

Acknowledgements

The Joseph Naik Vaz Institute wishes to extend warmest thanks to
Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Barber, S.J., Bishop of Oakland for presiding
and Fr. Alexander Castillo of the Diocese of Oakland for his help
All the priests concelebrating and deacons assisting
Dr. Rudy de Vos, organist, for accompanying the Beatitudes
John David Giese for his composition of the Beatitudes in Raga Pahadi
Smt. Rita Sahai, North Indian classical singer and her Hindustani Choir
The St. John the Baptist Multicultural Choir, El Cerrito
Namitha Bhat for her flute accompaniment

Grateful Thanks for their messages on this occasion to
His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith of Sri Lanka
His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias of Mumbai, India
His Grace, Archbishop Felipe Nery, Archbishop of Goa, India
Rt. Rev. Bishop Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, Sri Lanka

*Special thanks to the Goan Institute of San Francisco for supporting
this celebration honoring Goa and Sri Lanka's First Saint*

Volunteers helping with the Prelude, Mass, festive Reception
Ruth & Luke Abranches, Debbie, Allen & Brendan Albuquerque, Joe, Acaria &
Kurt Almeida, Joan Almeida, Bella Comelo, Justin Davis, Gloria Dias, Elaine &
Malcom D'Sa, Loreen, Oscar, Doris & Savio D'Silva, Maju Furtado, Marina
Gracias, Geralyn & Glenn Lobo, Maria & Lucio Lopes, Laura Mascarenhas,
Melanie & Tony Moniz, Leo & Marina Pereira, Sheena, Anjali & Nikhil Shastri,
Anslim Soares, Manuel Rodrigues
Indian music arrangements – Naren Bhat and Vivek Ananda
Translations – Jerson Vaz, Vyvette Meerwald, Rev. Louis Leveil, S.J., Sr. Shalet
Mendonca, Fr. Nascimento Mascarenhas, Nataasha Tiono, Rev. Rakotoarison, S.J.

Special Thanks to 3D Gourmet Catering for gifts of food and for catering

<https://3dgourmetcatering.wordpress.com>

A Joyous Celebration of the Canonization of St. Joseph Vaz First Saint of Goa, India, and of Sri Lanka

*Canonized by H.H. Pope Francis on January 14, 2015
During his Papal visit to Sri Lanka*

*Inter-religious Musical Prelude followed by
Holy Mass, Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Barber S.J. presiding*

*On Sunday March 15, 2015 - Cathedral of Christ the Light
2121 Harrison St., Oakland, California*

*Joseph Naik Vaz Institute
67 Kingston Road, Kensington CA 94707
www.josephnaikvaz.org*

Main Celebrant Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Barber S.J.
Bishop of Oakland, California

Priests Concelebrating

Rev. Thomas Massaro, S.J., Dean of the Jesuit School of Theology (USC),
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
Rev. Fr. Al Furtado CSSR
Rev. Louis Leveil S.J.
Rev. Freddie Thomas,
Rev. Hilarion Rakotoarison
S.J., Rev. Andry Andrianaivosoa S.J.
Rev. Patric Razafimahafaly S.J.
Rev. Paul Kado

Deacons Assisting

Deacon Witold Cichon, Polish Pastoral Center, Diocese of Oakland
Deacon Rudi Fernandes, All Saints Church, Hayward

Readers

1st Reading JeyaBhuvanu Jeya Raj – Tamil and Sinhala
2nd Reading Acaria Almeida – Konkani

Prayers of the Faithful

Maria Furtado – Konkani
Sr. Dr. Beena Jose – Malayalam
Tony Moniz – English
Natasha Tiono – Indonesian
Suzy Ralibera – Malagasy

Offertory Procession

Anjali Shastri, Liam Pinto, Agnes McBride
Luke & Ruth Abranches, Theo & Cash Kojan, Aidan Pinto

Inter Religious Musical Prelude

Introductory remarks by Filomena Saraswati Giese and Subhita Sudershana
Vote of Thanks: George J. Pinto and Acaria Almeida

Hindustani Choir of Indian Singers and Musicians

Smt. Rita Sahai, director, North Indian classical singer, composer

Sacred Indian Diwali (Festival of Lights) Hymn in Raga Rajashree

Prayer for Wisdom in Raga Bhimpalasi

Chant in honor of the Buddhist King of Kandy

Introduced by Carol Fields, American Buddhist in the Dzogchen tradition of Tibet

Singers

Ritvik Kulkarni, Aditya Pathak, Vivek Anand, Rajnish Kamat, Prabha Shanbhag,
Manisha Pathak, Sadhana Kulkarni, Naren Bhat, Jothika Bhat, Sanket Sant, John Giese,
Filomena Giese, Archana Dighe, Sabina Iyengar, Ruchi Asawa, Ashesh Singh, Swati
Nakra

Tabla accompanist

Shripad Torvi

St. John the Baptist Church Multicultural Choir, Ligia Britto, director

The Beatitudes in Raga Pahadi, by John Giese

Organ accompanist: Rudy de Vos

Konkani Hymn to St. Joseph Vaz, words Rev. Vasco do Rego S.J., music Filomena
Saraswati Giese

Accompanists: Namitha Bhat, flute; Ligia Giese, piano

Singers

Kay Cayetano, Thalia Cayetano, Jose Freitas, Ligia Giese, Rajnish Kamat, , Chris Giese,
Isaac & Corazon Tiongson Jr., Ligia Britto, John Giese, George Kreshka

LIFE OF SAINT JOSEPH VAZ

St. Joseph Vaz was born in Goa, formerly Portuguese India, on April 21, 1651. He was a descendant of the family of Naik of Sancoale, Goa, who had become Catholics in the sixteenth century. He showed marks of sanctity and charity toward the poor even at a young age and decided to become a priest. He studied philosophy and theology at the Dominican Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas and completed his priestly studies at the Jesuit College of St. Paul in Old Goa. He was ordained a priest in 1676.

While in Old Goa, he heard about the suppression of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka by the Dutch who had ousted the Portuguese from that island. As the Dutch had banned all priests from entering Sri Lanka, he volunteered to go there in disguise. The Chapter of Goa, realizing that this was an impossible mission, sent him instead to Kanara, the region around Mangalore. Due to Dutch political influence and control of the seaports there, the Catholic missions had been abandoned. He rebuilt churches and parishes, established schools, and tended to the sick, even ransomed slaves. Returning to Goa in 1684, he organized a group of Indian priests into the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, the first fully native Catholic religious Congregation in modern history.

In 1687, without the support of the Church or the colonial Portuguese, he left for Sri Lanka with a family servant, John, both

disguised as coolies. After two years in the Dutch territories among the Tamil people in the north of Sri Lanka, he went to the mostly Sinhalese and Buddhist Kingdom of Kandy to escape arrest. The Buddhist King of Kandy who had taken in Catholic refugees, ordered him to be imprisoned as a suspected foreign Portuguese spy. After a year, the King released Father Vaz, reportedly because he asked him to pray for rain during a severe drought and it did indeed rain in the city square. After this miracle the King gave him freedom to preach and build churches. During a smallpox epidemic in Kandy, Father Vaz and his nephew tended to the abandoned victims. He built the first hospital in Kandy, and later clinics in various parts of Sri Lanka. He also organized a network of schools for his Catholics who were denied education by the Dutch.

St. Joseph Vaz was revered for living the life of renunciation of an Indian sannyasi, living on Divine Providence and taking no money for any religious or other services. He established a para-liturgy and Catholic literature in the two principal languages of Sri Lanka, Sinhala and Tamil. The people called him “Sammana Swami” or Angelic Father. He died on January 16, 1711. The King ordered a public funeral for him.

His Cause for Beatification was introduced two years after his death by the Jesuit Bishop of Cochin. Despite many miracles, it did not get acted upon and was finally abandoned when his Oratorian Congregation and other religious Orders were suppressed by the Masonic government of Portugal.

His Cause was re-started in 1896 by the Polish Mons. Nicolau Zalesky, the Apostolic Delegate to India and Sri Lanka. Mons. Zalesky had been sent to form a native clergy in India and Sri Lanka. He discovered and wrote about his life and became his devotee. This Canonization is the culmination of that Cause that the Archdiocese of Goa and the Bishops of Sri Lanka worked to complete for over a century.