

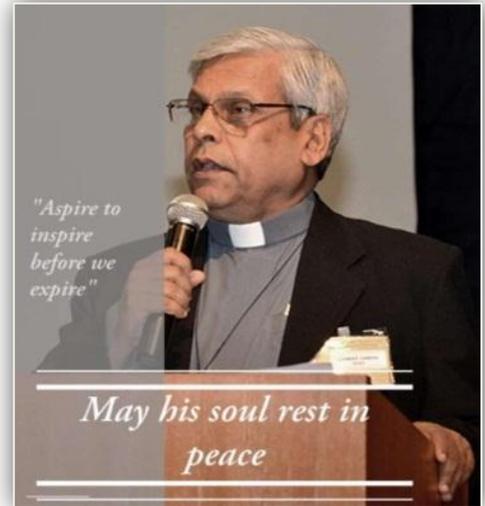
## Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to put to words the great legacy of Fr. Clement. I hope I do justice. Alphonso Clement Campos was born in Hyderabad on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1946 to late Mr. Francis John Campos and Late Mrs. Lena Campos. He was the youngest of 10 brothers Late Regis, Fr. Gerard Campos, Emile, Late Bruno, Joseph, Claude, Mario, Eugene and Felix and 5 sisters Marilla, Leila, Anne, Pauline and Bernadette. Most of them are here with us this morning. Mrs. Lena

Campos was in her ninth month of pregnancy when she had gone to attend her son Gerard Campos' first profession into the congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. The then rector gave Mrs. Lena Campos the relics of St. Alphonso, St. Clement and St. Gerard and asked her to pray to them for safe confinement. She later went to the Icon of our Mother of Perpetual help and prayed to her saying, "If it is a boy child, he is yours." This the mother revealed to the family much later after Clement joined the congregation. No wonder Clement received the names of two of our Redemptorist saints, our founder St. Alphonso Maria De Liguori and St. Clement Mary Hofbauer.

Clement was keen on joining the Redemptorists soon after his schooling. His mother seemed to have said to him wittingly, just because you are named after Alphonso and Clement doesn't mean you have to join the Redemptorists. His father wanted Clement to join later, but Clement was persistent. He joined the congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1963. He made his first profession on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1964 and his final profession on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1968. He was ordained a priest on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1971.

In his early days as a young priest Clement worked in the north of India, especially in our community at Lucknow where he preached and worked in Hindi. Fr. Clement was later sent to do his master's in theology at JDV, Pune and later to complete his doctoral studies in Moral Theology with a specialization in Bio- Medical Ethics from the Alphonso Academy in Rome. He served the province of Bangalore under various capacities. He was a provincial Vicar and Second counsellor, Rector of Mt. St. Alphonso and St. Gerard's community, Co-pastor of Holy Ghost church, Editor of Breaking the Word, Dean of Studies, Prefect and Socius of the Theologate and Pastoral year director training young priests for ministry. He has been several times moderator of our provincial chapters and very recently of the General chapter. He has also been a member of the Doctrinal Commission of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, President of the Association of Moral



Theologians of India, member of the bioethics forum and co-founding member of the association of Catholic doctors in Bangalore.

Clement imbibed in his life and ministry the very spirit of our founder St. Alphonsus. Like our founder St. Alphonsus, Clement was a gifted musician, singer and composer, a great moral theologian after St. Alphonsus the patron of Moral Theologians, a brilliant teacher, A great writer, brilliant Preacher and a wonderful pastor reaching out to all sections of the society both young and old, rich and poor.

1. **As a musician, singer and composer:** Clement used this gift to evangelize and to communicate God's love to all. Among his compositions, his most famous one is undoubtedly, "The World Stands in need of Liberation my Lord" a hymn seeking the intervention of God to bring justice and liberation of the poor and downtrodden. In this very church Clement sang the passion narrative on Good Friday for so many years, the exultet on Easter vigils, the litany of saints on important occasions. He taught us redemptorists, liturgical music for years and helped us to appreciate the place of music in sacred liturgy.
2. **Respected Moral theologian of India:** Fr. Clement is one of the most respected moral theologians of India and a brilliant teacher. He has taught in most of the major seminaries in India and Singapore. Clement spent a great deal of his life teaching with passion Moral theology for more than 25 years. Almost 3/4<sup>th</sup> of our present redemptorist in India and good number of the priests in India were taught by Fr. Clement. He taught us to be persons of integrity, to do what is always morally right and to be pastorally sensitive and caring to the needs of others especially the most abandoned poor. He has written more than 15 articles in some of the leading journals in India and abroad. His last article on "Laudato Si" was published in Theological Studies which is one of the most prestigious international journals on Moral Theology. Soon we will be bringing out a collection of his writings. Professor James Keenan, of Boston College and for president of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church had this to say: "A gracious man, a loss for the Redemptorists, a loss for moralists, for the church, for India and for the World. Shaji Kochuthara, the Present President of the Association of Moral theologians of India had this to say: "We will miss a noble friend, colleague and a great scholar."
3. **As an eloquent preacher of God's word:** Fr. Clement is undoubtedly one of our best preachers. His zeal for God's word was always tempered with God's mercy and love. He preached so many missions and retreats to priests and bishops. There was great depth in his content, his sermons were always inspiring and challenging us to lead a

better life. He was not only a wonderful preacher, but he also trained so many of us Redemptorists to be good preachers.

4. **As a pastor after the spirit of St. Alphonsus:** he was sensitive to the needs of others. He cared and counselled those who came to him in need. He was always available for confessions, blessings, reaching out to those who were wounded due to a broken relationship or battered by domestic abuse. He has prepared so many for the sacrament of Marriage, blessed so many marriages and journeyed with so many married couples encouraging them to live their calling. He also cared for the sick and the dying and prepared them to meet the Lord. There have been so many messages pouring in on my facebook page of what Fr. Clement meant to each one of them and how he has made a difference in their lives. Just to illustrate his pastoral zeal: 8<sup>th</sup> of July was his last pastoral commitment. Clement was in excruciating back pain, he did not know it was due to cancer then, he had already committed to address the association of Catholic doctors. Fr. Clement had requested if I could accompany him which I gladly did, asked me to celebrate mass, after which Fr. Clement stood for the entire hour and delivered his address. As I was bringing him back, I could see him struggling. I asked Clement you could have excused yourself, Clement said, "I had already committed besides it was too late for them to find a substitute"
5. **As a fellow brother and confrere:** Fr. Clement has been a wonderful friend and companion to many of us. He had a great sense of humour and in all our community gatherings it was never a dull moment with Clement around. He knew how to lighten things through his wits. On missions he was a great companion to work with, always there to encourage, to teach, to guide and to share his knowledge with his companions. He was a person of integrity, humble, prayerful and committed to his vocation as a Redemptorist.

In the first week of June this year, Fr. Clement complained of back pain. He consulted Orthopaedic Dr's Srinivas and Chandy. Even after treatment the pain persisted. It was only then, that he was asked to do a series of tests including MRI of the bones as well. It was only when the bone scan was done that the doctors found traces of cancer. With the advice of Dr. Kenneth, he was admitted in Cytecure Cancer hospital on 20th July. Bone marrow test and biopsy were done to trace the primary source of cancer. On 25th July which happened to be Fr. Clement's 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination, the tests confirmed it was pancreatic cancer which had spread to the bones. Clement on that very day sent a message to the province and to all his friends and family members, that he had accepted his cancer as God's invitation to a new way of participating in his Redemption. Requesting us to pray that he will be faithful till the end. He was given 6 to 12 months to live.

The doctors started the radiation but before chemo could be given, jaundice had already set in. The doctor tried to do a complicated procedure but was a failure because the tumour was big and hard. He was brought back home. Later after two days at the advice of Dr. Kenneth he was admitted in St. John's. He was brought back home to his community at St. Gerard's on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August where he was under palliative care. On 28<sup>th</sup> August on the feast of St. Augustine, a great theologian and doctor of the Church at about 12.50 PM in the company of his confreres and family members Fr. Clement breathed his last. In my last meeting with Fr. Clement I said to him, "dear Fr. Clement you mean a lot to all of us" and Fr. Clement replied back by saying, "the congregation means a lot to me." So true, the congregation meant everything for Fr. Clement, he was a true son of St. Alphonsus, faithful till the end. Farewell good and faithful servant, you have fought a good fight, you have finished the race and you have kept the faith. A crown of righteousness awaits you.

To the Family, the brothers and sisters of Fr. Clement, thank you for your generosity. Thank you for giving your brother to us Redemptorists. He has been very close to each one of you and your presence with him during the last few days have been moments of comfort, joy and blessing to Fr. Clement. It is a great loss to the family, may the Lord comfort each one of you and fill you with his peace.

Dear Fr. Clement, we thank you for everything you have been to each one of us. For your great witness of faithfulness to God and to the congregation. May the Lord and our blessed Mother, whom you loved so very much in your life with St. Alphonsus our founder, St. Clement Hofbauer your patron, St. Gerard Majella, St. John Neumann and all our blessed Redemptorists welcome you into the eternal kingdom of peace and happiness. Farewell dear Fr. Clement, until we meet again in God's heavenly home.

**Fr. Joe Royan, C.Ss.R**