

RIP
OBITUARY OF FR. SULEMAN MINJ SJ (HAZ)
1948 - 2019

Fr. Suleman Minj SJ was born on 21st Sept. 1948 in village Chainpur, Mahuadanr, Dt. Latehar, Jharkhand, India. He was the son of Mr. Marcus Minj, and Mrs. Magdali Kujur. He was the youngest among five brothers and one sister. His primary schooling was in the village school and he fondly remembered his school teachers especially late Joseph Kujur (father of Sr. Praveen HC) from whom he learnt selfless service and commitment to the people. He then joined St. Joseph's Jesuit School Mahuadanr. He was a good student, and excelled in sports, high jump champion in the famous Charkrabhiu athletic meet in Gumla. He represented the school in football and hockey as well.



He entered the Society at Sitagarha on 6 October 1972 with his classmates Fr. Emile Ekka and Fr. Gregory Kerketta and took his first vows on 7th Oct., 1974. Following the usual studies, including B.A. from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, and B.Ed from Bombay University, Philosophy from Shembaganur and Theology from VJ, Delhi, he was ordained in Mahuadanr by Rev. Bishop George Saupin SJ the Bishop of Daltonganj on 30 April, 1985.

After his Ordination, he was assistant Parish Priest of Mahuadanr, Bishrampur and director of Candidates for a year. He took his final vows at Loyola Centre Hazaribag on 8th Sept. 1993. And then it followed the diverse ministries which showed Suleman's willingness to take up any apostolate given to him by his superiors. He probably enjoyed most his work as a pastor in Bishrampur, Mahuadanr, Tundtoli and Pakripath where he was always close to the people and their problems. He loved the poor and tried to reach out to the needy. He was four and a half years Headmaster and hostel prefect in Catholic Ashram School, Bhurkunda where he also enjoyed helping out in the parish. He was qualified to be a teacher or headmaster in the school however, whatever apostolate he was sent to, he did it quietly, generously, humbly and efficiently.

From June 2005 to May 2010, he was treasurer in St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha and then from June 2010 to October 2016, was again treasurer in St. Robert's School, Hazaribag. During his stay at both these places he was a quite sought after person for the spiritual ministries. This really showed his Jesuit spirit as these were the last type of apostolates he would have wanted, but he carried them

out as usual quietly, dedicatedly and efficiently. From October 2010 to October 2016, he was the Superior of St. Robert's community Hazaribag. As a superior he was both a guide, a good companion and promoted the spirit of team work.

In 2012, his sickness began and after some time he was referred to Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay where it was discovered that he had cancer in the slivry gland area which caused much pain and swelling. After an operation in 2013 and radiation therapy, Suleman felt much better and carried on with his work. But in 2016, when undergoing treatment for a troublesome hemorrhoid in Holy Family Hospital Koderma, it was found that the cancer had spread to his liver and lungs. He visited the doctors in Tata memorial hospital Mumbai and after his return he went to Holy Family hospital Kurji Patna. In Kurji hospital, chemotherapy followed which caused him much pain, weakness and loss of taste for food. Finally, at the end of May, 2017, he decided to stop such medication. However, he took very faithfully the tonic given by a Holy Cross Nun Sr. Britto HC. On 27th June he was shifted to St. Xavier's community, Hazaribag for a better care and rest. There he went on fighting the cancer which made him weaker. Even in such state of his health, for some months, every morning he sat in the minister's office and contributed his share of mission as a minister of the house.

By March 2019, Suleman could not walk, speak, sleep and eat. Even at that time he preferred to stay in St. Xavier's community Hazaribag and visit the doctors occasionally. He was completely helpless and reminded of Fr. Pedro Arrupe - for he had completely resigned himself to God's ways after the stroke. Suleman accepted his share of sufferings and passion with serenity and without complaint whatsoever, inspiring his community members and all those who visited him. Finally, on 10th April 2019, **Fr Suleman Minj SJ**, (71) entered into the heavenly abode quietly at 3.42 p.m., holding the hands of his Superior, Fr. George Thomas SJ.