



April 15

## Fr. IGNACIO RUBIO

1921-1983

Birthday:	08-04-1921	Spain
First Profession:	16-08-1942	Barcelona (Spain)
Ordination:	13-08-1950	Madras
Died:	15-04-1983	Shillong

At the time of his death, Fr. Ignatius belonged to ING, but had worked for many years in INM.

### EARLY LIFE

Ignatius Rubio was born at Barcelona in Spain, on 8 April 1921. His parents were John Rubio and Angeles Moreno. They saw to his early education and brought him up in the love and fear of God. At the age of 9 he used to "celebrate mass" imitating the priest as perfectly as he could. At 14 he entered the Salesian Aspirantate at Tibidabo in Barcelona. He could stay here only for a month since his mother wanted him back home. In 1936, the Spanish Civil War broke out and his mother died shortly afterwards. He was compelled to work in an ordnance factory. Since he was a member of the Catholic Action, the Reds wanted to kill him and he cleverly escaped them on several occasions. In 1939, after the Civil War, he went back to the aspirantate at St. Vincent del Horts. His open, jovial and active temperament and his artistic abilities contributed much to the joy and enthusiasm of the whole group. While yet a student of theology, he came to India in 1948. At the completion of his theological studies he was ordained a priest in Madras, on 13 August 1950.

### MINISTRY

Shortly after his ordination, he was appointed rector of St. Joseph's Technical School, Basin Bridge. Under his able direction, the Institute rose to a high level of efficiency. Later, he was Prefect at Don Bosco, Matunga. During the Eucharistic Congress in 1964, Cardinal Gracias put him in charge of the photographic section and he did his job to the satisfaction of all.

Father Ignatius went with Bishop Hubert D'Rosario as Procurator, first to the diocese of Dibrugarh and then to the archdiocese of Gauhati-Shillong. In Dibrugarh, he built St. Joseph's Minor Seminary and renovated the Cathedral. He also saw to the building up of several schools, dispensaries and churches. In Shillong, he enlarged and embellished the Cathedral, constructed the Archbishop's House, Christ the King College, the new blocks of the Nazareth Hospital, the novitiate House for the

Missionary Sisters of Mary help of Christians, the Pastoral Centre, Oriens College and many other buildings.

On the morning of 15 April 1983, the lifeless body of Father Ignatius was found on the floor of his room. He had suffered a massive heart attack, a few hours earlier. His funeral took place in the afternoon of 17 April.

## CHARACTERISTICS

**1. Builder:** The name of Father Ignatius will go down in the history of Salesian India as a great builder. The churches he constructed and the Institutions he put up bear silent witness to his missionary zeal, love for the Church and his efficiency as an architect. He worked till the very end of his life and died in harness.

**2. Defender of the faith and of the Church:** During the Spanish Civil War he was a very active Catholic Actionist and the Reds wanted to do away with him. At the risk of his own life he prepared altars, tabernacles, chalices and similar items for priests who needed them. He regularly made his confession walking along the street with a priest in disguise. He even hid a Salesian priest, Fr. Francis Serat, in his house during the Civil War.

**3. Active and jovial:** As an aspirant at St. Vincent del Horts he was open, jovial and active. His artistic talents contributed much to the joy and enthusiasm of the community wherever he was.