

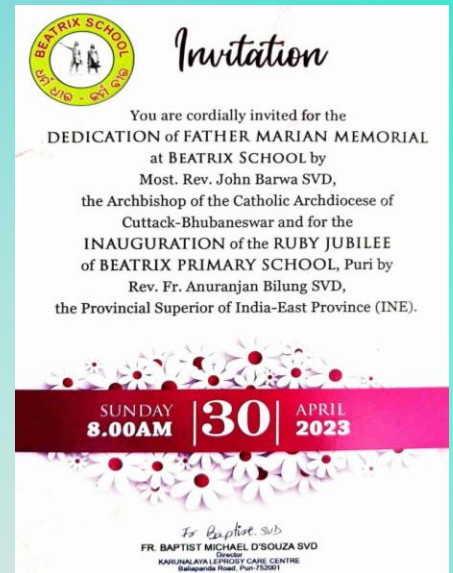
SERVANT OF GOD MARIAN ZELAZEK 'S FOND MEMORY

The 17th Death Anniversary of Servant of God Marian Zelazek, SVD was celebrated with great enthusiasm and reverence at various places in Puri, Odisha on Sunday, 30th April, 2023. Father Marian popularly called BAPA left for his eternal reward on this day in 2006, at the Jeebaramji Leprosy Colony near Lokanath Temple in Puri. On the fatal day, BAPA participated in the ASTA PRAHARI organized on the occasion of AKHAYA TRITIYA at the leprosy colony and was walking back to his vehicle when his call came to leave his KARMA BHOOMI for his eternal reward.



A life size statue of Father Marian Zelazek with 4 school children was unveiled at the Beatrix School campus to honour him for his foresight in establishing a school dedicated to the education of the children from leprosy background by Most Rev. John Barwa, SVD,

Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Archdiocese. He was assisted by Rev. Fr. Anurnajan Bilung, SVD, President of the School. School children, Staff, guardians and well wishers were present in large numbers for the dedication of this Memorial to Father Marian.





Floral tributes were offered by the dignitaries to the saintly soul at the formal function held in the school hall. Shri Hector Mishra, well known freelance Journalist and Social worker was the chief speaker on the occasion. He highlighted the compassion and love shared by

Father Marian with the suffering and needy persons. School children and former students of Beatrix School enacted a play on the life of service that Father Marian lived.



The Ruby Jubilee of Beatrix School was formally inaugurated by the President of the School on the occasion. History of the School that was begun under a mango tree with 7 children of leprosy families was presented by Mrs. Sudhansubala Pattnaik, Headmistress of the

Upper Primary School.





Jeebaramji Leprosy Colony was the KARMA BHOOMI of Father Marian for 31 years.

A beautiful mural of BAPA was unveiled in the colony by the Archbishop at the spot of his last breath. The inmates of the colony observed the day by singing keertan and by remembering him fondly for the love he shared with them.



Whole colony with filled with emotional sentiments as they remembered the one person who gave them dignity and self respect amidst the deprivations of leprosy.



A special Holy Mass was offered by the Parishoners of Puri Parish in the evening. A bust was installed at the Church by Rev. Fr. Anuranjan Bilung, SVD, Provincial Superior of the Society of the Divine Word, India East Province. Everyone was invited to practice the principle of Father Marian - "It is not difficult to be good if one wants to be....".



A great soul that touched hundreds of lives with his compassion and love was fondly remembered and celebrated with due dignity and honour by the people he loved and lived for.

