

Fr. Dunston: A Holy Presence of Intercession in Heaven



When I was doing my first year aspirancy in St. Thomas Ashram, Kozhinjampara, we had a visit to the then novitiate house Arul Malar Illam, Saravanampatty. That day I met Fr. Dunston there. In the first appearance, there was nothing extraordinary in him. A slim, bald-headed, dark human being without having any kind of attractiveness. But one thing I noticed: the way he was walking, greeting people with a smile and the simplicity in his appearance and body language. That was my first and last meeting with Fr. Dunston because by the end of that year, our batch moved to Ampazhakkad for the novitiate, and during that period our beloved Fr. Dunston started journey to heaven for his eternal reward.

Let me ask a question. What are the criteria to assess the life of a religious person as a successful one after his death? If there are a few people to cry at the death of a religious person, if some persons feel a great loss during the death of a *Sannyasi*, if people remember, talk and pray to a *Sannyasi* even after long years of his death without forgetting him, that religious person, we can say, led a successful life on earth. When we take the life of our beloved Fr. Dunston, the success of his religious life lies in winning the hearts of others through a cordial behaviour and magnanimous heart of his own. He could do the ordinary things in an extraordinary manner. The life of Fr. Dunston reminds us clearly that it is not the talent of a person that makes him/her holy but the right attitude towards God and fellow human beings.

Every now and then, I hear these kinds of experiences about Fr. Dunston from others. I consider him a holy presence in heaven, interceding for us, especially for

our province. The patroness of our province St. Teresa of Lisieux once said: “I will spend my heaven doing good on earth.” I think and believe that Fr. Dunston is also doing the same in heaven imbibing the spirit of the patroness of our province. We the fathers and brothers say proudly that we belong to ' Preshitha Province'! With the same pride we can say, Fr. Dunston is 'the Preshithan of Preshitha Province'!

Fr. Shyjo Paramel CMI



Bro. Fegin Dharmaram



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