

REV.FR.THOMAS PAZHAYAMPALLIL SDB
1930 - 2005



For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1).

INK

Fr. Thomas Pazhayampallil (P.T.) sdb (1930 - 2005)

Rev. Fr. Pazhayampallil Thomas or Fr. P.T., as he was familiarly known, returned to our Father's abode on Sunday, 20th February 2005. With his demise, the Church, the Salesian world, and especially Kristu Jyoti College, are missing a faithful friend, a conscientious teacher, an erudite scholar, an eminent writer, a fatherly confessor and a saintly priest.

Fr. P.T. breathed his last at about 3.30 a.m. in Karunashraya, a hospice administered by the Holy Cross Sisters (Kottiyam), at Marathahalli, Bangalore. His mortal remains, kept for two days in the morgue of Karunashraya, were brought in a solemn motorcade to Kristu Jyoti College at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, 22nd Feb. 2005. The motorcade having reached the college gates, the body was carried in procession to the college and placed in a specially prepared structure in the college lobby to enable the Salesians as well as the relatives and friends of Fr. P.T. to pay him their last respects. At 10:30 a.m. the catafalque was carried in solemn procession to the college chapel for the last rites.

Most Rev. Dr. Ignatius Paul Pinto, Archbishop emeritus of Bangalore, presided over the Eucharist and preached the homily. In his funeral oration, the Archbishop enumerated some of the great services rendered by Fr. P.T. to the Church and to the Salesian Congregation and highlighted the *sensus ecclesiae* which was so much a hallmark of Fr. P.T. About 220 priests, among them Fr. Ivo Coelho sdb, the Provincial of Mumbai, Fr. Bellarmine Fernando sdb, Fr. Camillus Fernando sdb, and Fr. Vincent Durairaj sdb, all former provincials of Chennai and Fr. James Theophilus, the former Provincial of Tiruchy, concelebrated. The packed chapel premises bore eloquent testimony to the great esteem and love in which Fr. P.T. was held among all the people he had been privileged to serve.

After the Eucharist, Fr. Jose Kuttianimmattathil, the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Bangalore, bade farewell to Fr. P.T. on behalf of

the Congregation and on behalf of the Province and I thanked Fr. P.T. and bade him adieu on behalf of the Salesian Community of Kristu Jyoti College. Fr. Thomas Panakezham, on behalf of the companions of Fr. P.T.; Bro. Lambert S.G., a cousin of Fr. P.T., representing the Pazhayampallil family and Bro. Seby Kidangan, representing the student body of Kristu Jyoti College, also spoke on the occasion. For the benefit of Fr. P.T.'s relatives, Fr. P.K. John, the Administrator of Kristu Jyoti College, said a few words in Malayalam, assuring them of our prayers on behalf of the dear departed; thanked them for the gift of Fr. P.T. to the Salesian Congregation and for having made it to the funeral. At about 1 p.m. the body was interred in the tomb situated in the Kristu Jyoti College Chapel premises.

A Biographical Portrait

Fr. P.T. Thomas was born on 6th January 1930 at Mannanam, Kerala, as the 4th of the ten children (5 boys and 5 girls), of Mr. Thomas, a teacher and Mrs. Rosamma, a pious housewife. He joined the Salesian aspirantate at Tirupattur in 1947 and did his novitiate at Kotagiri, (Tamilnadu), from 24th May 1949 to 24th May 1950. He made his first profession on 24th May 1950 at Mount Don Bosco, Kotagiri and his perpetual profession at Salesian College, Sonada (West Bengal) on 23rd May 1956.

Fr. P.T. did his theological studies at Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong, from 1956-1960 and was ordained priest at Tirupattur on 2nd July 1960. After his ordination, he continued to serve as the administrator at Yercaud to which post he had been appointed already on 24th May 1960. He left for his studies in Rome in May 1961. Having completed his licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law at the Università Pontificia Salesiana, Fr. P.T. returned to India in May 1964 and began his services as the Professor of Canon Law at the studentate of Theology, Kotagiri. In 1967, when the Studentate of Theology was shifted to Bangalore, Fr. P.T. came to Bangalore and continued his teaching at Kristu Jyoti College.

In 1970, Fr. P.T. went to Poonamallee as the resident professor of Canon Law while continuing to render his services to KJC as a visiting professor. In 1973, Fr. P.T. returned to Kristu Jyoti and continued to teach, do research and write till his death in 2005. In 1979 he was also made the official confessor at Kristu Jyoti College, a task he fulfilled most conscientiously and to the satisfaction of all till his death.

As is evident from the curriculum vitae given above, it was at Kristu Jyoti College, that Fr. P.T. spent the greater part of his life as a priest. It was also at Kristu Jyoti that he blossomed as a writer as he embarked on and realised the monumental three-volume *Pastoral Guide*, a compendium of moral theology – the result of years of persistent hard work. It was again at Kristu Jyoti that Fr. P.T., drawing on his great store of knowledge, years of teaching experience, and pastoral involvement, wrote the two-volume *Words of Eternal Life* which has proved to be a boon for those whose pastoral involvement and other occupations do not permit them either the time or the resources to prepare sermons.

Illness and Last Days

During the months of April and May 2003, Fr. P.T., decided to visit the doctors in St. Philomena's Hospital with complaints of uneasiness in his stomach. The doctors, surmising that his complaints were linked to his long-standing acidic and gastric problems, prescribed antacid tablets to help ease the distress. Since these tablets did not serve to improve matters, Fr. P.T. decided to approach Dr. Naresh Bhatt, a well-known gastroenterologist and fixed an appointment with him. After studying the case history, Dr. Bhatt suggested that an endoscopy be done. The endoscopy revealed that Fr. P.T. had a tumour in his stomach and the doctor suggested surgery to have it removed.

Fr. P.T. was operated upon on 3rd June 2003. A portion of his stomach was surgically removed and samples sent for a biopsy. The results of the biopsy confirmed what had for some time been feared – Fr. P.T. was suffering from invasive adenocarcinoma of the stomach; 2nd stage.

The confirmation of the presence of a malignant tumour spurred us to consult several specialists – including noted oncologists at both the Bangalore Institute of Oncology and Kidwai Cancer Hospital, Bangalore – to help decide on the most appropriate course of treatment for Fr. P.T. After the necessary information had been gathered, I met with Fr. P.T. on Saturday 21st June 2003 and told him of the very serious nature of his illness in order to plan out, with his consent, the next stage of treatment.

From my conversation with him, I realised that the doctors had not informed him of the gravity of his illness, though Fr. P.T. himself had for some time begun to suspect the worst. When I informed him of the actual nature of his illness and the seriousness of the same, Fr. P.T. impressed me with his serene acceptance of the situation and his very practical approach to future treatment.

After discussing with him and some of his dear ones on the various courses of treatment available – chemotherapy or alternative homeopathic or ayurvedic treatment - Fr. P.T. chose to be treated by Dr. R.P. Patel, a homeopathic doctor at Kottayam. Dr. Patel, after examining Fr. P.T. on 7th July 2003, prescribed a course of medicine, which, though not guaranteeing a cure, would ensure that Fr. P.T. did not suffer too much from those effects normally associated with cancer and that he would be able to carry on with life with a near normal routine, till the illness reached the last stages.

In fact, the assurances of the doctor proved right and the treatment proved quite beneficial to Fr. P.T. He was able to carry on with a near normal routine – teaching, doing chaplaincy services, taking part in all the community activities and completing the re-edition and printing of his books *Pastoral Guide* and *Words of Eternal Life*.

Nonetheless, as per the instructions of the doctor who had earlier operated him, Fr. P.T. went for a scan in January 2004 and for an endoscopy in May 2004. There appeared to be nothing unusual in his condition and Fr. P.T. was buoyant, convinced that he had beaten cancer.

But, as subsequent events would prove, the illness was to have the last say.

In the second week of November 2004, Fr. P.T., who was becoming visibly weaker, began to experience severe abdominal pains; and so on 16th November he was admitted once again to St. Philomena's Hospital. Tests revealed that the cancer had silently spread and had even affected the liver. After studying the results of the various tests, the doctors, feeling that nothing more could be done in his regard from a medical point of view, suggested that he be given palliative treatment so that the pain might be reduced and the discomforts associated with his illness might be made less painful. Fr. P.T. was discharged on 18th November.

After weighing the various options, it was decided to admit Fr. P.T. in Karunashraya, an institute for terminally ill cancer patients of the Indira Nagar Rotary Club at Marathahalli, Whitefield Road, Bangalore, managed by the Holy Cross Sisters, Kottiyam. The choice of the institute was made in appreciation of the fact that, given the nature of the institute, Fr. P.T. would be given the necessary qualified care to help him deal with the pain and the uncertainties associated with cancer. The fact that the doctors at Karunashraya have easy access to morphine, the analgesic and narcotic drug used to relieve pain, also favoured the choice of the institute. Fr. P.T. himself was quite satisfied with the arrangements as he was provided with 24 - hour medical care.

While the search for a suitable institute was on and while efforts were being made to convince a reluctant Fr. P.T. to permit himself to be admitted to a medical facility, the community decided to hold an anticipated celebration of Fr. P.T.'s 75th birthday on 1st December 2004. He was joined in the celebrations by Fr. P.C. Thomas, and Fr. M.J. Mathew and Swami Vikrant, all of whom were also turning 75. Fr. P.T. presided over the Eucharist which was participated in by several Salesians from the city and by representatives of the neighbouring religious communities. After the Mass there was a festive dinner. During the

Mass and during the dinner too, Fr. P.T. showed himself to be his usual affable self and did not manifest any signs of his illness.

Fr. P.T. was admitted to Karunashraya for the first time on 15th December when he complained of a severe pain in the stomach. Though after a four-day stay he came home on 20th morning, he returned there the next day as he had quite a disturbed night at Kristu Jyoti. The doctors at Karunashraya had by now come to the conclusion that Fr. P.T. needed regular morphine injections to make the pain more endurable.

On Christmas Day, the community decided to bring Fr. P.T. to the college for the Christmas celebrations and lunch. But Fr. P.T. appeared so weak that he was taken back to the hospice by 1.45 p.m. That night, at about 2.30 a.m., I was called to Fr. P.T.'s bedside as he desired to receive the Last Sacraments. I anointed him and Fr. P.T., who was fully conscious, responded to the prayers most devoutly. Fr. P.K. John, Fr. Zacharias Mattam and a few sisters from Karunashraya were also present.

But it was evident that Fr. P.T. was not yet resigned to staying on at the hospice. Ever a stubborn fighter, Fr. P.T. still hoped that somehow he would be able to beat the illness and get back to regular life in the college. On 5th January, heeding his repeated requests, the doctors permitted him to return to Kristu Jyoti accompanied by a nurse. This was to prove his last visit to the college.

On 7th morning at around 10.45 a.m., Fr. P.T. was taken back to Karunashraya. All the students gathered around him to assure him of their prayers. The memory of that poignant send-off still lingers in the minds of those who were present on the occasion. In fact, Fr. P.T. himself had sensed that this was to be his last visit. At about 10 a.m. when I had gone in search of Fr. P.T., I was told by the nurse that he had gone up to his room on the first floor. On reaching there, I found Fr. P.T. lying on his bed. To the question, why he had come up all the way, he replied with a smile: "I wanted to lie down on my old bed for the last time!"

The end came on 20th February at 3.30 a.m. At about 3 a.m., I received a call from Karunashraya to say that Fr. P.T. was very critical and that I should reach there at the earliest. I rushed to the hospice along with Fr. P.K. John. By the time we reached there, Fr. P.T. was no more. The sisters told us that the end was quite peaceful. I requested the sisters to keep the body in the hospice mortuary till arrangements could be made to give Fr. P.T. a fitting farewell.

Fr. P.T. as I knew him

I have known Fr. P.T. Thomas from 1981 when I first came to Kristu Jyoti College as a student of Theology. I have also known him from close association when in 1983, he asked me to help him with the publication of *Pastoral Guide*. My specific brief was to correct the text and to ask him questions on whatever might occur to me while going through the work. I believe that it was his way of making sure that the text was intelligible to people, even those who were not, as one would say, in the field. This our association was to continue in later years after I joined the staff and became the Director of Kristu Jyoti Publications and Fr. P.T. brought out updated editions of his now prestigious *Pastoral Guide*.

Fr. P.T. was his own man: Fr. P.T. was a quiet man who generally kept his own counsel. No amount of persistence could coax out of him a word or an opinion if he felt disinclined. Often he could dismiss the most persistent trier with a smile – one of those typical “P.T. smiles”. Yet in private, when he felt that one had a genuine problem, he would lend a patient ear, discuss the issue animatedly and suggest helpful solutions.

Getting to know him better, one came to realize that he had very strong personal views on everything – from the wearing of the cassock to the use of alcoholic drinks, to silence in the house. But ever the prudent and considerate individual, he never tried to impose his views on others.

Yet he could be surprisingly forthright. A couple of weeks before he passed away I spent some time with him talking about the house, of the confreres in the Province etc. I also asked him if he wanted to tell me something which would help me in my work as a formator and rector. He made his suggestions and then quite abruptly asked me: "How is so and so?" I had told him that from what I had heard he was keeping fine. Then, may be thinking of the individual in question, Fr. P.T. began to laugh. Taken by surprise I asked him: "Why do you laugh so?" And Fr. P.T. said: "Tell him not to tell lies!"

Reticent by nature, he did not openly cultivate friends; his non-eloquaciousness suited him admirably as a confessor and spiritual guide; his evident inclination to study and research helped him to become an erudite scholar and his evidently disciplined life was a source of inspiration.

Fr. P.T. was a man given to God. Of Fr. P.T. it could be said with great emphasis that he was a man who had put his hand to the plough and never looked back. His whole-hearted dedication to his commitment was evident in his long hours in prayer, his detached life-style, his eagerness to administer the sacraments, his great availability for confessions and spiritual direction and above all in his submission to the divine will.

Like any ordinary human being, Fr. P.T. found it difficult to come to terms with his illness. When I first broke the news of the advanced stage of his illness, Fr. P.T. sat silently for a while, looked fixedly at me and slowly removed his spectacles to wipe a lone tear from his eyes. That was the only outward sign of his personal struggle that I was permitted to witness in his nearly two-year long battle with cancer!

There were also moments when he found it difficult to accept God's will. In Nov. 2004 when it was discovered that the cancer had spread and that now it was only a matter of time, Fr. P.T. in some frustration, exclaimed: "But I had meticulously followed the instructions of the doctor! How is it that the cancer has spread?" A few days later, lying on his deathbed in Karunashraya, and still not resigned fully to accepting the

inevitable, Fr. P.T. asked me. "What is my actual situation!" I had in all frankness to tell him: "Fr. P.T., humanly speaking nothing more can possibly be done in your regard. We have now but one option: to let the illness take its course!" At this Fr. P.T. looked at me for a moment allowing the implications to sink in. Then he repeated my words: "Oh yes! We shall let the illness take its course. We shall let the illness take its course!"

From then on, Fr. P.T. was quite resigned and spoke often of having booked his ticket (to heaven) and of waiting for his departure!

But in the midst of all these anxieties and pains, Fr. P.T., for the most part, remained serene – served well, no doubt, by his awareness that he had been faithful to his commitments and had scrupulously fulfilled his priestly duties. In fact, he faithfully adhered to his strict regimen of prayer and religious practices to the very last days of his life.

Fr. P.T. was a faithful son of the Church. A priest, canon lawyer, moral theologian and a true son of Don Bosco, Fr. P.T. showed himself to be a faithful son of the Church. He was faithful to a fault to the magisterium of the Church, and waited eagerly each week to lay his hands on the *l'Osservatore Romano*, in order to acquaint himself of the latest happenings in the Catholic world.

His Grace, Most Rev. Ignatius Paul Pinto, Archbishop emeritus of Bangalore, in his homily lauded Fr. P.T.'s great fidelity to the Church, going as far as to say that Fr. P.T. appeared to be more Roman than Rome itself!.

His fidelity was most evident in his writings and in his teachings. Though in private and in individual cases Fr. P.T. was known to apply laws with pastoral flexibility, in his public pronouncements and in what he committed to writing, he never swerved from the official Church line. He was never one to pander to public opinion or go after the flavour of the week. And when the person of the Pope or the teaching of the Church was in question, Fr. P.T. was known to become rather combative.

A further proof of his great desire to die as a faithful son of the Church was what he wrote and confided to my keeping on 12th February 2005 – just a week before his death. On a sheet of paper, torn out from an old diary, he wrote with great difficulty:

I submit all my writings to the judgement of the Church and if there is anything that is contrary to the authentic magisterium of the Church, I whole-heartedly withdraw it.

Fr. P.T. Thomas sdb
(Thomas Pazhayampallil sdb)
12.02.05

The two major works of Fr. P.T. viz., *Pastoral Guide* and *Words of Eternal Life*, were also inspired by his desire to see that seminarians were formed according to the mind of the Church and that preachers did not deviate from the known dogmatic stand of the Church. The fact that about 20,000 copies in all of the *Pastoral Guide* in its various editions have been sold, gives one an idea of how many people Fr. P.T. will have influenced through the teachings contained in his books.

Fr. P.T. was a loyal son of Don Bosco. His interest in the Congregation and his affection for the superiors who visited Kristu Jyoti were quite remarkable. His loyalty to the Congregation was evident also in his last will, dated 19.02.03, the full text of which is given below.

My Last Will

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I, Fr. Thomas Pazhayampallil, S.D.B., aged 73 years, son of Mr. Thomas Pazhayampallil, do hereby make my last will and testament.

I hereby give and bequeath all my property, movable and immovable and all my money that I shall die possessed of or entitled to in any way whatsoever or standing in my name, as follows:

Everything goes to Kristu Jyoti College, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore – 560036.

I constitute Fr. Rector, Kristu Jyoti College, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore 560 036, as the executor of my will and direct that no payment be required for the performance of his duties.

Kristu Jyoti College
Fr. P.T. Thomas

True to character, Fr. P.T. proved his loyalty and attachment to the college and to the Congregation right up to the last moment.

Fr. P.T. was well prepared for his death. He was generally known to be a man of God – who spent long hours in prayer, was solicitous about spiritual things, and scrupulously fulfilled his religious and priestly obligations. So it is but natural to assume that he was always prepared to meet his God and render Him an account. But once he came to know of his illness, he took care to make all immediate preparations like readying his will, completing the writing of *Pastoral Guide* and *Words of Eternal Life*, recording his willingness to submit to the magisterium in all things and requesting for the Anointing of the Sick.

On 18th February 2005, just two days prior to his death, a group of doctors from London visited Karunashraya. The sisters brought the doctors to the bedside of Fr. P.T., and they chatted with him for some time. Fr. P.T. told them that he had completed his life's tasks and that nothing of what he had wanted to do in life had been left undone. Then he said with his characteristic smile: "I am waiting for my ticket."

One of the doctors later told the sisters that he had never before in life come across a man who had accomplished everything he wanted to in life and looked forward to his death with such serenity!

Fr. P.T. as others saw him

Though I have tried to give as comprehensive a description of the person of Fr. P.T. as possible, I am still left with the feeling that I have not covered all the aspects of his personality. So I shall now give some excerpts from what four other people who have known Fr. P.T. for long and have spent several years with him have to say about him.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Thekkedath, former Rector of Kristu Jyoti College and former Provincial of the Salesian Province of Bangalore has known Fr. P.T. from the academic year 1959-60. This is what he has to say about Fr. P.T.

“My first contact with Fr P. T. was in the theologate of Mawlai in 1959-60, when he was in the last year of theology and I was sent there to be the Prefect of Studies. I found him studious and orderly. My next contact with him was at the end of 1964 in Kotagiri, where the theologians were then staying and I was their rector. He had returned from Rome with a doctorate in Canon Law. His classes were not very much appreciated because of his way of speaking. But he was not upset or discouraged and he continued to do his duty as well as he could. It was only several years later, when he started to give notes and the students realized that the notes were good, that he received a little more appreciation.

All could see that he prayed very much. His voyage of return to India in November 1964 was in a boat that came with pilgrims who wished to attend the International Eucharistic Congress at Bombay. Hence in the chapel of that boat the Blessed Sacrament remained exposed for many hours every day. Fr P. T. used to spend most of his time there, so much so that a pious lady from Italy was highly impressed by his devotion to the Holy Eucharist and gave him a sum of money as an offering.

His spirit of poverty and detachment from material things were exemplary. He used to wear clothes which were mended again and again. Another thing that was striking was his readiness to go anywhere for Holy Mass and for confessions, no matter what the climatic conditions were. He was inured to privation and suffering. His eagerness to help the poor was quite noticeable. His attachment to the dispositions of the Holy See was obvious and clear. When he felt that a thing was good or necessary, he pursued his goal with a persistence which others might consider to be nothing less than stubbornness.

He was greatly attached to the superiors and to the Congregation, whose interests he had very much at heart. Obedience to the superiors and to the rules was something like a second nature to him.”

Rev. Fr. Thomas Panakezham, a companion of Fr. P.T., the former provincial of the undivided Province of Chennai and Regional Councillor for Asia for 18 years, remembers him with affection and admiration.

“Fr. P. T. as I always called him, and myself knew each other from 1947, although we lived together only during the years of formation and lately in Kristu Jyoti College. We have known each other intimately also through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which we have celebrated together particularly in these last years. Right from 1947 when my brother told me to take him as a reliable friend, when I left home, we have been very close. 58 years have rolled by since then. What I hold very dear in my friendship with Thomas is the fact that he was always contented and happy to be a Salesian religious and a Salesian priest. His availability for priestly ministry was almost proverbial. He did not need any padding to that gratuitous gift of God. Like our Father Don Bosco, who wanted always to be **John Bosco, the priest**, he was always known as **Father P. T. Thomas**. He was always very close to our Blessed Lord and I do not think he ever lost His friendship.

He has not climbed the ladder of the echelons of our humble society but was always a hardworking, simple and pious Salesian priest. He

never criticized anyone negatively. He knew how to wriggle out of intricate canonical procedures to help a confrere in crisis. If Salesian sanctity consists in doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, then my companion P. T. is a saint.”

Fr. Mathew Maruvathrail, former Rector of Kristu Jyoti College and later Provincial of the Bangalore Province of the Salesians, knew Fr. P.T. from 1948: as an aspirant, a student of theology and later as a colleague at Kotagiri, Kristu Jyoti College and Poonamallee. He shares his impressions of Fr. P.T. in the following words.

“My personal impression of him is that he was a man of extremely simple life, extreme austerity and poverty; very hard-working, even to exaggeration, allowing himself the minimum of relaxation or recreation. Extremely scrupulous, even to exaggeration, in the use of time, he would hardly spend any time chit-chatting with confreres. Even when confreres would tease him for this kind of behaviour, he would just smile away those remarks but would never change. Very cordial and obliging, when met personally, he would spend the minimum time possible for any consultation or any such moments of help requested, so that when the matter was over, one would linger no more there with him, almost giving the impression of his being not that very sociable.

He was really competent in his field of Canon Law and Moral Theology and one could be sure of having the last and the most competent word on related matters from him. For his part, he was most meticulous in the observance of the laws and regulations of the Magisterium, faithful even to the letter of the law regarding liturgical rubrics and other laws and prescriptions of the Church and the Congregation.

As a confessor of the house, he was most available and reliable. Since many years, he was my confessor too.”

Fr. Dominic Veliath, former Rector of Kristu Jyoti College and a colleague of Fr. P.T. who knew him since 1963, eulogised him at his funeral mass with great perception.

“He epitomized in himself the three characteristic dimensions of Salesian piety. In the first place, a love for the Eucharist. It was moving to hear of Fr. P.T., on his sickbed, requesting to be allowed to celebrate the Eucharist, even when prudence would have normally counselled otherwise. As for his Marian devotion, he could be seen every morning in the Indian chapel of KJC on his knees before the statue of Our Lady, praying the Rosary. And finally, his unflinching devotion to Our Holy Father, the Pope, was proverbial.

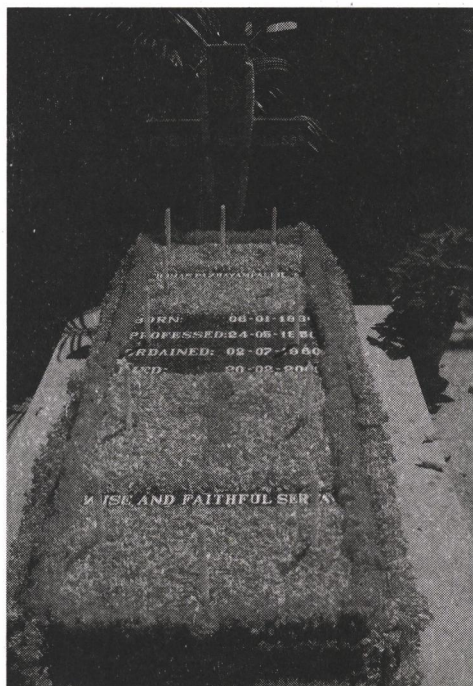
His was a simple lifestyle; his day likewise typified his person; it was transparent and predictable, articulated as it was, between prayer, study and lectures.”

Adieu Fr. P.T.

Adieu is a French word, commonly used to mean goodbye. But it literally means “to God” or “towards God” (à = to; dieu = God). This is a most touching, faith-filled manner of bidding farewell – especially the final farewell. This is our sentiment too as we wish adieu to Fr. P.T. – entrusting him to the Lord. We are grateful to the Almighty for having given Fr. P.T. to us for a time, to instruct us, to edify us and to leave us an example of Christian and religious commitment. And now we have sent him off, serenely journeying to his God. Making our own the sentiments of Bede Jarret we say: “We have given him back to thee O God, who gavest him to us ... Life is eternal, love is immortal and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.”

À - Dieu dear Fr. P.T., À - Dieu!

Fr. Thomas Anchukandam sdb,
Rector
Kristu Jyoti College
Bangalore – 560 036
20th Feb. 2006.

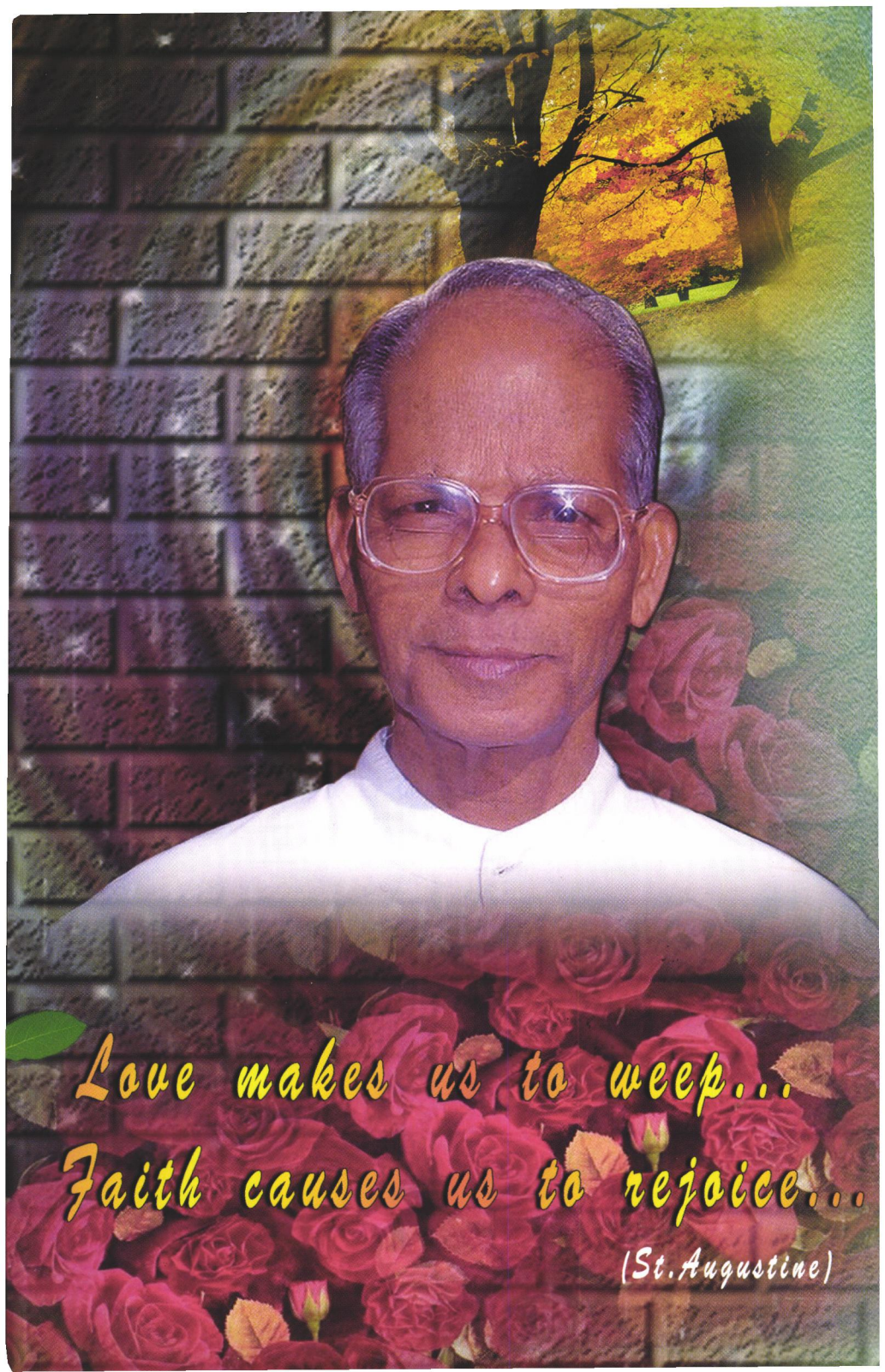


For the Necrology

Born	:	6 th January 1930
Professed	:	24 th May 1950
Ordained	:	2 nd July 1960
Died	:	20 th February 2005

“We have given him back to thee O God, who gavest him to us... Life is eternal, love is immortal and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight!”

(adapted from Bede Garret)



*Love makes us to weep...
Faith causes us to rejoice...*

(St. Augustine)