



"Fate risplendere la santità di Dio". "Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)

ITEM 29

Why Lord only Three Months?

Hi friends. I am Fr Joji Babu Tuneti sac.

I came into this world on December 10th 1982, as the second of five children of God-fearing parents Mr Jaya Raju and Mrs Agnesamma. I had a desire to become a priest from the age of four when I sat with my mother and saw a priest preaching in our church on Sunday. After the Mass I asked my mother what I should do to become a priest. She told me before you become priest you should become a good boy in the house listening to your parents and respecting your elders. In this way I learned respect and reverence for my elders, and love and care for younger ones. Though we do not have any ancestral property or riches my parents nourished us with their sweat and blood by hard work, taught us a good way of life, and gave us faith formation.

After completing my +12 I joined the Society of the Catholic Apostolate in 2000. From the day I saw the statue of Our Holy Founder St Vincent Pallotti there was some kind of feeling in my faith and spirituality, especially a concern for the poor and neglected. When I was in second year theology a tragedy took place in that, within a month two of my uncles died, and after a few months my father also died. It was really a tough time for me wondering whether to continue my life in the Society or not because my family lost their bread winner. I used to spend a lot of time in prayer and reading, then the Lord prompted me with these words: ***"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth"*** (Is 49:6b). I kept them as a theme for my Ordination Card. I made Final Consecration on May 31st 2010, and in the same year I was ordained a deacon. I collected lots of materials for my future ministry and was ordained a priest on April 25th 2011. The 27th April was my thanksgiving Mass and on this day I felt a special grace and joy.

I began my priestly ministry from June 1st in Amaravathi Parish as an Assistant Pastor, Boarding Director and Vocation Promoter. I was extremely involved in parish activities, celebrating Mass and taking care of 55 students. There were times I celebrated four Masses a day. It went on till September 2011 then all of a sudden a dark cloud overshadowed my health in the form of a mild headache. On 17th September it was diagnosed as Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (blood cancer). Even the oil that anointed my hands got dried and this sickness captured my life. I did not realise that it was so serious and was thinking I have some neurological problem.

Immediately I was taken to CMC hospital Vellore, the only centre where it could be treated. I came to know about my sickness from my Vice-Provincial Fr Rajan who was with me at that time and I remembered the words of St Paul: ***“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose”*** (Romans 8:28). From then onwards I was on treatment. But it was very painful and difficult. So far I have completed five cycles of high dose chemotherapy during which twice they punctured my spinal cord to collect fluid. This is a very painful test doctors do sometimes, having to poke me 4 to 5 times to get fluid. I offer my pain along with the sufferings of Christ and pray for those who suffer more severely than me. During the fourth cycle of chemo I had some complications and was not able to talk or walk for five days. When the doctor came to see me he said ‘Father it will take a long time to recover, sometimes it can be permanent too’. But my faith kept on saying that **‘the one, who consecrated you to proclaim his word to the nations, will not put you in this forever.’** I recovered within four days and when the doctor came to see me he was surprised that I was talking and walking normally. He exclaimed ‘Father you are a miracle’!

On my sick bed I used to think that: **‘Lord as priest I did not administer some of the sacraments and not even celebrate your birthday and your passion, suffering, death and resurrection.’** But I realized, only when I came to Bangalore our Provincialate for Christmas and Easter celebration, that the Lord who called did not deprive me of carrying out my priestly ministry. I was the main celebrant for all these solemn Masses. I went to hear confessions in some of the convents. I am happy as I recall my three months ministry in which I had ample opportunity to meet different people like our Rector General and some Brothers of the Pallottine family at Kerala in the **International Meeting of Brothers and Formators and Vocation Promoters**. I felt a turning step and drastic change in the Society in which our Pallottine Fathers and Brothers sit together and discuss how to realize the charism, vision and mission of our founder.

So dear readers one day after prayer my mother told me, **“My son if you were with me I would have lost you long ago but, because you are a priest in the Pallottine Family, they are giving so much care for you.”** I would like to sincerely thank each and every member of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate especially my superiors for taking care of me and praying for me. I request you to pray for me more as I am undergoing bone marrow transplantation in the month of May which doctors say is compulsory for my sickness. I ask this not because I am afraid of death or something like that but rather, because my Society has given me 11 years of best formation and best things that are available in the world, I would like to serve the church in the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. I continue to trust in the words of the prophet Jeremiah: ***“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope”*** (29:11), and that soon I will join my members and serve the Society. I like to conclude with this small prayer, **“Lord, I know you have more for me, but I am not yet ready to receive it.”** Thank you.

**Joji Babu Tuneti sac – Bangalore – INDIA
13.04.12**

ITEM 28

40th PARISH JUBILEE

Holy Spirit Parish, Ringwood North – Victoria – AUSTRALIA

On Sunday 25th March 2012, Holy Spirit Church Ringwood North celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a joyful open air Mass followed by Picnic Rug Lunch and family entertainment Barn dance led by 'Bushwahzee Band' – the date marking the beginning of the parish.

Hundreds of parishioners past and present, along with visitors and invited guests, packed Holy Spirit Parish in Ringwood North to commemorate 40 years of worship and pastoral care. More than 500 people attended the Holy Mass.

Fr Kevin Mogg concelebrated the Mass with current parish priest, Fr Shibu Joseph sac and former Holy Spirit parish priest Fr Allan Mithen and other priests who had supported the parish in many of its past Sacramental celebrations.

The homily reflected on the need for a genuine relationship with God: "*I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" The strength of parish life is in this connection – our relationship to Jesus Christ in community and with each other through the Church. Working together, in the unity of God's Spirit, we're able to accomplish all that God would have us to do and to be.

What started as a cleared pine paddock back in 1972, where Mass was celebrated in the open, has now become a dynamic community with links and services that reach beyond the parish and school population. Today the parish reaches out through various outreach programs like sporting Clubs, St Vincent de Paul, support to the local nursing homes, parish community fete – which is a local iconic event. As well the happy community comes together for typical spiritual events – Holy Eucharist, baptisms, marriages and other sacraments. So far the parish was served by priests Fr Jim Nippard, Fr Kevin Mogg, Fr Allan Mithen, Fr Eugene San sac and Fr Shibu Joseph sac. Currently it is under the care of the Pallottines.

A display of historical events is happening in the church depicting beautiful memories of the parish from its beginning. To mark the Jubilee a logo was designed by young parishioner Deanne Frangeskakis using her own graphic talents, and a Jubilee prayer was composed by Lyn Thwaites. The parish Pastoral Council along with the parish staff has arranged many programs to continue to celebrate the Jubilee throughout the coming year.

"The 40th Jubilee was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate faith and the growth of the community and a joyful walk down the memory lane. All this reminds us that there is so much to give thanks for and celebrate" said Fr Shibu Joseph, the parish priest, regarding the occasion.

Shibu Joseph sac – Ringwood North – AUSTRALIA
13.04.12
