

Fr. Henry Thomas

Fr. Henry Thomas, a clever man, was born as a native of Malayadipatty on 05-01-1926. He was the youngest son, but elder to his sister who was also a nun. The notable thing is that all of them became priests and a nun too.

As a clever student, he joined the Salesian Congregation and became a SDB priest in 1956. Meanwhile, Fr. Selvaraj Thomas, his eldest brother had also been ordained a priest in Trichy Diocese and was serving as a missionary in Sri Lanka.

Having lived as a member of the SDB of Chennai Province, he could not remain in the priestly vocation for more than ten years; unfortunately, he left the congregation, got married to Mrs. Regina (05-02-1950), and started running a matriculation school near Chennai and settled there as a layman. The couple was blessed with three children namely Christina (1976), Roselin Selva Rani (1978) and Arockiaraj Deepak (1980).

As per the Church Law, though it is unlawful for a priest to get married, the mark of his priesthood, received at his ordination can never be dismissed. 'He is a Priest forever.' Therefore, we include him also in this list.

He, as a layman with his family, attended the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Rosali CIC, his younger sister. The celebration occurred at N. Panjamapatty Convent Church in 2002, in which Fr. Stephen Gaspar preached in the Jubilee mass; and after the mass he interacted with Mr Henry Thomas and his family. As communicated by Sr. Rosali, he died in 2005 due to his ill health; Fr. Mariadoss Thomas, his elder brother, had travelled all the way from Pondyerry to attend the Funeral at Chennai.

May his soul Rest in Peace!

- **Fr. Stephen Gaspar**