



Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith

A message from His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure to send my wishes and blessings to the Goan and Sri Lankan communities in Oakland, California, who would gather at the cathedral of Christ the Light on March 15th 2015 to thank and praise the Lord for the canonization of St Joseph Vaz.

The canonization of St Joseph Vaz took place in the city of Colombo presided over by our dear Holy Father His Holiness Pope Francis. The visit of His Holiness and the canonization of our saint were memorable events that we witnessed on the 14th of January this year. People of all walks of life thronged to the Galle Face green of the city of Colombo. They did so with a lot of devotion and love.

St Joseph Vaz is indeed the first saint of Goa and Sri Lanka. We have reason to be proud of our Saint for he founded Asia's first native Catholic Religious Congregation and really he gave the Church in Sri Lanka in the 18th century a new birth during the Dutch persecution and was also instrumental in encouraging the growth of Catholic Literature both in Sinhala and Tamil for the easy access of the flock to the Catholic faith in the local languages.

I congratulate the Goan and Sri Lankan communities in Oakland on your most appropriate decision to celebrate the event especially on behalf of those who could not participate in it in Sri Lanka.

May God bless your efforts. May the intercession of St Joseph Vaz protect the church in Sri Lanka and the world over.

✠ **Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith**
Archbishop of Colombo
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