**Rev. Fr. A. Arockiadass CMF**

July 7th 1975: Born in Umai Udaiyan Madai, Aandavurani Parish, Sivagangai Diocese, Ramnad District, Tamilnadu, India.

May 31st 1997: First Profession.

May 31st 2003: Perpetual Profession.

December 28th 2005: Priestly Ordination.

It’s a great loss for the Claretians of Chennai Province and the Congregation at large as we unexpectedly lost our beloved Fr. Arockiadass CMF due to the infection of COVID 19. As he was admitted in Holy Cross Hospital, Nagercoil, for his treatment and recuperation, he was confident and courageous of being restored to good health. In his conversation with some of the Claretian Priests too, he ascertained that he would come back to the community soon in best of health. But, he failed to keep up his promise and left us all in great shock and pain as he breathed his last on 6th May 2021. It was a moment of anguish and grief for all to accept the sudden demise of our brother Priest at the age of 46.

When he was nine years old, he lost his mother and his stepmother subsequently looked after him along with his younger sister and brother. He completed his tenth standard and attended vocation camp in the year 1990 and began his journey as a Claretian from the Minor Seminary, at Claret Illam, Kumbakonam. He was good at studies, athletics, and skillful especially in writing poems and acting and directing dramas. In totality, he was grooming as a pious seminarian and was appreciated by all.

After having made his religious first profession joyfully, he did his philosophy at Arul Anandar College, residing in Claret Bhavan, Karumathur, Madurai and successfully completed his theological studies at Morning Star College, Barrackpore, Kolkata, staying at Claret Nivas, Barrackpore, respectively. His aspiration and conviction to serve God and His people as a Claretian Priest was vividly seen in all the aspects of his life and especially in his thinking, reasoning and living. Therefore, he was joyful on his vocational journey and was marching forward in it faithfully despite several odds.

The amount of interests and commitments he showed towards the preparatory studies for his Priestly Ministry made a lot of impact in him. His passion for preaching the Word of God triggered him to preach retreats and recollections to the nuns of various religious congregations. His passionate involvement in the Alternative Therapy healed the illness of many people. His dedication in the Educational ministry raised up many students to higher levels of development. His concern for the broken families impelled him to counsel and help them at all levels towards the promotion of better living. His empathetic feeling for the downtrodden people of the society urged him to feel one with them and showed ways to walk forward in their life with hope.

As an enthusiastic Claretian Priest, he was ready to go anywhere to serve the people of God and remained obedient to the Provincial and his council. He was able to incorporate the values of the religious life in his personal and community life till the end. He was deeply devoted to the Sacrament of Eucharist and found joy in the maternal care of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As he was a man of humor and laughter, he always ensured the members’ happiness in the community by his lighthearted conversation.

His leadership and style of functioning as a superior of the community was not authoritarian but fraternal in character, and he firmly believed in collaborative and participative nature of working. He was courageous enough to give his proposal, suggestion and opinion whenever common and community meetings were held. His relationship and communication with members of the Province was appreciable and he tried to give his best in all the entrusted responsibilities by his hard work.

Amidst the responsibilities of being the Principal of the School and Parish Priest, he always updated himself with the current knowledge and therefore he occupied himself with ongoing formative studies regularly. He completed his Master degree in English literature (M.A) and Master of Education (M.Ed) through distant education mode. He enrolled his name to pursue PhD in English literature and he was tirelessly working for it that he was about to complete it at the end of May 2021. Unfortunately, his dream could not be realized as he was called home by the Eternal High Priest.

He was a pillar of hope for his younger sister and brother as they were seeking guidance and motivation from him at all times of their lives. For them, his physical absence cannot be substituted and totally left them in bewilderment. The loss of a loving brother and priest in young age is very shocking indeed. May his soul find peace!

By the grace of God, Fr. A. Arockiadass CMF carried out faithfully the following responsibilities.

2006 – 2008: Consultor, Correspondent and Treasurer of Claret School, Claret Anbagam, Thiruninravur.

2008 – 2010: Econome, Correspondent and Principal of St. Claret English Medium Nursery and Primary School, Claret Arulagam, Moonandipatti.

2010 – 2013: Vicar, Principal and Treasurer of St. Claret English Medium Nursery and Primary School, Claret Arulagam, Moonandipatti.

2013 – 2014: Vicar, Principal and Treasurer of St. Claret English Medium Nursery and Primary School, Claret Arulagam, Moonandipatti.

2014 – 2015: Superior, Correspondent and Principal of St. Claret School, Claret Anbagam, Thiruninravur.

2015 – 2016: Econome (Additional Responsibility), Claret Anbagam, Thiruninravur.

2016 – 2017: Vicar, Correspondent and Principal of St. Claret School, Claret Anbagam, Thiruninravur.

2017 – 2019: Superior and Hostel In-charge, KAVASAM, Mangalapuram.

2019 – 12th October 2020: Superior and Parish Priest, Claret Arulagam, Moonandipatti.

12th October 2020 – 15th February 2021: Member and Doctoral Thesis Work, Claret Amaithiaham, Erachakulam.

15th February 2021 – 6th May 2021: Vicar and Doctoral Thesis Work, Claret Amaithiaham, Erachakulam.