

SERVANT OF GOD FATHER MARIAN ZELAZEK'S 15TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 15th Death Anniversary of **SERVANT OF GOD FATHER MARIAN ZELAZEK, SVD** was observed in Puri with due solemnity on 30 April 2021 with strict observance of Corona SOP.

The inmates of Ishopanathi Ashram began the day with a Thanks giving worship at '*Father Marian Chapel*' at the Ashram at 6.30 AM. Father Marian's compassionate love for the people on the margins particularly for those denied of human dignity due to Hansen's disease and his promotion of universal brotherhood through dialogue among believers of different faith traditions in Puri were nostalgically remembered.



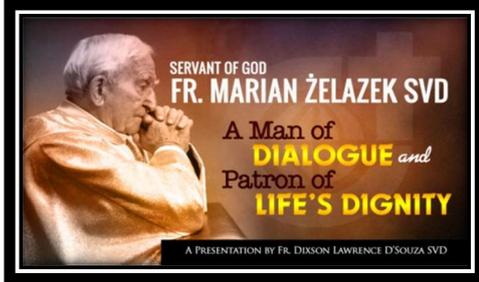
At 08.00 AM the Staff and representatives of the students of Beatrix School – popularly known as '*Father School*' paid homage to the Founder of Beatrix School with floral tributes at his 'bust' in the School. The newly restored and renovated 'first building' of the Beatrix School, built by him was dedicated as '**FATHER MARIAN BLOCK**'. The newly installed play facility of the School was dedicated to the memory of Father Marian as '**Father Marian Children's Park**'.



The main event of the day was observed at 9 AM at the '*Father Marian Memorial*' where part of his mortal remains are interned. Sentimental and heart touching homage was paid to the founder of Karunalaya Leprosy Care Centre and Ishopanathi Ashram with chanting of religious songs and 'kirtan' by the inmates of 'Marian Ashraya' - the leprosy colony set up by him.



A moment of meaningful silence was observed in his fond memory. All present paid tribute to FATHER by placing lighted oil lamps and flowers at his *Samadhi*, amidst the singing of the *Kirtans*. The Teachers of Beatrix School sang a song – “*Return Once Again BAPA(Father)*” in honour of the Servant of God.



A newly made documentary film and a Video song in Odia on Father Marian - both produced by Fr. Dixon D' Souza, SVD, were officially released and screened in Father Marian Museum.

A short Memorial Service was held at Karunalaya Leprosy Colony mainly for the benefit of the elderly, sick and the children. While some of them came in their tricycles others slowly walked to the Statue of Father Marian installed on the first death anniversary of Fr. Marian in front of the of Karunalaya Hospital. The children of the colony joyously flocked around. It was a joyous gathering with singing, garlanding and incensing of the statue of Father. Children offered flowers to their beloved 'BAPA' and shared '*Prasadam*' as gift from Father.



'What is important is not to ignore the person in front of you'

- Servant of God Marian Zelazek

'Father made me a human being'

- Bipro Mahakudo