Biblical account of life after death.”

### **ON THE BRINK OF DEATH**

Quite a few of our confreres and others reached the heaven’s door and returned. I too seemed to have knocked at heaven’s door on two occasions in my life. Fortunately or unfortunately, it went unanswered, and I am still here. Though a firm believer in life after death, I am happy that I am still here, as I believe that God sends us here for a purpose and that He gives us the opportunities and the possibilities of fulfilling that purpose. That, I suppose, is the reason why my knocking at death’s portal was ignored.

#### ***My first encounter with death***

In 1992, I travelled from Tirupattur, Tamilnadu to Rongjeng, Meghalaya to collect data on the “Causes and Consequences of School Drop-out” for my MSW final thesis. At Rongjeng, which then was endemic for malaria, I got a strong attack of malaria. I recuperated after my treatment at the Christian Hospital, Tura. However, soon after my discharge, I had to travel to Tirupattur as my tickets were booked in advance. Not fully recovered from malaria, I journeyed to Tirupattur, but neglected taking the prescribed post-discharge medicines. On reaching my destination, I got a relapse. Actually I told the doctors about the recent malaria attack that I was recuperating from, but since malaria was not widely known in South India, I was treated for typhoid. It resulted in my going into coma and I was admitted in the ICU in the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore. There I was on the brink of death, but apparently, God had other plans for me. Though not fully conscious, faintly I felt that my life was nearing its end and that I had no one except God at that moment.

#### ***My second encounter***

The Salesian Provincials of South Asia were able to return to their provinces only in June 2020, having been in Turin, Italy, from February 2020 for the 28th General Chapter of the Congregation. Those were the peak days of the deadly virus in Italy which claimed an untold number of lives. On landing from Italy, we were quarantined one week in New Delhi and for me, on reaching Guwahati, I underwent a strict quarantine for fourteen days. Having proved negative for COVID-19 all this time, I undertook some journeys to our mission stations, when in August, I suddenly started developing throat irritation, lack of appetite, extreme bitterness in the mouth, extreme fatigue and fever. Hoping that it might be a viral fever, I got myself admitted, on testing negative, in the non-COVID section of the hospital. Seeing my symptoms, the doctors conducted another test in the hospital itself. It was then that they diagnosed me as COVID-19 positive and shifted me

immediately to the COVID section. It was not a near death experience, but the trauma of learning that I was COVID positive practically brought me face to face with death—mentally, certainly.

On these twin encounters with death, I realised that ultimately it is God (the Alpha and the Omega), our moral integrity or lack of it in front of Him, our relationship with others and our fidelity or lack of it to the mission entrusted to us, etc., that would make our final exit consoling or otherwise. It may be nice to keep this in mind and live our lives accordingly, the only thing that we are sure is that one day, we end this earthly journey and embrace life eternal.

### THE FRAGILITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Our experience shows us that human life is so fragile and unpredictable. Life, in its longest period, is but a short journey from the cradle to the tomb. Unravelling the mysteries of life, paving the way for its spiritual undertone, we realise that life is precious, yet too fragile. Today one may find himself/herself healthy, strong and alive; but no one is able to predict what awaits him/her in the next moment. We have abundant examples of how some people who were fully active, strong, healthy, at work and prayer, travelling, etc., had to face death abruptly. We are all mortals who will be asked to exit the stage without prior notice.

On the two near-death occasions, I had a tryst with death. On both the occasions, I felt helpless and deep down, I was not willing to die, reasoning that I was still young and that I had my plans to do good in whatever way possible, especially to the youth and the poor. I still hoped to live, even as I oscillated between life and death. I realized that ultimately I would have to go and that it is God who matters at that moment and how we



have lived our lives while on this earth. I went through my life and asked myself whether I would be found worthy of heaven. Serenity or restlessness, I believe, would depend a lot of how have I lived my life. As the Latin saying goes, ***“talis vita, finis ita”*** – how your life has been, so will be the end. For me, ultimately, it is my conscience, my faith and relationship to God, my relationship to my fellow human beings and my personal and moral life which will pass clearly through my mind either to comfort or to haunt me before my exit from this world.

St John Mary Vianney observed that “there are some people who pass their whole life without thinking of death. It comes, and behold they have nothing!; faith, hope, and love, all are already dead within them.” He exhorted his parishioners, “My children, to die well we must live well; to live well, we must seriously examine ourselves: every evening think over what we have done during the day; at the end of each week review what we have done during the week; at the end of each month review what we have done during the month; at the end of the year, what we have done during the year. By this means, my children, we cannot fail to correct ourselves, and to become fervent Christians in a short time. Then, when death comes, we are quite ready; we are happy to go to Heaven.”

It often happens that the death of people around us may not affect us much unless they happen to be related to us. However, the death of just one who matters much to us could shatter our world. In a family, when the only daughter or son dies, the life of the parents is shattered. In another family, when the father, who is usually the breadwinner of the house dies, the life of his wife and children is in utter gloom and darkness. The loss of a dear one paralyzes the living. In moments like this, we are reminded to pause, reflect, and get our priorities right. But still, we need to move on with life. We try as much as possible to avoid thinking about death. Facing death will be the strangest thing that will happen to us.

On one’s deathbed, while one reaches the point of no return from medical and human points of view, those who surround him/her are able to witness how he/she meets his/her final end. Again, as you live so you die. If one lives well, a good death is likely with the grace of God, whereas those who live a sinful life are unlikely to make a last minute conversion and die well. The saints or spiritual persons stand apart. They embrace death with confidence, even with joy. They know what awaits every faithful soul who heroically fights the good fight on earth: heaven.

### THEY FACED DEATH THUS

Here I present a random selection of saints and how they faced death, that could edify everyone.

**Dominic Savio**, a young pupil of St John Bosco experienced a serene and peaceful death. An hour and a half before he died, the pastor came to see him. Noting how calmly he rested, he was all the more surprised to hear him recommend his soul to God. He then fell asleep and rested for half an hour. Waking up from sleep, he opened his eyes, looked at his parents, and gasped, “Papa, it’s time! Take my prayer book and read for me the prayers for a happy death!” For a while he seemed to be resting. Then slowly he awoke. Smiling, he said clearly, “Goodbye, Papa, goodbye; goodbye Mama! Oh, what a beautiful sight I see!” With these words and a smile on his lips, Dominic breathed his last.

**St John Mary Vianney**, one who sat for confessions for long hours even in the extremely hot weather, asked for his confessor at midnight: “It is my poor end, call my confessor.” In the following afternoon, he received the last Sacrament, “How good is God. When we no longer can go to Him, He comes to us,” he said. With tears in his eyes, he said, “How sad it is to receive Holy Communion for the last time.”

Fr Jean Massieu, an eyewitness, recounted how **St Joan of Arc** died as she burned at the stake. She uttered pious and devout lamentations and called on the Blessed Trinity, and upon the blessed and glorious Virgin Mary, and on all the blessed saints in paradise. The judges and several Englishmen who saw Saint Joan of Arc face death were so profoundly moved that they wept. Her enemies “recognized God’s hand and made professions of faith when they saw her make so remarkable an end. And her last word, as she died, was a loud cry of ‘Jesus.’ The fire consumed her body but her heart remained miraculously intact.

Lying on her deathbed, **St Bernadette Soubirous**, the French Saint who saw Our Lady at Lourdes, gave a loud cry, with her eyes looking up to heaven and her arms stretched out as on a cross. She repeated twice, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, poor sinner,” and breathed her last.

As Chancellor of England, **St Thomas More** refused to support King Henry VIII’s divorce and immoral remarriage. His fidelity to the Church did not waver. Finally, the King accused him of high treason and sentenced him to death. His words were brief but they were to be immortal. He asked the crowd to pray for him and to bear witness that he was dying “in and for the faith of the Holy Catholic Church.” Then came the ever-to-be-remembered and glorious affirmation that he “died the King’s good servant but God’s first.”

When King Henry II of England attacked the rights of the Catholic Church, **St Thomas Becket**, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had the courage to oppose him. After years of conflict, Henry II angrily said: “Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?” Four knights who knew what the king wanted entered the Cathedral while St Thomas was praying Vespers, and yelled, “Where is the traitor?” The saint boldly replied, “Here I am, no traitor, but archbishop and priest of God.”

### THE MOMENT OF DEATH: THE MOMENT OF RECONCILIATION

One’s impending death becomes a time of reconciliation. The person who is dying wants to reconcile himself/herself with others, with his/her estranged siblings, with those persons with whom he/she was not on talking terms, and definitely with the Almighty. Deathbed becomes a reunion of family and friends. We may know of people who waited for a dear one to come to their deathbed, before they breathed their last. We might even

have witnessed people embracing their death gladly especially after their reconciliation with God and with other human beings.

Unfortunately, such clear thinking on daily forgiveness and reconciliation is missing while we live our lives on earth. Many seek to live as long as possible without pain or illness. Some others try to enjoy their lives by seeking as much pleasure and luxury as possible. There are others who want to be successful in the world (making money, having a good career, becoming famous and influential, etc.) There are others who would like to do as much good as they can while they live on earth. And there are others who want to be part of a larger reality or cause for which they devote all their energies (a religious faith, a family, a political ideology, social or ecological welfare, research, art, science, etc.)

Death is the great leveller. In a way, it unites us all. It makes you bow down to its “almighty” power. The near-death experiences due to illness or some other reason that some of us might have had, brings in a lot of light and wisdom to our living. My own experience with COVID-19 turned out to be meaningful one. It was certainly not a smooth one.

## **THE MYSTERY OF DEATH**

Death surely is a mystery. The month of November, especially the celebration of All Souls’ Day, is an appropriate time for us Christians to delve into the mystery of death.

Death is not the opposite of life. It is that which completes our life. In death, our life is not ended, but changed, transformed, transfigured. Death is not a changing of worlds, but a boundless expanding of the walls of this world. So as humans, our aim is to find love which will be the eternal home base, that on which we will continue to live in our after-life.

Death may be about dying, but it is more about living. However sorrowful a parting our death be, it brings in the hope of resurrection. Nothing can separate us from Christ, from God: not even death. Even sadness becomes a beautiful prelude to eternal joy. Ernest Becker puts it humorously, “At heart, one does not feel that he is going to die, he only feels sorry for the man next to him.” The unnecessary prolonging of this earthly life may not be a blessing, but a change in the quality of this very same life is certainly a blessing. Eternal life is about this. It is that which begins here and now; that which we can experience already here, the fullness of which we will experience after our earthly existence.

What can we learn from death in general? Doesn’t the awareness of our mortality make us vulnerable? Yes, it does. For the worldly-minded, death, illness, human brokenness, ugliness, failures, sinfulness and woundedness - all these have to be hidden from our sight because they keep us from the happiness for which we strive. The world thinks that they are obstructions on our way to the goal of life. But Jesus shows another way: we need to embrace the cross, accept our brokenness and woundedness. Through death we receive life. We receive life from death.

Moreover, life gives us the opportunity to die to ourselves so many times in a day. By dying to ourselves, we can truly love. We can love and give life to others. Death thus can be integrated into our life, even as we prepare for the final, physical death. Nothing is lost; everything is transformed in death.

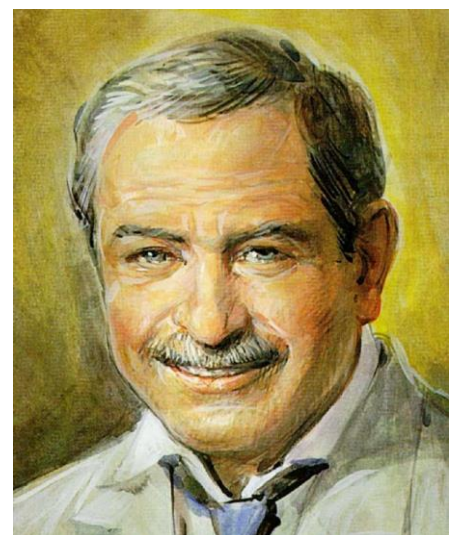
Death is not the end of all that we are and do; it is the portal to a new life. We will live, but in a transformed state. Death and life will be united. As Ken Wilber says, “The fact that life and death are ‘not two’ is extremely difficult to grasp, not because it is so complex, but because it is so simple.” Of course, we miss the unity of life and death when our ordinary mind begins to think about it. The ultimate, or at least one, significance is this: We are made for transcendence and endless horizons.

Though we are vaguely aware of our transcendent and spiritual nature, our small ego usually gets in the way. Instead of seeking a deeper truth about ourselves, we become involved in petty preoccupations and in the selfish anxieties of our lives. But the good news is this. God is not far away from the mess of our lives. He is found within that very mess of our daily, ordinary, humdrum lives. The very failures and radical insufficiency of our lives are what lead us into larger life and love. Let us not be afraid of dying to our egos and selfishness; let us not be afraid of entering death in any form; let us not be afraid of entering deep into our lives. For, as Richard Rohr says, “God is found at the depth and in the death of everything.”

### **BLESSED ARTEMIDE ZATTI (1880-1951)**

We will be celebrating the feast of Blessed Artemide Zatti, Salesian Brother, on 13th November. It will be good for us to acquaint ourselves with this Blessed and present him as a model and inspiration for the youngsters, as he is for us.

Blessed Artemide Zatti was born on 12th October 1880 in Italy, and died on 15th March 1951 at Viedma, Argentina. In 1897, when Artemide was 17 years old, his family emigrated from Reggio Emilia, Italy to join Artemide’s uncle who had a good job in Bahía Blanca, Argentina. There they found steady work and a livelihood. In his “new life” in Argentina, Artemide worked in a hotel and then in a brick factory. On Sundays the Zatti family faithfully assisted at Mass and other activities in the parish of the Salesians who in 1890 set up a community in Bahía Blanca. With true apostolic spirit, Artemide used his free time to help the Salesian parish priest in his parish activities and, especially, in visiting the sick. Later, this will become his very own unique Salesian ministry. As a



Salesian religious brother, he would become a saint by running a hospital and pharmacy for the sick and the poor—for 40 long years in Viedma, Argentina.

Artemide was inspired by the life of Don Bosco and by the Salesians, and felt called to imitate them. In 1900 when he was 19, the Salesians accepted him as a student for the priesthood. But he had great difficulty with the studies since he had left elementary school long before. Also, during the novitiate, Artemide contracted a severe case of TB from taking care of a young priest who was a TB victim. In 1902 Artemide was forced to leave the house of studies to seek a cure in the pure air of Viedma, a city located high in the Andes. Little did he realize that Viedma was going to be his city for the rest of his life. Along with the healthy climate, in Viedma there was a hospital and pharmacy attached to the Salesian College run by Fr Evaristo Garrone, a priest and physician who was known for his empirical approach to medicine. Fr Evaristo was also known for his trust in God's Providence; he never turned away the poor who could not pay. Under the guidance of Fr Garrone, Artemide made a promise to Our Lady, Help of Christians, that if she would obtain a cure for him, he would serve the sick poor for the rest of his life. When he was cured, he promptly continued his training as a Salesian religious brother. In 1908 he professed and began his mission alongside Fr Garrone. When Fr Garrone died in 1911, Artemide was put in charge of the pharmacy and the hospital. He was a trained pharmacist, nurse, operating-room assistant, as well as manager of finances and head of personnel. He followed Fr Garrone's rule that "he who has little, pays little and the one who has nothing pays nothing". In running the hospital, Artemide also depended entirely on Providence and the generosity of the people. In his 40 years of dedicated service, he found in his religious life with its periods of prayer and community life the secret of balancing the daily tasks of administering the hospital and pharmacy, taking care of patients inside and outside the hospital. Despite the demands of the sick and the needs of the hospital, Artemide was known for his "Salesian joy," a sign of his holiness for those around him. He was "not only provider of medicine, but was himself a medicine for others by his presence, his songs, and his voice."

In 1913 he was the force behind the building of a new hospital which was demolished in 1941 when the spot was taken as the residence of the bishop of the newly-founded diocese.

In July 1950, after falling off a ladder that he was climbing to get on the roof to fix a leaky water tank, Artemide was forced to take a period of rest and recovery. After a few months the doctors diagnosed his livid skin colour as a serious cancer of the liver. He was sick from January to March. He died on 15 March 1951. His mortal remains repose in the chapel of the Salesians at Viedma.

Blessed Artemide lived what St John Bosco said to the first Salesians leaving for America: "Take special care of the sick, the children, the elderly, the poor, and you will receive God's blessing and the respect of those around you."

May Blessed Artemide Zatti intercede for us all; and through his intercession we pray for more vocations, especially Salesian Brother vocations, to our Province.

#### **4th ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT (21-26 October 2020) – Fr Robert Faustin**

The fourth annual spiritual Retreat of the province was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati from 21st October and ended on 26th October 2020. The Retreat was animated by Rev. Fr Alex Pulimoottil of Dimapur Province (Rector of Don Bosco, Dibrugarh). There were 35 retreatants mostly from Guwahati and Karbi Anglong regions. The theme of the retreat was “Discipleship as Transformation into Christ.” The preacher very systematically dealt on the theme with very relevant and appropriate topics like – Contemplative dimension of being the Lord, Dealing with Emotions (Anger and Fear), To stay with me and to be sent out, Demands of discipleship, Following the celibate life, A call to self-transcendence in love, Following the poor Jesus, Features of Don Bosco’s spirituality, Following the obedient Jesus, Being a community of the followers of Jesus and the tangible presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.



The talks and homilies delivered by the preacher were deeply spiritual, biblical based and mostly from his personal experiences. The retreat was indeed a ‘desert experience’ and a ‘spiritual quarantine’ as the preacher highlighted on his introductory talk. The preacher invited the retreatants to daily examine their commitment to Christ and not be those who are like whose feet don’t get wet while walking in the water. He also called upon re-prioritising our religious and spiritual life lest like one who sells holy water near river Ganges who said, “I was selling river water the whole day but I missed the river”; we might run the risk of missing the most important thing even as we are living our religious life.

The guided meditations based on Jesus’ vision of his disciples (Matthew 6 & 7), meaningful Holy Eucharistic celebrations, prayerful personal devotions and the good night talks enlivened the spirit of the retreat.

#### **PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY & JUBILEE OF CONFRERES 2020 – Fr Robert Faustin**

The Provincial Community day cum Jubilee of Confreres were celebrated in Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati on 27th October 2020. The day begun with a prayerful morning prayer integrated with meditation which was animated by Fr Johnson Parackal. Fr Provincial prayerfully and fondly remembered all the confreres of the province by particularly mentioning all the houses of the province. The inaugural programme of the Provincial Community Day was held at 10.00 am in the Mario Hall. Fr Nicodim Aind

compered the function. The prayer moments were led by Fr Solomon Denis with a PowerPoint presentation, a glimpse of the Province. Fr Provincial and the Council members were fittingly felicitated and Fr Bivan Mukhim presented the 'Heroes behind our success' in his address to Fr Provincial and the Council members. Rev. Fr Januarius S Sangma, Provincial, addressed and animated the confreres by presenting guidelines given by the Rector Major and the latest status of the Province. He insisted on the sense of belongingness in which each confrere is the Province.



The Thanksgiving Mass for the Jubilarians was held at St Joseph's Co-Cathedral Church, Guwahati. This year the Province is blessed with seven Jubilarians: Fr Kuriala Chittattukalam and Fr Edward D'Souza celebrate their Diamond Jubilee of Profession, Fr Lukose Cheruvalel celebrates his Golden Jubilee of Profession, Fr Joy Joseph Kachappilly and Fr Jonas Toppo celebrate their Silver Jubilee of Ordination, and Fr Lucas Ch. Marak and Fr Benjamin Daimari celebrate their Silver Jubilee of Profession. Fr Edward D'Souza was the main celebrant during the Holy Mass. Fr Kuriala Chittattukalam shared his heartfelt gratitude to God in his homily. The student brothers of ADBU, Tapesia led the Mass with their melodious choir.

The felicitation programme for the Jubilarians was held in the Mario Hall of Provincial House soon after the Mass. Fr Pojit Marak with much liveliness compered the joy-filled

function. The Jubilarians were felicitated by Fr Provincial, Fr Vice Provincial and Fr Economer with mufflers, bouquets of flowers and memorable Jubilee Mementos. Fr Emmanuel Marngar gave a meaningful address to the Jubilarians. Fr Provincial befittingly thanked and congratulated the Jubilarians for their exemplary religious and Salesian life. Fr PD John, the Convener of the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Book introduced the Souvenir and Fr Provincial released the much awaited Souvenir. The pictorial books on Don Bosco in Garo and Bodo languages were also released. On behalf of the Jubilarians, Fr Lukose Cheruvalel proposed the vote of thanks to all the confreres for their brotherly wishes, felicitations and prayers on their auspicious Jubilee year. The day was indeed a blessing when many of the confreres showed their solidarity and love to Fr Provincial and his team and to the Jubilarians.

### **CONDOLENCES TO REV. FR JANUARIUS S SANGMA, PROVINCIAL** - *Fr Joseph Teron*

On behalf of the confreres, I would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to Rev. Fr Januarius S Sangma, Provincial, who lost his dear dad **Mr George N Marak** on 29th October 2020.

Mr George N Marak hailed from Kanai Rongte Rasria in the vicinity of the Balpakram National Park and later came to settle down at Tura, and his life's journey from the rural obscurity to the urban setting, as also from the Songsarek (traditional religion) to Catholic Christianity has truly been awe inspiring and adventurous. Looking back down memory lane, one could say that it was a voyage of sheer determination, coupled with God's grace and accompaniment that flowed in an abundant measure through the early Salesian missionaries, especially Fr Julius Costa, Fr Archimedes Pianazzi, Fr George Stadler, Fr Gian Battista Busolin and Fr Anthony Buccieri. He worked as a teacher and catechist at Renigri and Daji Badimagre. In 1957, when Fr Anthony Buccieri pioneered Don Bosco School at the present Bishop's House campus, he called Mr George to Tura to teach in the school and with that commenced the best part of his life.



Since then, he used to be addressed as "George Master" by his colleagues and especially by his students. Nothing gave him greater honour and satisfaction than to see and hear his students acknowledging his contribution for their lives. Late Mr PA Sangma, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, was one such student who on many occasions, had spoken highly of Mr George and his commitment to teaching and education. Deeply religious and

achiever from numerous points of view, today, he is remembered, revered and loved by his colleagues and students for making a difference in the lives of people around.



He lived for 101 years and saw his children's children. He lived in peace and died in peace. We thank God for having bestowed upon with a God-fearing wife, Lt Mrs Lucia S Sangma (died on 22nd May 2005) and God-fearing children, among them a religious priest, our Provincial Fr Januarius S Sangma, and two FMAs, namely Lt Sr Bernadette and Sr Marcellina, now Superior of Auxilium Convent, Tura. Other siblings of Fr Januarius are Mr Alphonse, Mr Clement, Mrs Balen and Mrs Martha. As we extend our deepest sympathies at these moments of sadness and assure them of our prayers, may their tears of sorrow slowly turn into tears of joy and gratitude to God for having given them such a wonderful family and a loving father. May God grant eternal rest to Mr George N Marak, and consolation to the bereaved family.

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**Fr Elias Dias**, of the Province of Bombay (INB), passed on 30th October 2020, at St Dominic Savio Boys' Home, Andheri, Mumbai. He had been ailing for some time. He was 78 years old. May God grant eternal rest to him. We offer our condolences to the Provincial and confreres of INB.

## CONCLUSION

While we will be resuming our normal activities and mission, let us also spend the month of November, dear confreres, in thinking about our own death and praying for all our dear departed. May God grant them eternal rest in his heavenly abode!

May God bless you all!

Yours affectionately in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Sangma', written on a white background.

**Fr Januarius S Sangma, SDB**  
*Provincial*

