



Fr Sidney D'Souza, S.J.

(1934-2020. In Zambia 1984-1986)

19 May 2020

Fr Sidney D'Souza was born on 16 December 1934 in Mumbai, India. His parents were Edward and Teresa D'Souza and he had a brother and a sister. He went to St Stanislaus High School in Bandra, Mumbai for his secondary education. On 20 June 1951 he entered the novitiate at Andheri, where he also did his juniorate. He studied philosophy in Spain at San Cugat from 1955 to 1958. He spent some time studying Hindi in Ranchi in 1959-1960. He did his theology at St Mary's College in Kuescong, Darjeeling from 1961 to 1965 and was ordained in 1964.

He was director of the Social Services Centre at Sevanikafan, Mumbai from 1967-1969 and afterwards did a M A in Social Sciences. He was assigned to work with the CLC in the Roman curia from 1978-1982.

He worked in Zambia for two years, 1984-1986, serving as socius in the novitiate. Peter Carroll, who as the Novice Master at the time, remembers him as a painstaking teacher of the novices, clear, understandable and thorough. Novices from other congregations would often attend his classes. He was also thorough, assuring the novices lived up to the Ignatius standards he expected from them. He led by example, as he was a very dedicated Jesuit, happy to be a Jesuit and committed to live his religious life to the full.

He was the director of the On-Going Formation team operating from Moshi in Tanzania from 1989 to 2007. This team travelled all over Tanzania, bringing a much needed renewal at the deeper level to hundreds of religious. It provided a valuable service to many communities who could not travel the rather long distances to the few spiritual retreat centers. After a sabbatical he joined the Mwangaza Retreat staff from 2004 to 2006 and took up residence in Arrupe retirement community in 2007 while still helping with retreat work.

With his outgoing and his genial personality as well as his great sense of humor, he was most successful with the giving of retreats, directing religious and forming spiritual leaders. He was a much sought after spiritual director and a good preacher. All of this reflected his own personal religious life. His openness to others and his availability for mission were hallmarks of his life as a Jesuit. He passed away peacefully on 19 May 2020 in Nairobi.