



OMI Zambia

A Newsletter of the Zambia Delegation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
To establish and maintain a vital and culturally integrated missionary presence in Zambia

SPECIAL BULLETIN

BISHOP PAUL DUFFY'S JOURNEY BACK TO MONGU

By Deacon Sakubita Like, OMI and Musonda Chipili

Leaders from the Catholic Church, various women and men religious groups, senior government officials, different lay groups, the young and the old all found time on various days to bid farewell to Bishop Paul Francis Duffy, OMI who died on August 23rd, 2011 at Oblate retirement home in San Antonio, Texas.

The body of Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI arrived in Lusaka on September 2nd, 2011 accompanied by Fr. Joseph Phiri, OMI the former Zambia Delegation Superior.

The faithful were led in meeting the body at the Lusaka International Airport by Archbishop of Lusaka, Most Rev. Telesphore Mpundu, Zambia Delegation Superior, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI, several Bishops, Oblate priests and brothers, priests from the diocese of Mongu, religious congregations of men and women.



Reception rite at the Lusaka International Airport



The choir from Mary Immaculate parish dancing and singing to the arrival of Bishop Duffy, OMI

It was a heartfelt moment when the body was being driven into the airport premises as the choir led the faithful in singing. Among many other hymns "Imfumu yabwela, Imfumu yabwela, mumsumba ubwabaimpokoma", (the king has returned the king has come in the world of calamities). This hymn seemed to be the most ideal song to sing for indeed a shepherd, a King was being welcomed back and received by the flock he led.

A reception service was later performed at the airport before the body was taken to the funeral home, Ambassador St. Ann. On the way to the funeral home, a number of Catholics were seen standing on the Great East Road to bid farewell to him. Women from various parishes were found at the funeral home waiting to receive the Shepherd.



Mass at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus

On September 3rd, 2011, Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus in a solemn and simple manner, befitting the humble

servant of God, Bishop Duffy, OMI. Among the people who attended the ceremony was the Republican President, his Excellency, Rupiah Bwezani Banda, the Chief Justice, some leaders of opposition political parties and various groups of the laity.



His Excellency, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli

In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia, His Excellency, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli thanked God for giving the church a great father who lived an exemplary life. "We all have admired his apostolic courage in being the voice of the voiceless. He was a great missionary, a great servant of the church and a great bishop. Bishop Duffy left his own country and came to Zambia to be an exemplary preacher of Good News to the poor. He showed a greater affection to the voiceless and to those in need regardless of their religious affiliation," Said Archbishop Nicola Girasoli.



Oblates from the Zambia Delegation taking the casket to the entrance of the Cathedral

The Apostolic Nuncio also said that Bishop Duffy, OMI became a prophetic voice. "Being among the people, Bishop Duffy became a prophetic voice of his people. His ministry was an expression of the needs of his people. Bishop Duffy always prioritized the expectations of those who were marginalized. He was not afraid to speak openly in favour of the poor. But we know my brothers and sisters that very often prophets are not understood and very often their voices can be firm. It's a challenge. Prophets are not at all interested in human or political power. We all know that the main concerns of prophets are to be servants of the people and to be promoters and builders of peace", he said.

Zambia Episcopal President, Bishop Ignatius Chama said Bishop Duffy, OMI always spoke the truth, with love and courage on issues negatively affecting the lives of the people of Mongu.

Oblate Zambia Delegation Superior, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI said we were saying goodbye to the one who did not only speak for the poor, the marginalized, the voiceless, the downtrodden, the disabled, the afflicted with illness, the refugees, but also to the one, who lived with them, ate with them, cried with them, prayed with them and gave them a voice and Hope!

In a long escort which was led by his Oblate brothers, and the faithful accompanied Bishop Duffy's body to Mongu which is 600Km from Lusaka.

On the way to Mongu, people were seen gathered on several points on the roadside to bid farewell to their beloved shepherd. The procession stopped at Kaoma and at Kabanga, at Nalwei, at Kaande, at Kambule. Short prayers were held in all these. In Kaoma, the casket was brought out of the hearse. Apart from prayers, poems and a short presentations were performed by the Holy Childhood of St. Martin's parish in Kaoma in where they adorned Bishop Duffy's fight for social justice.

The procession was met at Kambule High School by the Bishop of Mongu diocese, Rt. Rev. Evans Chinyama Chinyemba, OMI along with His Eminence Medardo Cardinal Mazombwe, Bishops from the Zambia Episcopal conference and a large crowd of the faithful. The St. John's School band welcomed the procession in playing 'Rock of Ages'.

The body of Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI was then taken to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes where it lay in state. During this period, different choirs took turn in singing throughout the night whilst people from all sectors of society trickled into the cathedral to pay their last respects to Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI.

On Monday September 5th, 2011, was the day Bishop Duffy, OMI was buried in the place he wished to lay. Prior to the burial, Mongu stadium which was the venue for the requiem mass was filled to capacity. Several speeches were made by the Republican Vice President, George Kunda, the laity of Mongu Diocese, Zambia Association of Sister, Mongu branch, the clergy in the diocese and in Zambia as a whole.



*Fr. Bob Lavertue, M.Afr.
of Mongu Diocese leading the faithful in prayers*



Prayers at Kaoma



*Part of the crowd in Mongu escorting Bishop Paul Duffy to the
Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes.*

In his homily, Bishop Chinyemba, OMI said because of the poverty of the Western Province Bishop Duffy died a poor man. He also said that Bishop Duffy was the voice that had been heard many times in the poverty of Western Province.

"Today we gather to celebrate a journey of one of God's children - Bishop Emeritus Paul Francis Duffy, OMI, a native of the United States

of America. Yet through his missionary experience a citizen and resident of Zambia's Barotseland, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate. One of the four pioneers of the Oblate Zambia mission. He is the first bishop of Mongu Diocese. A voice that has been heard many times in the poverty of Western Province. A voice that was loud and clear on issues affecting God's people regardless of their faith. It is a voice of a missionary bishop. A Missionary Bishop whose voice was loved by the poor and the marginalized in the society. While the poor and the down trodden rejoiced to hear his voice; those who had power hated to hear a missionary's voice. He was considered not fit to comment on issues affecting Western Province simply because he was a missionary. I know deep down my heart, a missionary has no boundary. A missionary has a heart that sees what is happening in his or her surroundings. A Bishop who was touched by the Charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod the founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. A Bishop who was touched by the poverty of the province. Because of the poverty of Western Province, Bishop Emeritus died a poor man. He not only embraced poverty but was poverty himself", said Bishop Evans Chinyemba, OMI.



Requiem Mass at Mongu Stadium



Bishop Duffy's Casket being lowered



The burial

Zambia Association of Sisters (ZAS) described Bishop Duffy as having been a simple man, "Bishop Paul mastered the art of simplicity. He lived simply, ate simply, dressed simply and was simple in his manner. No matter who one was, one felt at ease quickly in his presence".

Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI said Bishop Duffy will forever remain a role model as a spiritual leader of the church and a natural leader for all humanity regardless of their status in society,

in the community or in the villages. He also pledged that never shall his voice be silenced even in death.

Bishop Chinyemba thanked God for the safe passage of Bishop Duffy to Mongu. He also thanked Bishop Paul Duffy's Family Members in the USA for allowing *the Church* to fulfill the will of the Bishop to be buried here in Zambia.

Bishop Paul Francis Duffy, OMI, the shepherd, the spiritual teacher, a father, a friend, and a brother will be missed by many.

The love and compassion he had for humankind will always strengthen and comfort the many people he cared for.



*Bishop Emeritus Paul Francis Duffy, OMI
First Bishop of Mongu Diocese*

OMI Zambia Newsletter

Our newsletter aims at informing on the happenings in the Zambia Delegation, with a view of connecting people in the Oblate world and its Associates. Our articles focus on the church, justice, peace and development.

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