

Funeral of Jean-Marie Chuvi Adubangho



Manila, May 24, 2014

Homily, by Fr. Bernard Holzer, A.A.

Provincial's delegate for the Philippines and the Superior General's delegate for Asia

Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi: Brother, Friend, Missionary, Pastor, True Assumptionist

Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12

John 12: 23-28

Lord, why?

Why the loss of this religious and priest in the prime of his life?

Why this loss that cripples a young and fragile mission?

Brothers and sisters,

Let us revisit the Scriptures at that moment when Jesus was walking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, after his death on the Cross.

On the day Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi died, this past May 20, we read in the Acts of the Apostles: «
*Paul and Barnabas
put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith, saying, 'We must
all experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God*
' »

During this Easter season, this same book of the Acts of the Apostles constantly reminds us that the Holy Spirit is guiding the community of believers. Today we do not understand our loss. Let us accept that we don't understand and let us put ourselves in God's hands. Tomorrow we will understand...

However, already today the gospel we read gives us a key: «*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it*

produces much fruit.

»

Jean-Marie Chuvi was a wonderful gift from God for all of us : a brother, a missionary, a priest and a pastor, an Assumptionist.

A brother and a friend

Chuvi was a man who loved community, a man of peace, communion, and harmony, easy to live with. To my knowledge, he never hurt anyone. For him, who was always smiling and roaring with laughter, there was no problem that was insurmountable. «*The first time I met him*», Fr. Duy from Vietnam told us , «*I thought I was in the presence of a smiling Buddha*». «*He presented the joyful face of life in community*», writes Fr. Miguel Diaz (Provincial).

He was a friend in the Augustinian tradition, a friend living with other friends seeking God together.

One of the first religious to join the Assumptionists in the Congo who was not from the Nande tribe, he was loved by all in Butembo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), in Nairobi (Kenya), in Arusha (Tanzania) and in the Philippines.

