



Co-adjutor ALEX NELLISHERRY who left this world on the 23rd of August, 1972, at the age of 31.



Don Bosco Oratory,  
Vaduthala,  
Cochin, India.  
18th August 1973

Dear Confreres,

The passage of time has not cancelled the memory of this young and cheerful salesian, nay, he lives on in the mind and heart of all those who knew him. At a year's distance, it is easier to give an evaluation of his person and talents.

Bro. Alex left us suddenly and unexpectedly but was well prepared for death. He was returning home after attending the monthly recollection at the nearby house of Irinjalakuda. For him this monthly practice was indeed a true "Exercise for a Happy death."

Christ met him at a bend of the highway near Chalakudy. His motor cycle collided with a jeep coming from the opposite direction and though the doctors of Trichur Hospital did their very best to save his life, he passed away a few hours later. It was the Master

who came to call him home in a tragic and painful manner. But amidst so much suffering, he continued to invoke the name of Jesus. Indeed, it was his evening sacrifice offered joyfully in the prime of youth.

The news of his death was soon conveyed to his dear ones and to all the salesian houses. The Provincial, several members of the Provincial Council, a good number of Salesians, the local clergy, the religious, the members of Don Bosco Youth Centre, the workers and students of Don Bosco Technical School, and hundreds of admirers took part in the funeral the next day. Mgr. Ambrose Pappiah, Bishop of Bellary who happened to be in Cochin, came to offer his sympathy.

During the concelebrated mass presided over by Fr. Provincial, the outstanding qualities of Bro. Alex, especially his sociability, his cheerfulness and his devotion to duty were touched upon by Fr. Abraham Poonoly in his homily. After the Church services, the body was taken to the parish cemetery for burial. The many wreaths laid on his tomb were an eloquent proof of the love and esteem of the institutions and people around for our dear Bro. Alex.

Bro. Alex was born on 6th October 1941 at Kuzhoor, Kerala. In 1957 he went to the salesian house of Tirupattur as an aspirant to the Priesthood, but after a year he willingly and joyfully took the advice of his rector and went to St. Joseph's Technical School, Madras

as a co-adjutor aspirant. There he had his training in carpentry. In 1962 he went to Yercaud for the Novitiate which was crowned by his religious profession on 24th May 1963. His religious life was spent at St. Joseph's Technical School, except for the last year.

To this dear son of Don Bosco we could apply the words of Scripture: "God loves the cheerful giver." Bro. Alex gave himself to God in the Salesian Congregation in joyful generosity. His former Rector and Provincial says that if he had to describe Bro. Alex in one phrase, it would be this: "A salesian, happy in his religious vocation."

His piety was serene, simple, and unassuming. His devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and his filial love for the Blessed Mother deserve special mention. This was the driving force that enabled him to give himself to God and neighbour with love and generosity.

His example and cheerful smile were contagious and had a beneficial effect on those who lived with him. Sometime back, his former Rector received the following letter from a past pupil of the school where Bro. Alex had been teaching. "You might be surprised at my decision to want to become a religious. But for me this is nothing new. I had this in view since my first year at St. Joseph's. I kept it a closed secret from everyone except Bro. Alex who helped me much on this point. I think that now that he has left for heaven, I have to take his place."

Another trait of this simple co-adjutor was his attachment to the congregation. He had its interests very much at heart as is testified by his great interest in the welfare of the house and of the department in which he worked. Under his able guidance, the carpentry shop made much progress and had difficulty to cope with the many orders that came in.

Love for boys and especially for the poorer ones was deeply rooted in the sympathetic heart of Bro. Alex. With the permission of Fr. Provincial, another shed was put up in order to teach a trade to the poor and the unemployed boys of the locality. From the human point of view, it seems strange that he passed away practically on the very day when this new scheme was to be inaugurated. Indeed God's ways are not our ways. His death is a great loss to the province and to this house in particular.

Dear confreres, we are sure that the Lord has already given Bro. Alex the reward of the faithful servant; nonetheless, let us continue to remember his dear soul in our prayers. Pray that the Lord may send us many more co-adjutor vocations of the type of Bro. Alex. Pray also for this house and for

Yours affectionately in Our Lord,  
Fr. Varghese Menacherry, SDB  
Rector.

#### COCHIN

Necrology: Bro. Alex Nellisherry born at Kuzhoor (Kerala) on 6 - 10 - 1941; died at Trichur 23 - 8 - 1972 at 31 years of age, 9 years of religious profession.