



Rev. Fr. IGNATIUS RUBIO, sdb.

BORN AT BARCELONA (SPAIN) ON 8. 4. 1921

DIED AT SHILLONG (INDIA) ON 15. 4. 1983

My Dear Confreres,

Two years have elapsed since the death of Fr. Ignatius Rubio and this obituary is long over-due. But I believe this will only help refresh the still fresh memories we cherish of him, a valient Salesian who spent thirty-five years of his life in India. Seven days before his unexpected and sudden death he had celebrated his 62nd birth anniversary and on the eve of his death he, along with a few other priests, had concelebrated a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joseph Arokiaswamy, who had died just an year earlier.

At the end of a busy day, though somewhat tired he relaxed with his friends chatting and recreating himself as was his custom and then retired to bed. The following morning, 7.30 a.m. was fixed for going out to visit a plot of land that was on sale. Even by 7.15 a.m. he had neither celebrated Holy Mass nor come down for breakfast. His brother, Fr. Joseph Rubio went to his room to call him. He knocked – paused – knocked again. There was no answer. He gently opened the door and found his brother prostrate on the floor. His body was already cold. He had passed away some hours earlier, succumbing to a massive heart-attack.

Ignatius Rubio was born at Barcelona in Spain on April 8th 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. From his early childhood he possessed a lively spirit full of initiative, art and creativity. When he was only 9 years old he could be seen ascending an 'altar' (just a few planks arranged all by himself) and celebrating 'Mass', imitating in as perfect a manner as he could the actions of the priest. At the age of 14 he entered the Salesian Aspirantate at Tibidabo in Barcelona. But he stayed there only for a month. His mother, not being able to bear the separation called him back home.

His funeral took place in the afternoon of 17th April. Rt. Rev. O. Marengo, S.D.B. officiated at the Funeral Mass. Rt. Rev. A. Alangimattathil, S.D.B. of Kohima and Rt. Rev. T. Menamparampil, S.D.B. of Dibrugarh were among the concelebrants. The Cathedral Church of Shillong was packed to capacity. The body of Fr. Rubio was then taken in procession to the cemetery where it was laid to rest.

The name of Fr. Ignatius Rubio will go down in the history of the church in Northeast India. The churches he constructed and the institutions he put up bear silent witness to his missionary zeal, love for the church, and efficiency as an architect. His generosity was proverbial. his dedication exemplary.

Don Bosco said "When a Salesian dies working, it is a triumph for the Congregation." Fr. Ignatius Rubio worked till the end, and has departed from our midst to hear from his Divine Master "Well done, good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your master."

Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Ignatius Rubio. May his life be an inspiration for us and spur us on to uncalculating generosity and unwavering dedication.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

I request your prayers for me and the missionary province of Gauhati.

Fr. JOHN KALAPURA, S.D.B.
Provincial.

Gauhati - India
15. 4. 1985

1964, in Bombay, His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias put him in charge of the photographic section. He did his part to the satisfaction of all.

On his appointment as Bishop of Dibrugarh, Assam, Mgr. Hubert D'Rosario, S.D.B. requested Fr. Rubio to be the procurator of his Diocese. Fr. Ignatius Rubio left everything behind to take up this new and arduous task. It was during his tenure of office as Procurator that St. Joseph's Minor Seminary was constructed and the Cathedral renovated. He also saw to the building of several schools, dispensaries and churches.

When Mgr. H. D'Rosario was transferred to Shillong as Archbishop of Shillong-Gauhati, Fr. Rubio moved to Shillong (1970) as Procurator of the new Archdiocese. Here again he spent his energies and used his talents in the service of the church. Enlarging and beautifying the Cathedral Church in Shillong, constructing the Archbishop's House, the Christ King College building, the new blocks of the Nazareth Hospital, the Novitiate House for the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, Pastoral Centre and Oriens, are some of his achievements. He also constructed churches, presbyteries, schools and convents in several mission centers.

He had quite a number of friends in Europe and America and especially in Spain. He wrote to them frequently and kept up their love for the Missions and they, in their turn, gave him all the financial support that he needed to undertake many projects which involved much money. Money by the lakhs passed through his hands, but he never got attached to it. He was well known for his generosity.

On 15th April, 1983 the lifeless body of Fr. Ignatius Rubio was picked up from the floor of his room. The news of his death spread like wild fire. People from all walks of life and from all parts of the Archdiocese, particularly from Shillong, came in continuous streams to the Archbishop's House, to pay their last respects to his mortal remains, and to offer their prayers for him.

The Spanish civil war broke out in July the following year (1936). His mother died soon after that. He was compelled to work in an ordinance factory. During the civil war he remained a member of the Dominic Savio Centre of the Salesian House, as also a member of the Catholic Action. As a consequence the reds went in search of him several times, determined to give him the short walk (to the killing ground). Once on seeing the reds approaching, he hid himself in an old abandoned workshop and escaped being caught.

At the risk of his 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 went to the extent of keeping in his house, in hiding, a Salesian Priest, Fr. Francis Serrat, during the civil war.

One day when he was going to work, aeroplanes bombarded the road along which he was walking, and killed a number of people. But the Lord preserved him for the work he had in store for him.

As soon as the civil war was over in 1939, he joined the aspirantate at St. Vincent dels Horts. His open, jovial and active character and artistic abilities contributed much to the joy and enthusiasm of the whole group. The same is true of the time of his Novitiate and of the years of study in the Philosophate and Theologate.

In 1948 he came to India in the company of Fr. John Larrea. It was an answer to a call and the fulfilment of a dream. He was then a student of Theology. At the completion of his Studies he was ordained a priest in Madras on 13th August, 1950.

Shortly after his ordination, he was appointed Rector of St. Joseph's Technical School, Madras. Under his able direction, the Institute rose to a high level of efficiency. His next appointment was as Prefect of Don Bosco, Matunga in Bombay. During the Eucharistic Congress of

Born on : 8-4-1921, at Barcelona, Spain

Professed on : 16-8-1942, at St. Vincent
Dels Horts (Bacelona)

40 Years of Profession.

Ordained on : 13-8-1950, at Madras
32 Years of Priesthood.

Died on : 15-4-1983, at Shillong.



Dear REV. FATHERS, RELIGIOUS
AND FAITHFUL IN JESUS CHRIST,
*with great sorrow I announce to
you the death of*

REV. FR.

IGNATIUS
RUBIO

S. D. B.

the Procurator of the Archdiocese of Shillong-Gauhati.

*He passed away in the Lord in the early hours of 15th April, 1983,
at the Archbishop's House, Shillong. I request you all to pray for
the repose of his soul.*

*The funeral Service will take place on Sunday, April 17, 1983 at
the Cathedral at 2.00 p.m.*

*Fr. Ignatius Rubio was born on April 8, 1921 of good parents, John
Rubio and Angeles Moreno at Barcellona, Spain. He entered the
Salesian Congregation and made his religious profession on August
16, 1942. He was ordained priest on August 13, 1950 in Madras,
India. After his ordination, he worked for some time at Basin
Bridge, Madras and for about 8 years at Matunga, Bombay. Together
with Bishop D'Rosario, s.d.b., he came to Dibrugarh to work as
procurator. He came to Shillong in 1970 and till his death worked
as procurator of the Archdiocese.*

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

REV. FR. T. RESTO, S.D.B.
Administrator and Vicar General
15. 4. 1983



PER INFORMAZIONE

Phone : 3355

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
SHILLONG-1 P.O. Box 37
(MEGHALAYA STATE)

Dear Friends and Admirers of REV.FR.IGNATIUS RUBIO, S.D.B. !

In the absence of His Grace, Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario, S.D.B., we the inmates of the Archbishop's House, Shillong, sorrowfully convey to you the sad news of the sudden death of our dear and beloved Rector and Procurator, Rev.Fr.Ignatius Rubio, SDB.

He passed away suddenly during the early hours of 15th April, 1983 in his room.

We have laid him to rest at the Shillong Cemetery, today, Sunday the 17th, after a very impressive Funeral Mass officiated by Rt.Rev.O.Marengo, S.D.B. Rt.Rev.A.Abraham, SDB, of Kohima and Rt.Rev.T.Menamparampil, SDB of Dibrugarh, concelebrated together with a large number of priests in the Cathedral of Shillong which was packed to capacity.

We recommend the soul of this great Missionary Priest to your prayers and beg you to ask God to give us the strength to bear this great loss.

Yours in the Risen Lord,

(His brother) Fr.J.Rubio *Joseph M. Rubio*

Fr.T.Lopez *T. Lopez*

Br.Castellino *Br. Castellino SDB.*

17th April, 1983

