

Joseph Naik Vaz Institute
67 Kingston Road, Berkeley, California , USA, 94707
www.josephnaikvaz.org

We are honored to share the story of the most extraordinary life of Blessed Joseph Vaz (1651-1711), Oratorian, who has been officially given the title "Apostle of Kanara and Sri Lanka" by the Catholic Church and is also now the Patron of the Archdiocese of Goa.

Blessed Joseph Vaz has been called the greatest missionary that Asia has produced (Sri Lankan historian, Msgr. Don Peter, www.josephnaikvaz.org). He re-founded the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka which had been destroyed by Dutch persecution. Besides that he did humanitarian service to those abandoned by pestilence regardless of their religion and beliefs, and worked for religious freedom, and used Inculturation in his missionary method.

He is unique in that he won the protection of the Buddhist King of Kandy, King Vimalaharma Surya II from persecution by another colonial power. Their mutual respect is the timeless model for inter-religious dialogue.

We invite all those who admire courage under persecution to participate in some way in the celebration of the 329th Anniversary of his founding of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Goa. It was the first fully native, indigenous Catholic missionary congregation of Asia and the modern developing "Third World." Its Indian missionaries worked for 150 years under persecution.

It was his saintly life and his success that inspired the 19th century Papal Delegate to India, the Polish Mons. Zalesky who founded the Papal Seminaries of Kandy and Pune, in his task of forming the native clergy in India.

It was Mons. Zalesky, in the late 19th century, who revived the Cause of Blessed Joseph Vaz which is hoped will result in his canonization.

We honor all those who have worked for his canonization during the last 300 years against great odds.

INVITATION

*From the Joseph Naik Vaz Institute
Berkeley, California, www.josephnaikvaz.org*

To Attend Solemn Mass

*At Santa María in Vallicella, (Chiesa Nuova)
Piazza della Chiesa Nuova, Roma (Rome)*

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2014

*6:00 p.m. Presentation on Blessed Joseph Vaz
& Inter-faith lessons to be learned from his life*

7:00 p.m. Solemn Mass

Main Celebrant: Rev. Mario Avilés, C.O.

*Procurator General, Confederation of the Oratory of
St. Philip Neri*

OR

*Offer or Sponsor a Companion Mass in September in
your local parish*

Please send date, place, and time of your Companion Mass

INTENTIONS OF THE MASS

- ❖ *The commemoration of the beginning of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Goa, on September 25, 1685 by Blessed Joseph Vaz, C.O.*
- ❖ *For the canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz, C.O. Apostle of Kanara and Sri Lanka*
- ❖ *For inter-religious peace and harmony inspired by the protection granted to Blessed Joseph Vaz by the Buddhist King of Kandy, Vimaladharmasuriya II from Dutch persecution*
- ❖ *For the success of the Pope's visit to Sri Lanka and to the Philippines in January 2015*

RSVP by email: josephnaik.vaz@gmail.com



*Blessed Joseph Vaz, C.O. (1651-1711), Oratorian
Apostle of Kanara and Sri Lanka, Patron of the Archdiocese of Goa
Founder of Basic Christian Communities in Sri Lanka*

WHY A SEPTEMBER MASS?

Some historical background: *The Goa Oratory was the first fully native religious Congregation and Missionary Society in modern times. It accepted and trained Indian priests who worked in Goa, India, and also sent Indian Oratorian missionaries to Malabar, Mangalore (Kanara), Sri Lanka, Madagascar, and Indonesia for almost 150 years until it was suppressed by the Masonic government of Portugal and became extinct in 1835.*

On September 25, 1685, *Blessed Joseph Vaz joined a small group of Indian priests from Goa at the Church of the Holy Cross of Miracles (Cruz dos Milagres) in Old Goa, who had banded together to live as a religious community. He was made Superior and began to establish a Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. From this Oratory Convent and Church which are presently being restored by the Archbishop of Goa, Blessed Joseph Vaz and other Indian missionaries set out on their journey to minister to the abandoned and persecuted Catholics of Sri Lanka for the next 150 years.*

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*Please share this Invitation with your family,
friends and social media contacts*