

## **Missionary Prayer Animation for February – 2018**

*Theme: “Let us serve the Lord in gladness”*

### Procedure

-  Hymn
-  Introduction
-  Reading from the Bible
-  Reflection
-  Missionary for Imitation
-  Intercessions
-  Concluding Prayer
-  Final Hymn

**Hymn: I’ve made Jesus my dear friend..... (185... Pray Sing)**

### **Introduction**

*The joy of the Gospel fills the heart and lives of all who encounter Jesus. With Jesus Christ joy is constantly born anew says Pope Francis, so dear friends in Christ Jesus, we joyfully welcome you to this prayer service. As Christians with the missionary mandate we are called to radiate joy. According to St. Paul joy is a fruit of the Spirit. The source of joy must be found in prayer, charity and unceasing thanksgiving.*

As we commemorate the missionary day today let us thank God for the gift of Joy he has given to each of us and joyfully participate in this prayer service praying that we may be bearers of the Gospel joy, sharing Him in Gladness.

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 66: 10-14.**

## Reflection

### **There is no holiness in sadness – Pope Francis.**

Pope Francis says that, “Joy is a necessity and it is the foundation of human life. In their daily struggles, every man and woman tries to attain joy and abide in it with their whole being. Every Christian is called to be bearer of the message of hope giving serenity and joy, God’s consolation and tenderness towards to all.”

We who have the duty to proclaim the gospel must experience this joy first so that we will be able to bring this joy to others as well. Because mother Teresa once said, “the greatest miracle is not that we do the work but we are happy to do it.” therefore we need to become messengers of the Lord of tenderness, Lord of consolation and Lord of happiness. When we totally give ourselves to the Lord, it brings us lifelong personal fulfillment and happiness. Let us now take a moment to ask ourselves: Am I really happy to follow the lord and in serving the lord in the poor and needy?

## **Missionary for Imitation**



### **Cl. Joseph Jeyaselvam**

**1970 – 1992**

Birthday:	09.06.1970	Rajagambiram
First Profession:	24.05.1989	Coimbatore
Died:	25.02.1992	Tanjavur

### **Early Life:**

Joseph Jeyaselvam was born as the first of four children to Y.S. Velanganni and Arokia Karpagam Lilly, on June 9, 1970, in a remote village near Rajagambiram. When he was yet a child, his family moved to Madras. little Selvam did his primary schooling with the Salesian sisters at Kodambakkam and his secondary studies in San Thome Hr. Sec. School, Mylapore. he was a devote altar boy and even played the priest at home, celebrating “Mass” for his brothers and sisters and

giving them “communion” very devoutly! No wonder that during one of his vocation drives, Brother Meril picked up young Selvam and sent him to Tirupattur as an aspirant. He started the novitiate in May 1988 under Fr. Joseph Puthenkalam who wrote, “It did not take me long to realize that Jayaselvam was a novice with a difference. He knew what he wanted to do and went about it with a strong determination. Jaya (as he was affectionately known among his companions) was a tall, healthy, open and cheerful young man, yet with a slight reserve or shyness. It was always pleasant to deal with him. He was one of those who gave me well grounded hope that he would be a totally committed Salesian and an asset to the congregation”.

Selvam made his profession at Coimbatore on 24 May 1989. At Yercaud during his philosophical formation, he studied seriously and took keen interest in co-curricular activities as well. Fr. Camillus, who was his Rector, wrote about him, “Selvam was a good, sincere, pious, helpful and self-sacrificing Brother. He was liked by all”.

### **Ministry**

Brother Selvam was sent to the Aspirantate of Thanjavur for practice training. During the few months he spent there, he endeared himself to the boys, taking keen interest in their studies and other activities. It was he who started the Scout Movement among the aspirants of Thanjavur.

In February 1992 he took ill and everyone thought that it was a slight indisposition. When the home remedies proved ineffective, he was taken to the hospital, but it was already too late. Jaundice had attacked his vital organs and he breathed his last at about 3.15pm on 25 February 1992, aged 21 years and eight and a half months.

### **Characteristics**

The words of the Holy Scripture, “brevi tempore explevit multa” have been truly fulfilled in the case of Jaya. In his short life he was able to love the youngsters and his own companions and people he came into contact with and endeared himself to them all.

**Sensitivities towards others:** “Selvam will not hurt a fly”, his companions used to say. Three days before his death he went round the hospital consoling fellow patients. Knowing that his companion assistants had to do extra work because of his sickness, Jaya told them, “When I return from the hospital I shall do also your

work so that you too can have a little rest”. Once he told his novice master, “father, brother..... looks very discouraged, maybe, you can help him. Please, father, let him not know that I spoke to you about it”.

**Optimism:** brother Jaya was cheerful by nature and optimistic by temperament. He always looked at the bright side of things. He could freely mix with his confreres and boys. Ten days before his death he told the aspirants, “god has given us only one life and so let us live it to the full with a joyful and grateful heart”.

**Self – effacing:** In the rule of life he prepared during the novitiate he wrote that he would check his desire for popularity and be ready to accept humiliations and correction in whatever form they came. He often tried to hide his own difficulties and sufferings. he used to say “it is easy to be detached from material goods, but it is very difficult to detach oneself from seeking to do one’s own will and resign oneself to god’s will ”.

**Love for boys:** He liked to be with the boys and work for them. on January 30<sup>th</sup> night, after a day of hectic activities in preparation for Don Bosco’s feast, the young assistant still found time to write a not for each boy at the back of a picture, wishing him a happy feast.

**Hard work:** Throughout his short life, young Selvam did whatever was assigned to him with exactitude, regardless of personal inconveniences.

## **Intercessions**

**Response: Lord, graciously listen to our prayers.**

1. God our loving Father, we pray for the pope, bishops, priests, religious and all those who govern the Church. Bless and guide them dear Lord in their role as pastors and shepherds of your people. May they give hope to the hopeless and be bearers of your joy to those who see for meaning in life.

2. Lord, we bring to your presence, all those who were baptized and call themselves Christians. On the path of life they have been allured by many worldly attractions which take them away from experiencing your joy and happiness. Rekindle in them the flame of faith that they may return to you.

3. Lord we pray for those who are discouraged in life. The struggles of life have made them give up their faith. Grant them a personal encounter with you, so that they may regain their faith and remain faithful to your word.

4. Lord, we pray you to grant wisdom to all our political leaders that they may give up their selfishness and serve the people who have placed their faith in them.

5. Lord, help us to accompany our young people, always walking by their side. May they find in each one of us a loving and compassionate friend, having the heart of you, the good shepherd.

6. Lord increase our faith, especially in the dark and difficult moments of our life. May we believe that you are present by our side, even when we are not able to see you.

**Our Father ...**

**Concluding Prayer:**

God our Father, we give thanks to you, Lord of life, for the gift of Joy in the Spirit. May we always lift our eyes towards hope for ourselves and our brothers and sisters that you are the source of our joy and may all our actions and intentions help us to create a beautiful earth where everyone experiences the joy of your presence and the assurance of your protection. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Final Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord always..... (227.... Pray Sing)**