



Don Bosco High School,  
Matunga, Bombay.  
15th August, 1975.

Dear Confreres,

On the 18th of February, a sudden death robbed us of our dear confrere Bro. George Viegas, He was 78. He died of heart failure.

Born of a middle class family, he grew into a stalwart. He secured a lucrative, job with the Overseas Cables and Wireless Co. and was happy with his work. Dutiful and efficient, he achieved real success and was promoted to a higher rank within a few years.

In 1938 he heard God's voice calling him to a superior life and he joined the Salesian Congregation as an aspirant. His fervour and piety distinguished him as a model, mature vocation. Culling from his diary, the note worthy expression, "death is preferable to losing your vocation," strikes the reader and reveals his determination to stay with Don Bosco till death. And he did stay.

Brother Viegas never looked back. His desire was to serve God and Him alone. Following the Imitation of Christ he worked silently and loved to be little known and counted as nothing. He worked might and main to wipe of the debts of Don Bosco Tardeo and to purchase the present site of Matunga.

Bro. Viegas lived the motto of Don Bosco. "Work and Temperance" He worked without ceasing. He prayed without ceasing. Like Don Bosco much money passed through his hands and yet he went about as if he were

a "Fool" for Gods sake. To the best of our knowledge he seldom used a car or a taxi when going to the banks or running errands. It was either by tram, train or bus and more often than not on foot. Having entered as a late vocation he knew the value of money. He lived a life of frugality and kept a wonderful sense of wit and honour to keep, the community, happy.

The Archbishop of Shillong, Mgr. H. Rosario has this to say about dear Bro. Viegas. "Bro. Viegas was known to all as a man of duty. He loved his religious vocation and Don Bosco and was faithful to his calling. His cheerful disposition made his company pleasing to all. May God send us more Brothers like him."

Of lovable disposition, he endeared himself to all. His wit lit up the conversation on any topic and made legions of confreres and youngsters happy in the Lord.

Two are the great characteristics that made of him an exemplary religious; work and poverty. He loved work and was untiring up to the ripe age of 75, when his superiors asked him to relinquish his post. Generations will remember him as the worthy coadjutor who laboured in Gods vineyard with noble precision, His exactness in performing all his tasks singled him out as the 'good servant who did please his master and served him alone.' He was good in everything his hand was put to. His love of poverty made him shun all the fashions that created models for every season. His clothes were a real sign that he was a good religious, faithful to his vows. He had a pocket watch and never changed saying that an old timer showed time best. His fountain pen was like a brush; "Old is gold," he was telling people who wanted him to go in for a deluxe one,

He knew well indeed, that a religious keeps good and perseveres till death in his vocation, if he is part and parcel of his community. Community life was his life-motif, feeling very happy that the identity of his profession lay in living together in brotherly love.

He nourished his piety on the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary most holy. An early riser, he was glad he was able to serve several Masses before his meditation in common. The worn out beads of his rosary bear witness to his love of Don Bosco Madonna. The Immaculate Mary Help of Christians.

May the Divine Master send to our Congregation many vocations of the type of our good Brother George.

Your confrere,  
Fr. Thomas Braganza.

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For the Neerology :- Born at Shagpur, India on 3-12-1897,  
died at Bombay on 18-2-75, 77 years  
old, 39 years of profession.