

Message for the Mass in honour of Bd. Joseph Vaz (by Archbishop Henry D'Souza, Emeritus of Calcutta)

July 23, 2014

Subject: Re: September 23rd Mass for Blessed Joseph Vaz

It is a source of great joy to hear that Blessed Joseph Vaz might be canonized. He has been for me a great model of a missionary. His ability to adapt himself taking the garb of a laborer in order to be able to evangelize has been a source of inspiration, especially in the field of inculturation. His deep humility in refusing to accept the episcopate and his total commitment to Christ and his Church are all too evident. The fruits of his labors are also very visible, especially in the Island of Sri Lanka. His image has been above my writing desk for several decades.

Many have been praying for this canonization. Historical events have delayed the fact for several centuries. I am grateful to Ms. Filomena Geise and the Joseph Naik Vaz Institute for their efforts in this process. Now that there is to be a celebration in September 2014, I am glad to send my greetings. May this event renew the universal missionary commitment of the Church.