

**MSFS - MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE**



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LIKE A PERFECT FLOWER

THAT IS BEYOND YOUR REACH

GONE TOO SOON



Bro. Emmanuel Cyrille ETABA BIVINA (1989 – 2019)

Dear Confreres, Death has once again gripped us. Our hearts have been heavy past few weeks ever since we were told that **Bro. Emmanuel Cyrille ETABA BIVINA** was suffering from cancer. On 26th March 2019 we were all the more saddened by the demise of this young seminarian from Yaoundé, Cameroon. Cyrille was known in the seminary as a man who gave himself without asking for anything in return. He was born on 28.10.1989 at Monatele, Cameroon in a Catholic family as the second child of Mr. Bivina Jean Simon and Mrs. Njopa Jeannette. He has two brothers and three sisters.

Bro Cyrille joined the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS- Fransalians) in 2010. He did his Postulancy at Mermier House, Ngaoundéré-Cameroon (2010-2012). He completed his pre-noviciate at Ndagani, Kenya (2012) and Novitiate in Kibaha, Tanzania (2012-2013) and made his first profession on 14.07.2013. He completed his philosophical studies at Lumen Christie Institute, Arusha, Tanzania in 2016 and did his regency in Bero, Chad from 2016 to 2017. In 2017 he joined the Fransalian community at La Feuillette, Ngoya and started his theological studies at St Cyprian School of Theology (ETSC) at Ngoya. He was doing his second year of theology when in February 2019, he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He died on 26 March 2019 at 1.15 am at Yaoundé.

Bro Cyrille was known to all as a friendly and jovial person, simple in his approach and always ready to serve. He was always available and approachable. Cyrille was a person who always relied on the providence of God. He showed deep attachment to the Fransalian family and radiated Salesian hospitality and warmth. His life was characterised by dedicated service, cheerful availability and love for the Church. We were looking forward to know how God would use him as a priest in the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. Now, we all mourn his untimely departure from this world to his heavenly dwelling place. It is true that we are shocked and saddened by the death of Bro. Cyrille. But for those of us who belong to the world to come, those of us who bear the name Christian on our souls, we know that by death the life is not destroyed but transformed.

Dear Cyrille, we know for certain that, no words would suffice to pay our homage and gratitude to you. We raise our arms in gratitude to God for having gifted us with such a lovable person like you. We continue to love you and you will remain forever in our

hearts. We grieve for the Bivina family, for Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and in a special way for his brother seminarians and formators at La Feuillette.

My dear Confreres, the mortal remains of Bro. Cyrille will be laid to rest on the 2nd of April 2019 in Ngoya, in the specially prepared cemetery in our campus. **Bishop of Obala, Rt. Rev. Sosthene Leopold Bayemi Matjei** will preside over the last rites. Let us all join the Chad-Cameroon Delegation in our prayerful accompaniment with them in this most testing time. MAY GOD GRANT ETERNAL REST TO CYRILLE.

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial