

**MSFS - MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE**



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SWIP Circular BK/16

July 13, 2017

I AM NOT LEAVING HOME, I AM GOING HOME



**REV. FR. SIJO OLICKAL MSFS
(1986-2017)**

My dear Confreres,

It is in the midst of suffocating experience of human confines and the shocking reality of the shortness of life that looms over me that I come to tell you with choking words that our beloved Confrere **Sijo Olickal** is gone to eternal rest. The human dreams and plans that we built around him are apparently shattered. The promises of unparalleled talents that he possessed, the sternness of will that he demonstrated to achieve greater heights for the mission of the Lord, the exuberant joy that he vibrated in friendship and community living have come to a halt. But the firm conviction that the short dreams and hopes of human beings can never comprehend the unfathomable plan of God makes me say with conviction: **Lord, Let Your Will Be Done.**

My dear Confreres, everything was very fine with Sijo until a week back. Although diagnosed with a slight fever, Sijo decided to join the annual retreat at Charis Bhavan from 10-14 July 2017. But during his journey from Bangalore to Charis Bhavan he experienced that the fever is picking up and vomited on the way. Therefore, he decided to go to his home at Thuruthipally, near Kottayam. As it was found that the fever was intensifying he was admitted at Holy Ghost Hospital at Muttuchira on the 8th of July 2017. In spite of the intensive care given to him Sijo was not showing much improvement and therefore he was shifted to Matha Hospital. As his platelet was alarmingly coming down and as a consequence internal bleeding began, he was put on ventilator. At around 11 pm on 12 July his blood pressure began to be extremely low and the doctors signalled to us the danger mark. Although slim rays of hopes were given time and again, Sijo's body was no more responding to the medication and he died of a cardiac arrest at around 2.40 am on 13 July 2017. **MAY GOD GIVE FR. SIJO ETERNAL REST.**

Fr. Sijo Olickal was born on July 20, 1986 at Thuruthipally, Pala to Mr. Jose and Mrs. Thresiamma. Second among three children, he has one elder brother and one younger sister. After one year of Orientation Program at Sudhirvana, Bangalore, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He completed his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2005. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 2005-2008 he was sent for his regency at SFS School, Kannur during the academic year 2008-2009. He made his perpetual profession on June 02, 2011 and completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore from 2009 to 2012. He was ordained priest on January 3, 2013 at St. John the Baptist Church, Thuruthipally.

Appointments:

Assistant Parish Priest, Christ the King Church, Diocese of Gulbarga, 2013-2014

Administrator and Vice Principal, SFS School, Kengeri, Bangalore, 2014-2016

Principal, SFS School, Kengeri, Bangalore, 2016

On the 13th of July 2017 at 5pm Fr. Sijo's mortal remains will be brought to his home in Thuruthipally. On the 14th of July 2017 at 10 am it will be brought to Charis Bhavan. The funeral ceremony will begin at 2pm followed by the burial at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor.

My dear Confreres, at this very vulnerable and painful time of our life as MSFS and particularly as members of the South West India Province, the only link that keeps us going is our unfading faith in the providence of God. The providence of God does not mean that God will not give us problems, un-understandable pains and unfathomable struggles; instead, the providence of God means that God will take care of us in spite of our problems. It is this hope that keeps us going. The Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 5/1 says: **This body in which I live is a tent, but God is building for me a house in heaven.** The fragile tent gives way when heavy storm strikes against it; but a house is built with firm foundation and no storm can harm it. That is why Christian death is always a going home. It is a going to that house that God has built for us. **My dear Confreres, Our beloved confrere Sijo is not leaving home, he is going home.** Let us send him home to our Father with love, with fond memories of that irresistible thirst that he showed to speak about Jesus and commit for his kingdom.

DEAREST FR. SIJO

- **We would miss your melodious voice, but we know that you will sing for us now on eternally**
- **We would miss your wonderful preaching, but we know that you will never stop sending inspirations from heaven**
- **We would miss your hard work and commitment, but we know that you will ceaselessly motivate us from heaven**
- **We would miss your inspiring priestly life, but we know you will continue to inspire us from heaven**
- **We would miss your companionship, but we know that you will orient us now on for a greater company in heaven.**

We salute you, Dear Confrere, for the short but eventful life that you lived with us, attracting each one of us to God. ADIEU Dear Fr. Sijo, until we meet again in eternity.

Salesian Thought

“Let God be the air in which your heart breathes at ease..” – SFS

Fraternally,



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**