



R.I.P.

FR. PAUL KIDANGAN

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

By means of this letter, I like to inform you about the last days of Fr. Paul Kidangan's life.

Everything went on as usual in the life of Fr. Paul till the fatal accident at about 11 am on Tuesday, the 31st of March. He had attended the programme associated with the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on the previous day. During the supper after the Mass he came over and invited me and Bp. Thomas to the Seminary for the closing function of the Academic year, on Easter Day evening.

In the morning hours of Tuesday, 31st March, he had gone to the St. Anne's Convent at Baghmara for the spiritual direction and confession of the Sisters over there. It was as he returned by his motorbike that he came to face to face with his end. It was reported that a stray dog caused the accident. He fell unconscious, bleeding profusely from his head despite having the helmet. He was found so by the people who recognised him and was brought to the Govt. Health centre at Betnoti. By that time Fathers and Sisters had been at his side and they brought him to the District Hospital at Balasore. As his condition was very critical the doctors there recommended that he be taken to some other hospital elsewhere. So we decided to take him to the Apollo hospital, Bhubaneswar.

However, we found that it would be better to make his vital systems stable before we moved him to Bhubaneswar, a four-hour long drive. The Doctors, Sisters and staff at the Jyothi Hospital managed to do that, and for it we are very grateful to the S.D. Sisters for the concerted and dedicated efforts put in lovingly in order to help Fr. Paul to regain consciousness. An ambulance from the Apollo hospital, fully equipped to carry him, was brought to Jyothi hospital around 8 P.M. By that time Fr. Paul's vital systems – blood pressure, heart beat, temperature etc. were found normal, except that he was still unconscious and continued to vomit some blood at regular intervals. However, going by his condition at that time all of us were very optimistic and hopeful that he would regain his consciousness and recover after receiving treatment at the Apollo Hospital. But that was not to happen.

The doctors at the Apollo hospital found that he had suffered severe haemorrhage in the brain and so there was no more hope. We had no option but to bring him Paul back to Balasore. Fr. Paul breathed his last in the early hours of Wednesday, 1st of April.

The funeral Mass on the evening of the same day was attended by many fathers, sisters and others. The body was kept in a mobile mortuary in the Debo Dutto Minor Seminary, Kuruda, where Fr. Paul was Rector till the day before. Many fathers and sisters, besides his relatives and friends from Kerala and elsewhere, had the opportunity to pay him homage during the two days prior to the funeral today.

The funeral service was held on Holy Saturday (4th April) at 9 am in the Cathedral. There were many to bid him farewell. Also a large number of people had come from the parishes where Fr. Paul had worked. He was laid to rest in the cemetery in the front of the Cathedral at 11 am.

May his soul rest in peace.

A souvenir in honour of Fr. Paul Kidangan will be released shortly.

With Regards and Blessings

Bp. Simon Kaipuram, C.M.

4th April, 2015