



55B56

Fr. JOAQUIM LOBO sdb

Born : 14th August 1933

Died : 29th June 1997

**LIKE A CANDLE
THAT BURNT-OUT
SILENTLY**

LAST DAYS

After patiently enduring a long term illness of diabetes, which blurred his eyes to blindness, Fr. Joaquim Lobo suffered a fresh setback with a serious kidney infection. Amidst the pain and anxiety which affected him, he was overheard praying, "Lord that I may see", that same hope filled prayer of the blind Barthimeus in the gospel. "Be on your way", said Jesus, "your faith has healed you". It was in this light that on the 29th June, 1997, the feast of the great Apostles Peter and Paul, at 5.00 am. early morning that God summoned to heaven another apostle- simple and unassuming- Fr. Joaquim Lobo. The Lord opened his eyes to a new vision, the beatific vision, a vision beyond blindness, a vision far superior to what he prayed for, a vision for all eternity-of our Trinitarian God and the Bliss of Paradise.

LIFE

Early Life



Fr. Joaquim, was born in Panjim, Goa on 14th August 1933, in the family of the late Joseph Lobo and Mrs. Maria Mendes. (His father has been laid to rest in Uganda). The favourite of his mother who saw him as a special son. Joaquim joined the oratory of Don Bosco as a boarder in 1948 at the age of 14. The following year we find him already in the aspirantante of the salesians at Tirupattur, Madras, where he completed his SCC in 1952. He was later sent to St. Joseph's Technical Institute for a course in metal art work. He proved to be a gifted student and qualified to become an artistic metal worker all his life.

CONCLUSION



Fr. Joaquim Lobo did not live on centre stage in the congregation or even in the society, but with the talents that God gave him, he gave himself generously in the service of the Lord. In his blinding illness he teaches us that we can still remain calmly faithful to God and trust in His love. Born on the vigil of the feast of the Assumption, he loved the mother of Jesus. He looked up to her for comfort, guidance and protection. His devotion to Mary, he claimed,

enabled him to do all that he wanted to do in life:

TO BE A SALESIAN, TO BE A PRIEST AND TO BE A MISSIONARY.



NECROLOGY

BORN : 14th AUGUST 1933
DIED : 29th JUNE 1997
AGE : 64
PLACE : MUMBAI - INDIA



remained there until his sickness and went back home for treatment. On returning to the province of Bombay, for medical attention he was assigned to the community of Dominic Savio, Andheri and stayed in the infirmary under the care and concern of the Rector and confreres of the community until God called him home.

THAT WE MAY SEE

Joaquim was really never a front-line runner in the salesian mission or administration and yet his quiet life has made an impact in India and Eastern Africa as well. Like a candle that burns itself quietly away, we did not expect Fr. Joaquim to leave us so soon and so suddenly. Yet, God by taking him away has given us yet another example to follow. Joaquim was a man of religious obedience who related to his God in

the humble acceptance of all that happened to him. He never complained about his illness. In fact, his holy resignation to his illness made of him a very easy patient to treat.

As an artist he earned for himself a reputation especially in the field of metal art work both in India and Eastern Africa.

As a musician, he gave his voice in the service of his God, training voices for Him. He loved Church music in a special way.

As a priest, his gentle ways invited many a penitent, especially his youngsters, to the Lord's, Mercy and Love. He was always loved affectionately by his students and youngsters wherever he went.



Salesian Life

In 1954, he joined the Salesian Novitiate and opted to profess as a Salesian Brother. After his first profession on 24th May, 1955, he worked on the staff of St. Joseph's Technical Institute, Madras, as the Salesian assistant and helper to the head of the metal works department, for many years. In 1963, he was made the head of the metalwork department in St. Joseph's Technical Institute.

In 1973, he returned to the newly erected Province of Bombay and worked as the administrator of Don Bosco Tech. Fatorda. He was later made the helper to the administrator at Don Bosco Matunga in 1975 and the following year administrator at Don Bosco Borivili. All through this period though he had professed perpetually as a Salesian Brother, he often expressed to his superiors his desire to become a Salesian Priest. In response he was allowed to pursue his studies towards priesthood. In 1979, he began his studies of Philosophy at Don Bosco - Poona following which he was sent to Kristu Jyothi College - Bangalore to complete his theological studies. Joaquim was ordained a priest on 19th December, 1984, in Panjim, Goa.

Missionary Life

After a brief stay in Gujarat- India, Fr. Joaquim offered his services to the African Mission of Eastern Africa in 1986. He was assigned to the Don Bosco Technical School, Iringa. In 1988, he was made the administrator of the house and a few years later in 1990 was made the Principal of the technical school of Iringa.

In 1993 he was sent to Don Bosco, Dodoma as the Vice Rector. In 1994 he was sent to Don Bosco Boys' Town at Karen, Kenya to take up the metal workshop and to be the Principal of the school. He





**God gave you that rarest gift
An understanding heart
A gentle kindly manner
Your wisdom to impart.**

**Oh some build with steel and iron
To prove their way to fame
But you are building character
A lasting tribute to your name.**

**The lives you touch, the good you do
Shall never know an end
And we are proud to call you
Our teacher and our friend.**

M. Griswold