



Society of Mary - Compañía de María - Soci t  de Marie
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May 10, 2021

Biography of Death Notice N. 9

The Province of USA and the District of India recommend to our fraternal prayers our dear Brother, **Paulus LAKRA**, of the Gyan Deep Community, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on April 26, 2021, in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India, at the age of 57 with 27 years of religious profession.

Brother Paulus Lakra was a beloved brother of all Marianists in India. He is well known as the best community director for the care and love he had for the Brothers. The basic virtues Brother Paulus possessed as director of the various Marianist communities were: patience, joyfulness, kindness, understanding, listening with care, dedication to the works of the community and faithfulness. The above qualities were always present in Brother Paulus.

Brother Paulus was born on June 17, 1963. He was one of the eight children in the Lakra family. Brother Paulus had four elder brothers and two elder sisters and one younger sister. His father, Mr. Mathias Lakra, and mother, Mrs. Carmella Xess, were farmers from the village Thesutoli under the parish of Tainser, in Simdega Diocese, state of Jharkhand. Brother Paulus completed his high school and secondary school at

St. Mary's School in Simdega in the year 1984. He completed his bachelor's degree from Ranchi University in the year 1987 before he joined the Marianists.

Brother Paulus joined the Society of Mary as an Aspirant in June 1990 at Nirmal Deep, Ranchi, Bihar. He entered the Novitiate at Kathmandu, Nepal, in July 1991, and made his First Vows in 1993 at Nirmal Deep. Then, he was sent to Prabhat Tara School, Singhpur, for a year of teaching experience. From 1994-1996, Brother Paulus completed some of his philosophical studies while helping out in the REDS community in Koramangala, Bangalore. In 1997, he was again sent to teach at Singhpur. In 1998, he was called to Chaminade Nilaya, Bangalore to learn accounting and to help with the REDS ministry in Bangalore. Brother Paulus made his Perpetual Vows in the Society of Mary on January 3, 1999, at Singhpur, Ranchi.

That same year, he was appointed as the director of Chaminade Nilaya community and business manager of REDS Bangalore. In 2002, Brother Paulus was called to the Scholasticate community to be the business manager for DEC (Deepahalli Education Center) and REDS Skill Training Center at Deepahalli. After a year of service as business Manager, in 2002- 2004, he was sent to Gyan Deep Community in Ranchi to be the accountant for the north communities and ministries as well as the business manager of the REDS ministry in Ranchi. From 2005-2007, he was also the director of Gyan Deep Community.

Upon the completion of 10 years of very active ministry in the District, he took a break. In 2008, he was given a sabbatical year for a renewal program in the Philippines at East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI). When Brother Paulus returned to India in 2009, he was asked to help out in the Scholasticate community. In 2010-11, he joined the Chaminade Nilaya Community in Bangalore as a student brother. He completed his master's in Social Work (MSW) at St. Joseph's College, Bangalore. Brother Paulus was appointed Director of Gyan Deep Community in Ranchi in 2012. During that same year, he was called to serve in the District Council as Assistant for Temporalities and thus moved to the District Office, Chaminade Nilaya, Bangalore.

In 2013, he was also appointed director of the Chaminade Nilaya community. Brother Paulus served on the Council with much patience and diligence. He never gave up his caring nature while continuing to be a man of peace and joy. When he completed his term in the District Council in 2016, he was appointed the program director for REDS

Ranchi as well as the director of St. Mary's Vocational Training Center and served in that capacity until his death. Brother Paulus's final year as director was at Gyan Deep from 2018-19.

In his 27 years of Marianist professed life, Brother Paulus served 11 years as director of Marianist communities and ten years as business manager of various units. Except for his year of studies and year of sabbatical, he was the accountant of various communities and units of ministries. For more than ten years, he was, directly and indirectly, involved with REDS programs both in Ranchi and in Bangalore. Throughout his 27 years of Marianist life, he was an outstanding director of communities, a witness to serving the poor in REDS as well as a prudent business manager and accountant.

Fr. Oscar Vasquez, the Provincial of the USA Province, said, "Brother Paulus was a faithful servant and disciple. My experience of Paulus was that he always had a smile on his face and was ready to be of service. No detail was too large or too small. He did it all!"

Brother Paulus Lakra, has made history by being the first Indian Marianist to die and be buried in the Indian soil. This fulfills of the statement made by Rev. Jose Maria Salaverri, SM, our former Superior General, when visiting the first group of Indian Professed Marianists. One of the founding Marianists told him, "Good Father, now the Marianist foundation has taken place in India." To this, the Good Father responded, "Unless an Indian Marianist dies and is buried in the soil of India, the Marianist foundation will not be complete." Let us continue to pray that he may rest in peace in the Father's House.