

Fr. Selvaraj Thomas

Born : 1919
Ordained : 1948
Died : 1977

Fr. selvaraj Thomas was a clever and a well known preacher even abroad, a priest companion of father G. Kulanthai Raj of Trichy Diocese. They both were ordained together for Trichy Diocese in 1948. Fr. Selvaraj had the zeal to work as a missionary, hence, he departed for Sri Lanka to be a missionary preacher and later was incardinated to a Sri Lankan (Jaffna) diocese.

He used to invite his friends from India for preaching novenas and feast celebrations in his diocese. He frequently travelled to Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore for preaching retreats in English and Tamil. As usual, he once travelled to the Philippines to do his retreat mission, which happened to be his last visit. There, he surrendered his spirit at the feet of the Lord, and was buried in the Philippines in 1977.

He was a native of Malayadipatty. He was the firstborn among the four children to Mr Thomas and Kasthuri family, which came and settled in Malayadipatty as an '*Ubadhesiyar Family*'. His younger brother (Fr. Mariadoss SJ) also became a Jesuit priest in Madurai province in 1956. Fr. Henry Thomas, the Benjamin of the family joined the salesian congregation and was ordained at Chennai in 1961.

Sr. Rosalie @ Henry Juliana, his only younger sister, the third one in the family also became a nun in CIC Congregation - Madurai. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in N. Panjampatty in 1994. Fr. Stephen Gaspar preached for the Jubilee Mass of Sr.Rosali. Fr. Mariadoss SJ could not attend the celebration due to his old age; but Fr. Henry Thomas SDB was present as a lay man (He got married after 7 years of his priesthood) with his family members.

It is painful to record the unfortunate and unprecedented history of this holy family: It happened so, when all the four children left the family and joined different congregations, responding to the call of God, their parents were left alone in the village. They were cheated by a neighbouring family and lost the house. Because of this bitter experience, no one from the family has entered the village to this day nor to the house. Leaving the house to the cheaters, the parents of Selvaraj left for Trichy and settled there.

These incidents were shared to Fr.Stephen Gaspar by Fr. Mariadoss SJ, when he was retired in Beschi College and by Sr. Rosalie in Madurai. Just two months before his death, Fr. Stephen Gaspar convinced him and brought him to the village and showed his ancestral house - even at that time he was boiling in anger, remembering those heartbreaking incidents.

Selvaraj Thomas died at philipines.

May the soul of Fr. Selvaraj Thomas rest in Peace!

Fr.T.Selvaraj.Tcy. Diocese.Thomas/Catherine D.B 04.04.1917
D.Ord27.03.1942..Dioco.29.06.1941. Tonsure.23.06.38

P.P.Pugailaipatty.1944-45. . Killikkottai
1951-53.

- ***Fr. Stephen Gaspar***