



EDITORIAL

Dear brothers, sisters and friends,

We are still under shock and have difficulty to realize that we will not see the wide smile and hear the loud laughter of Jean-Marie Chuvi... The Lord has called him home so abruptly as he was returning from a two month trip to his native Africa.

We have accompanied him and buried in Manila on the hottest day of the year. He is not resting in the land of the Philippines like a first seed...

This special issue of the Chronicles is written so that his memory will be kept alive for all of us.

Thank you for your solidarity, your friendship, your prayers.

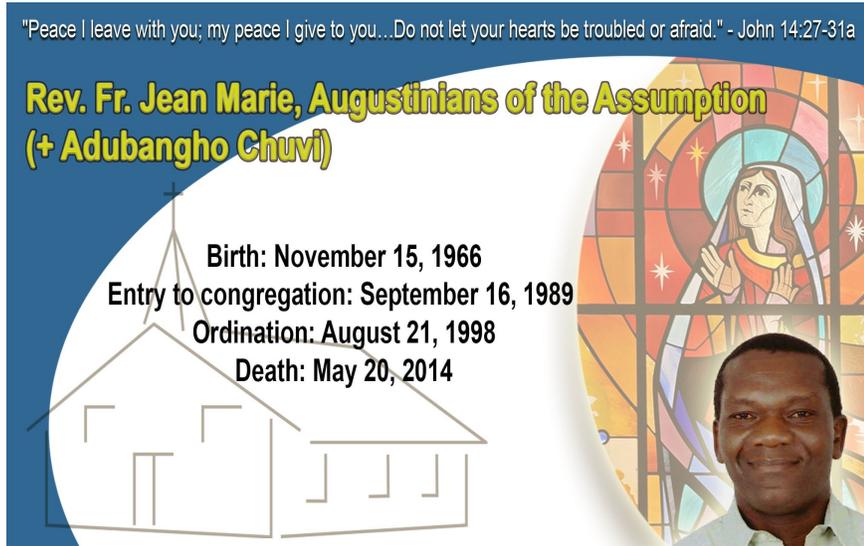
Fr. Bernard Holzer, delegate of the General Superior for

**In loving memory of Father Jean-Marie Chuvi Adubangho
(15 November 1966 – 20 May 2014)**

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." - John 14:27-31a

**Rev. Fr. Jean Marie, Augustinians of the Assumption
(+ Adubangho Chuvi)**

Birth: November 15, 1966
Entry to congregation: September 16, 1989
Ordination: August 21, 1998
Death: May 20, 2014



«Unless a wheat grain falls on the grounds and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.»

(John 12, 24)



**Homily during the Funerals
by Fr. Bernard Holzer, a.a.,
Provincial's delegate for the
Philippines and the
Superior General's delegate
for Asia**

Lord, why?
Why the loss of this
religious and priest in the
prime of his life?
Why this loss that cripples a
young and fragile mission?

Brothers and sisters,

Let us revisit the Scriptures at that moment like Jesus when he was walking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, after his death on the Cross.

On the day Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi died, this past May 20, we read in the Acts of the Apostles: *« Paul and Barnabas put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith, saying, 'We must all experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God'. »*

During this Easter season, this same book of the Acts of the Apostles constantly reminds us that the Holy Spirit is guiding the community of believers. Today we do not understand our loss. Let us accept that we don't understand and let us put ourselves in God's hands. Tomorrow we will understand...

However, already today the gospel we read gives us a key: *« Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. »*

Jean-Marie Chuvi was a wonderful gift from God for all of us : a brother, a missionary, a priest and a pastor, an Assumptionist.



**Message of Father Jose Miguel Diaz Ayllon,
Provincial Superior of the North America
Philippines Province of the Assumptionist**

Fr. Chuvi has finished his journey with us as one of Jesus's disciples. He ran ahead of us along the way and now he has beaten us to the finish line. The departure of our brother has created an emptiness within us that we have filled with sadness, tears, and pain. How we loved Chuvi and how we will miss him! But his death is a passage to Resurrection and it is this hope that gives us strength.



As a missionary, not only was Chuvi a dedicated servant and priest, but he always showed forth the happy face of our community. His life was joy, a welcoming smile, contagious laughter. He was a brother ever ready to serve everyone, without partiality. He was not perfect, but undoubtedly he was a gift for our community in the Philippines and in the Province.

Apparently his final illness boarded the plane with him as he made his way back to Manila, having returned home to renew his passport. Chuvi was on his way back to the mission he had helped to found; he did so to share the gift that God wishes to give to the Church and to the world through the Assumption.

Our brother, one of the founders of our Filipino mission, is the first Assumptionist to die in the Philippine Islands. Now his body will be buried right there. Chuvi will never leave this foundation. With him there, the Assumptionists are truly and firmly rooted in this land. I am deeply grateful to God for the great gift he has given us in the dedicated life of Jean Marie Chuvi Adubango. In the name of all the religious and lay-people of our Assumptionist Province, I send you a warm embrace.



A brother and a friend

Chuvi was a man who loved community, a man of peace, communion, and harmony, easy to live with. To my knowledge, he never hurt anyone. For him, who was always smiling and roaring with laughter, there was no problem that was insurmountable. «*The first time I met him* », Fr. Duy from Vietnam told us, «*I thought I was in the presence of a smiling Buddha*». «*He presented the joyful face of our community*», writes Fr. Miguel Diaz (Provincial).

He was a friend in the Augustinian tradition, a friend living with other friends seeking God together.

One of the first religious to join the Assumptionists in the Congo who was not from the Nande tribe, he was loved by all in Butembo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), in Nairobi (Kenya), in Arusha (Tanzania) and in the Philippines.

Here he was a friend and a brother for all of his brothers and sisters from Africa. Six months ago he was elected president of the Association of Congolese of the Philippines. Many of them are here this morning having spent the whole night in vigil, in the African tradition, caressing him with their music and their chants.

Monday evening at the hospital, as I was leaving him, I prayed him : rest a little and have a good night. His answer came clearly through his breathing mask: «*You too need to rest...* » Always thinking of others. These were his last words....

A missionary

Chuvi was a missionary at heart.

He was gifted for languages. In addition to Alur, his mother tongue, he learned Lingala, the language of his province (Province Orientale), French, and then Swahili. He understood Kinande. Later he would learn English when it came time to do his theology in Nairobi, at Hekima College... and finally Tagalog.

Eulogy for Jean-Marie Chuvi

By Bro. Jay Lituañas, a.a.

At the mention of Chuvi, I recall a happy, jolly Assumptionist priest and brother. I spent almost 3 years with Fr. Chuvi in the same community: as an aspirant back in 2008-2009 with Brother Cris, as a postulant in 2009-2010 with Brother Cris and Fr. Alex, and as a professed brother with Fr. Gilles and postulants like Elmer, Leo and Sagar in 2012-2013. In all these moments, Chuvi was our Superior. I worked with him in the Formation Commission starting last year. He was the Commission's Secretary. He accepted and discharged these responsibilities with great joy but not without, some struggles. Nevertheless, even in moments of difficulties, Chuvi's laughter, his sense of joy, and his great trust in God's providence kept the ball rolling and made the difficulties lighter to bear. His laughter is very infectious and this could be heard by our closest neighbours, especially in dela Costa Homes in Barangka, Marikina.

In the communities that he had been to, Chuvi is well-remembered for his only dish, the only dish that he learned to cook – the adobo. Chuvi is also remembered for his Chuvi dance which he gamely, joyfully did with matching pair of sunglasses and a headphone. In casual conversations, he regaled us with stories from back home and his initial experiences with Filipinos such as the children in Panay who got curious with his hair because even after plunging himself into the sea, his hair remained dry and how some people in Pampanga called him Joe...Hey Joe!



Chuvi loves the Church, the Congregation and the ministry so much. I recall that last year, while waiting for the election of a new pope, Chuvi was almost glued to the TV or to his laptop waiting for good news from the Vatican. Finally, when the moment came at the wee hours of the morning, Chuvi shouted at the top of his voice: Habemus papam! (We have a new Pope)! Then he went to every single room in the house in Barangka waking us up and breaking to us the good news from the Vatican.

Biography and tribute to Jean-Marie Adubangho Chuvi by the Assumptionist Province of Africa



Father ADUBANGHO CHUVI Jean-Marie was born at MONGBWALU in the diocese of Mahagi-Nioka (Democratic Republic of Congo) on November 15 1966; his father was UVONJI CHUVI Xavier and his mother WINY FWALING Isabelle.

He was baptized on November 17 1966 at Mongbwalu. His family lives at Zengo, Nioka, in the diocese of Mahagi of the Oriental Province. He had his literary formation at IPA Udjuuro of Nioka (1979-1981), at the Minor Seminary of Vida (1981-1983) and at the Institute Lodza de Luga (1983-1986). He has been a Religion teacher and supervisor at the Minor Seminary of Vida (1986-1987) while directing the choirs at the parish and at the school.

After his ordination he was named to the Assumptionist parish of Kijenge in Arusha (Tanzania). He was pastor there for six years. He was greatly responsible for the implantation of the Assumption in Tanzania and East Africa in general.

Chuvi became one of the five founders of the Filipino mission. He was the first to arrive here ... and he is the first to die here...

Wherever he went, he adapted, with ease. In Tanzania, when it came time to leave for the Philippines, the Masai gave him a chief's staff. He was at home everywhere.

His mission in the Philippines is a love story.

He came here, at first, for a three-year term, secretly hoping in his heart that he would be able to do studies.

The three years passed by and it came time for a new contract : this time three years to study and three years afterward for various ministries.

In March 2011, he received his master's degree at Regina Carmeli University in Malolos, writing a dissertation entitled : *«The Religious Knowledge, Beliefs, and Practices of the Faithful of Daan Tubo. A Proposed Catechetical Program »* (Daan Tubo is a poor neighborhood of our parish). During this time Chuvi fell in love with these people and with this Church. This country became his home.

Already ill in Nairobi, before returning to Manila after two months of vacation with his family, thinking that he was suffering from a recurrence of dengue fever (which he had already contracted twice before), he said to his brothers there: *«I have to go back home to my brothers. They'll know how to take care of me»* ... but he was suffering in fact from cerebral malaria... that he could have had treated effectively in Nairobi.

« I have to go back home... »

Eulogy for Jean-Marie Chuvi By Bro. Jay Lituañas, a.a. (cont)

As for the Congregation, Chuvi joyfully shared to us at table, in casual talks after dinner or in sessions or meetings about Saint Augustine's intellectual and spiritual loftiness, and our Founder, Emmanuel d'Alzon's spirit of disinterestedness and availability to the Church. And he served the Congregation and the Church in various capacities as translator/interpreter, pastor, formator, superior, among others.



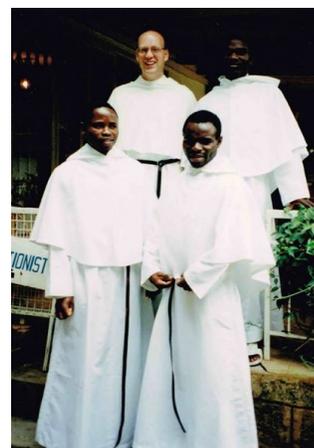
As a pastor, Chuvi made himself available for masses, whether they were regular masses, Sunday masses or masses for the dead. He also made himself very much available to hear confessions and for spiritual direction. Here at OLPP and at San Mateo, a lot of faithful queued up for him because he understood and spoke in Filipino. He did all these not just to certain congregations within the Augustinian and Assumption families, but also in various parishes in the Dioceses of Antipolo and Cubao, particularly at ESCOPA, OLPP, Marytown and Daang-tubo. Chuvi was not only trans-parochial. He was also trans-diocesan!



For his masses and homilies in Filipino, he made sure that he consulted a Filipino brother for the correct pronunciation, enunciation and grammar. Ironically though, most of the time, he turned to either Brother Cris, Brother Rex or me who are ourselves struggling with the Filipino language because we are non-Tagalog speakers. Nevertheless, Chuvi celebrated his masses and delivered his homilies well in Filipino. Eventually, he had a good command of the language which helped him endear himself to people in ESCOPA, Marytown and Daang-tubo.

Biography and tribute to Jean-Marie Adubangho Chuvi by the Assumptionist Province of Africa (cont)

He came in contact with the Assumptionists by writing to Fr. Marc Champion. He was admitted to postulancy in 1987-1988 at Kindugu (Provincial House of Cophaco in Butembo). He entered the Saint Charles Lwanga novitiate in 1988-1989 under the direction of Fr. Lukas Chuffard as Master of novices. He professed his first vows on September 16 1989 at Butembo. He continued his journey as a student in Philosophy at Bulengera from 1989 to 1992. In 1992-1993, he became director of the Social Centre of Kindugu. From 1993 to 1996, he has his formation in Theology in Nairobi (Kenya) where he had his final profession on June 13 1996. He was ordained a deacon in Arusha (Tanzania) by the laying on of hands by Bishop Dennis V. Durning. He had his pastoral training in the parish of SS. Peter and Paul in Kijenge (Tanzania) and was ordained a priest on August 21 1998 at Butembo among the first ordinations of Bishop KIKULI PALUKU Melchisedech.



A priest and a pastor

Chuvi was at ease everywhere, welcoming everyone, especially the poor...those from Marikina, Marytown, Daan Tubo, Escopa. These past few days I was deeply touched to see young people from poor neighborhoods and the young blind crying hard by his coffin. Chuvi in the midst of the forgotten and the neglected, like Jesus his model.

He was always ready to go say a Mass, to hear confessions, to comfort the sick, to give a retreat. He knew how to tell stories ... and with such humor. And always with a smile and laughter. How many times did I not hear the last few days: «*He was such a good priest*»! Last Monday, the only day he was conscious, he kept saying to us: «*I have to get up to say Mass at Escopa...*» Chuvi, a man of the Eucharist and the sacraments to the end.

A true Assumptionist

Chuvi was a « *a man of faith, a man of communion, in solidarity with the poor and the least among us*», as the last general chapter defined a true Assumptionist. He knew how to forge bonds: just look at this congregation this morning - an image of the universal Church, lay-people, men and women religious, priests... from every continent! He was a member of the Peace and Justice Committee of the Augustinian Family with whom he went twice to Tacloban to set up projects to help families there, victims of typhoon 'Yolanda'.

Eulogy for Jean-Marie Chuvi By Bro. Jay Lituañas, a.a. (cont)

Upon his return to Manila last May 15 from vacation in his native Congo, one of his first questions to Brother Cris was the scheduled masses in ESCOPA. He was not already feeling well at that time. Even in the hospital, before he went into coma and during his brief moment of recovery, he still had his scheduled masses in his mind frequently asking Kuya Cocoy and Ate Jing of ESCOPA about them.

Last Monday, when we were informed by Fr. Bernard of Chuvi's initial recovery – he opened his eyes, he recognized people and he talked to them – those of us who were in the French Camp in Puerto Galera rejoiced. In fact, since that was the birthday of Brother Cris, we had a double-celebration – to thank God for the gift of life to Brother Cris and for Chuvi's recovery. We even made fun of how Chuvi's "patron saint", San Miguel, interceded for him. And so we told ourselves that from now on, we must turn to San Miguel.

On the following day, Tuesday, in our French class in the morning, our teacher asked us to write a carte postale to Fr. Chuvi to cheer him up. We were able to write our notes to him in French, after countless times of consulting the dictionary and textbook. Unknown to us, across the sea and land, our dear Fr. Chuvi was struggling at that particular time in Makati Medical Center.



With information from Fr. Bernard, Fr. Gilles broke the news to us just before noon of that day, May 20, that our dear Fr. Chuvi had rejoined our Creator at 10:45 that morning. We were shocked at this, as almost everyone of us here was and still is. We hardly understood the sudden turn of events. Eventually, a day after Chuvi's death, Fr. Gilles got the courage to remind us of the good news of our Lord's resurrection and slowly, we have come to terms with the loss.

Biography and tribute to Jean-Marie Adubangho Chuvi by the Assumptionist Province of Africa (end)

After his ordination, he was appointed assistant parish priest at Kijenge where he became the parish priest from 2000 to 2006. He was then assigned as one of the founders of the Philippines mission.

Fr. Chuvi has been a good companion in community. »He revealed himself as a great laughter, even taking part in laughters contests where he would laugh for five minutes. While he is from Mahagi, he succeeded to fully integrate the brothers of Butembo of the Nande culture.



He was able to adapt easily and he never felt put down by a majority culture. He was never heard complaining about any cultural domination; he does not play in power circles. He excels in pastoral and missionary skills: easy contact, natural integration, learning local dialects, softness and flexibility in his opinions, collaboration, apostolic zeal... He was the perfect candidate for this new foundation in Asia.

Chuvi was generous and selfless. He loved the Assumption which became his second family. During his latest vacation, he visited as many of the communities as he could to share with them his life, what he had discovered in the Philippines, and his passion for the mission.

« Yesterday I broke down in tears, » wrote Fr. Protais Kabila, the provincial of Africa. « Chuvi was a man of peace and of joy, a brother who always maintained the authenticity of his religious commitment. The Assumption was his real family. He was loved by all. He especially worked in East Africa, as pastor of the Kijenge parish in Arusha. But he returned to his new home so as to die a true missionary . »

Roots and commitment

Jean-Marie Chuvi will soon be buried at Loyola Memorial Park, in Marikina. He will be the first of ours to be buried here in the Philippines

« We now have the first Assumptionist to die in the Philippines, » wrote Fr. Benoît Grière, our superior general. « May he become one who intercedes before the Father to watch over and protect our small family. »

Just as Fr. Paul Dong, the young master of novices, who died tragically three years ago in a motorcycle accident in Vietnam... and just as Fr. Charles Razafimanantsoa, a young Malagasy priest, who recently died in Madagascar, having just returned home.

Eulogy for Jean-Marie Chuvi By Bro. Jay Lituañas, a.a. (end)

For all these, I as well as my brother Assumptionists thank the Lord for the gift of Fr. Chuvi to us, to the mission here in the Philippines and to the people we collaborated with. Chuvi is now synonymous to life, happiness and friendship. He served the mission well, a dedicated priest, a true Assumptionist and brother to us all.



Au revoir Père Chuvi (Goodbye, Father Chuvi) !

Merci beaucoup (Thanks much) ! Qu'il repose en paix (Rest in peace) !

Biography and tribute to Jean-Marie Adubangho Chuvi by the Assumptionist Province of Africa (end)

The circumstances of his death did not lead us to believe in a sudden and brutal death. Just a month ago, we were together in Congo while he was requesting a new passport. He wanted to go through each community, starting with Goma, Butembo, Beni and concluding with Bunia where he had his passport renewed. He visited with his family in Nioka. On his way back to Manila, he flew from Nairobi. During his short stay at the Emmanuel House he felt some pain; he thought that it was a dengue crisis. He wanted to rush back to Manila to be taken care of while his brothers were asking him to delay his flight and get better in Nairobi. He felt pressured to fly as soon as possible although he was not feeling well.

As soon as he arrived in Manila, he was brought to the hospital where he was in ICU for four days. He was not suffering from dengue but rather a severe form of malaria that could have been treated better in Nairobi. From the very beginning, he went into coma but two days later he showed signs of getting a little better; he was hoping to get well since he had a Mass scheduled. But in the morning of May 20, everything went wrong suddenly: lever bleeding, kidney failure and finally two heart failures made it impossible to bring him back to life. The doctors declared him dead at 10:45 am.

We think back to Chuvi as a brother who has loved Assumption and the Church as his own families where he never felt to be a foreigner. He had a clear conscience of belongingness that brought him to give himself totally to the foundation in the Philippines. He hope to produce another brother of this character who will be able to continue what Chuvi realized for the well being of Assumption in Asia. May he rest now in peace in the hands of God in whom Chuvi had put his trust and his hope.



We Assumptionists now have our roots in the land. It's a new commitment for our whole Congregation.

Jean-Marie Chuvi's family could not come to accompany him to his last resting place. In the African tradition, the dead are buried the day they die because it is not easy travel - it can be long and often subject to all kinds of unforeseen circumstances. People generally gather at a later time to recall their loved one and to pray for him.

But his African brothers and sisters here are many. They provided him company all night long with their music and their chants, as tradition would have it. «*Chuvi is not alone,*» wrote Fr. Ngoa (who had just returned from a meeting of novice-masters in Rome) to his brothers and sisters in Africa. «*He is surrounded by lots of friends.*»

Many thanks to the family of Jean-Marie Chuvi Adubangho for having so generously given us your son, your brother. And thanks to all of you, especially those here this morning, for being with us since the announcement of his death

Chuvi, pray for us, protect us, protect your brother and sister missionaries. May you intercede for peace in the Congo.

« *Chuvi, we miss you.* » « *Maraming, maraming salamat, Chuvi. Mahal ka namin.* » (Thank you. We all love you.)

Eulogy for Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi, President of Congolese Community in the Philippines **by Hugues Tandioy (cont)**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you all for showing your love and support by attending the final tribute of such a simple and dedicated missionary, who throughout his life brought Jesus' love and joy to many, including me. We are gathered here around the Holy altar to honor and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Reverend Father Jean-Marie Chuvi.



My name is Hugues Tandioy, the vice president of the Congolese Community in the Philippines. I have known Fr Chuvi for about 9 years. I know that you all miss Jean Marie Chuvi as much as I do; his unexpected passing away was something none of us could foresee. Personally, I was waiting for 'pasalubong' that my wife ordered from fr Chuvi

In Africa, Life is sacred. Life is considered as the ultimate gift of the Almighty God. The entire village celebrate the life of a new born. What we expect from a child is to grow up, marry, have offspring, become old and dies. A death of a young man or young woman like the death of this great missionary Jean-Marie Chuvi, honestly it's difficult to accept. I can feel and read the pain that the biological and religious family are going through right now. However, as Christian and believing in the life without end, we are sure and certain that Fr Chuvi is still alive and participating in the eternal banquet.

The last moments with Father Chuvi **by Sister Therese Bora, Oblate of the Assumption in Manila** **(cont)**

Upon returning from his home visit, Fr. Chuvi called us on the phone in the morning of May 16 to tell us that he had brought a parcel from the sisters in Ouganda. Sister Josée went to his community to get the parcel. When she came back, sister Josée told me that Chuvi looked tired. I answered to her that it must have been due to the long travelling. That same night, Chuvi called again to say that he was not feeling well... if we could pass to see him. Seeing that he was in pain, I suggested that he should go to the hospital. He answered back: «I will go to the hospital on Sunday after the Mass.



Eulogy for Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi, President of Congolese Community in the Philippines by Hugues Tandioy (cont)

The last text message that I got from Jean-Marie Chuvi was on Friday May 16/ 2014 at 6:45: "Mbote Hugo, nakomi na minuit, naye na makayabu, mbika na farine." I thanked him for the pasalubong (that I never got) and told him that I will be dropping by on weekend to get it. However on Saturday fr didn't reply to my text messages. I told my wife, he must be busy. On Sunday morning, on my phone I missed two calls, the call of sr Bora and Ghislaine. I told my wife, they might be around in Antipolo and maybe they want to visit us. And I checked the inbox and saw the message of sr Ghislaine telling me that Jean-Marie was in coma. That message terrified us. WHAT? I called sister Ghislaine to confirm the message. She said, it's true.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Visiting him to get her pasalubong, sister Bora noticed that Father Jean-Marie was weak and advised him to go the hospital for check up. Father, answered: "No, Sister, I need to prepare the Holy mass". Yes, he was called to serve God. His answer to sister Bora and his last moment showed that his love for Christ, his love for the Holy Church and its People, was a genuine love. He didn't care about his own physical health but he did care for spiritual health of the people for whom he was sent. In other words, Jean-Marie was more concerned about the people of God. Like Jesus, "Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Luke. 23:28-31. Because of his love for his people, he carried the pain all the way from Africa to the Philippines. He wanted to be in the midst of people that he loved and served. He really loved his mission and loved the Filipino people in particular. He could speak a straight tagalog.

Dear brothers and sisters,

while serving God in the midst of the Filipino people, father Chuvi didn't forget his roots. He didn't forget that he was a Congolese. He was updated about the happenings in his motherland, the RDCongo and Africa and sharing those updates to us. He would always be in the forefront to organizing the African gathering and he was one of those who actively contributed in building the Congolese Community in the Philippines (showing the CCP Constitution). He was a man of God, a good leader, a man of smile, and servant and keen to details.



I was privileged to work with him for four years trying to organize the African and the Congolese community. Father Chuvi was always on time, always smiling, he would really pay attention to discussions during the meetings. He listens and when given a task, he would accomplish with love and details. He was simple man. As a priest, he was available and ready to serve. He never closed his phone. When you text or call seeking for assistance, he would reply to you right away.

The last moments with Father Chuvi

By Sister Therese Bora, Oblate of the Assumption in Manila (cont)



On Saturday morning, I called him to see how was the night. He tells me that he is still not feeling well and is asking if I can drop by the parish to get a «Sambuhay» (leaflet with the texts of the Mass) in Tagalog so that he can prepare himself for the Mass. Around 10:00 am, I arrived at his community. He is still looking tired. I propose that I will accompany him to the hospital. He answers back: «Tomorrow after the Mass.» He gave me the set of keys to his house so that I could pass by at any time to say hello.

On that same night, I receive a message from Fr. Bernard who is in Mindoro telling me that Fr. Chuvi was in the hospital. He asks me if I could join brother Nam and the parishioners who brought him to the hospital and to inform him about the situation. Upon arriving at the hospital, Chuvi was unconscious. The doctor tells us that his condition is not good and that he must be transferred to another medical centre better equipped in order to look after him efficiently.



Eulogy for Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi, President of Congolese Community in the Philippines by Hugues Tandioy (end)

So dear brothers and sisters, let us celebrate the life this great missionary though short. You will agree with me that he has accomplished much and left a legacy that will serve as example for many.

On behalf off the African community in general and the Congolese community in particular, I would like to thank all of you for coming to pay the deserved tribute to this successful missionary. May his sould find the everlasting peace and may he always pray for us.



It needed to be seen By Father Ngoa Ya Tshihemba a.a., Master of novices (cont)

The news of the sudden death of our brother Jean-Marie Chuvi Adubanho put all of us in front of the question: Why? When we heard that we was brought to the hospital in a state of coma, we were all of us surprised. There were many prayers for his prompt healing. The next day, Fr. Bernard who was by his side sent us the message that he had come out of the coma. We all said: «Thank you». But the worst was up and coming the next day: the message announcing the death of Chuvi. We were then in Rome for a time of formation for the Masters of novices in the Congregation. I cut short on my stay in Rome to be present for the funeral and burial. Indeed, it was Chuvi who had fetched me from the airport when I first arrived in the Philippines.

It needed to be seen how the chapel at Adveniat House was full of visitors coming to pau homage to Chuvi and pray for the repose of his soul during these sad moments. Messages of condolences were coming from all around in support during this time of trial when everybody was in shock. On that same day, the Gospel page was about Jesus saying: « I leave you peace, I give you my peace. A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid». (John 14, 27).

It needed to be seen also how the whole African community came together at the wake of Fr. Chuvi. I could see who Chuvi really was, a unifier. On that day, I saw a true Afican unity: people from Senegal, Rwanda, Ouganda, Burundi, Congo, Tanzania, Nigeria, Mozambic, from the Ivory Coast... Only Chuvi was able to make this dream of African unity a reality. I saw and »I believed.

The last moments with Father Chuvi By Sister Therese Bora, Oblate of the Assumption in Manila (cont)

I stayed in the hospital for 28 hours. During the night from Saturday to Sunday, he was in the coma. The whole day Sunday, many people, informed of the situation, were coming to the hospital to greet him. I received many phone calls from his Assumptionist brothers from all over asking for news. Fr. Bernard came to the hospital by the bed side of Chuvi and I went back to my community. On Monday morning, Fr. Bernard sends me a text message saying that Chuvi had awakened and had recognized him. At least, one good news!



**"You have learn from God yourselves to love one another,
and in fact this is what you are doing"**

by Father Desmet, a.a. representing the brothers from South Korea (1 Thess. 4,9) (cont)

Upon hearing about the death of Fr. Chuvi in Manila, a concrete and fraternal response was obvious. So «I came to the funeral as a representative from the brothers of Korea as well as Fr. Duy came to represent the brothers of Vietnam. Thus we had the opportunity to put in action one of the wishes of a greater communion between our Assumptionist communities present in Asia.

In Manila, I have experienced a moment of great fraternity among the members of the Assumption family (Assumptionists, Religious, Oblates, Orantes of the Assumption) surrounding the coffin of Fr. Chuvi at a moment so close to the feast of Pentecost. Indeed, we gathered together *«people from every tongues, peoples and nations»* to thank the Lord for this faithful servant and his mission in the midst of the Assumption. He left his continent, his country *«his father, mother, brothers and sisters»* and has already received a hundred times over (Mark 10, 29-30) diffusing the good scent (and humor!) of Christ. Seeing the great diversity of people in the assembly that would end his terrestrial journey, no doubt he had accomplished his mission.

It needed to be seen

By Father Ngoa Ya Tshihemba a.a., Master of novices (end)

It needed to be seen how Assumption in Asia was mobilized as one body: brothers from Vietnam and from South Korea came to join us. Here in the Philippines, the whole Assumption family was represented: Religious of the Assumption, Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, Orantes of the Assumption and of course the Assumptionists.



It needed to be seen what Chuvi was and will continue to be for many of us: a friend, an elder, a brother, a priest, a missionary: in short, a true son of God.

It needed to be seen how Chuvi was surrounded. My question and that of many among us was: *«Who is with him now?»* I can tell you for sure that from his hospital bed to his final resting place, he was never alone.

It needed to be seen how Chuvi was loved by everyone. Chuvi, pray for us !

The last moments with Father Chuvi

By Sister Therese Bora, Oblate of the Assumption in Manila (end)

On Tuesday, I arrived at the hospital by 7:00 am hoping to be able to communicate with Chuvi. He was still asleep. I asked brother Nam who had spent the night with Chuvi how he had been doing. His answer was that he had been calm all night and that he had asked for water. For me, it was a sign that we would go better. Between 8:00 am and 9:00 am many doctors came one after the other to give him some treatment. Around 9:00 aa Chuvi had a first heart failure. A doctor asks me to call Fr. Chuvi's Superior to take some urgent decisions because the situation was far worse. So I called Fr. Bernard so that he could come as soon as possible. He arrived as Chuvi had a second heart failure. The doctors did everything to save him but around 10:45 am they declared him dead.



For me, his departure for heaven so early is still a shock. He was always encouraging me in our new mission thanks to his own experience. May he rest in peace and intercede for us !



**" "You have learn from God yourselves to love one another,
and in fact this is what you are doing"**
by Father Desmet, a.a.
representing the brothers from South Korea (1 Thess. 4,9)
(end)

The celebrations deeply rooted in faith put forward the human qualities that everybody recognized in Chuvi: his good humor, tolerance, sharing, caring for the poor and his desire for inculturation. I was amazed that by the simplicity of deeds and words, the purely emotional was overwhelmed by faith. Readings from the Scriptures, colors, songs, dancing, prayers, friendliness: everything was truly inspiring.

My wish is that the land of the Philippines will be generous and fertile in producing a hundred times over this grain of wheat imported from afar and put to the ground here.

Father Chuvi, An Icon of the Smiling Buddha
by Father Gioakim Nguyen Khuong Duy, a.a., representing the brothers from Vietnam

Father Chuvi was a lovely Brother whom I knew recently but very briefly when we were participating in a regional meeting of the Inter Asian Assumptionist Coordination a few months ago in Adveniat House (Manila) .

My first impression when we first met was his smile. He has a natural smiling face. His large belly and his smiling face remind me of the image of the smiling Buddha (also called the laughing Buddha) that we can find everywhere in Vietnam, especially in many temples, hotels, and restaurants. The smiling Buddha often symbolizes happiness, good luck and plenitude in Vietnamese culture. In Vietnamese language, to say someone is good, kind-hearted, and generous, we often say he has a good belly (tốt bụng). It was just a joke in what I said when I was comparing him with the smiling Buddha, but Father Chuvi really possessed these good qualities. I was impressed how he was loved by so many people.



When I first heard the sad news from the Facebook of the AA Philippines Delegation, I could not believe in my eyes. We just met each other, talked together, and discussed of the future of the Assumption in Asia, the image of his smiling face, his laughter is still vivid in my memory, the encounter with him was still like yesterday, but today he has gone away.

Three years ago, we also lost a Vietnamese young priest in his 39. We, all brothers in Vietnam understood very well this great loss and grief of our brothers in the Philippines. The next day, Father Francis-Xavier, the Delegate of the Provincial of Europe in Asia, called me in the midst of his works and asked me to go to the Philippines as soon as possible to be in communion with our Filipino Brothers and to attend the funerals. In the mid of that night I left Vietnam for the Philippines.

In the depth of my heart, I know that this is a great loss for us all, but at the same time, I see in Father Chuvi's missionary life, a living witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his last breath. In the work of building the bridge between the Vietnamese and Filipino Brothers, Father Chuvi will definitely be memorized as an important one among its builders. This thinking gives me more hopes for a brighter future for our currently uncertain and fragile foundations.

A support to our mission

by Sister Claire Kaparay Sikyolo, Orantes of the Assumption, San José – Philippines



I first met Fr. Chuvi in Butembo, then in Kenya, Tanzania and the Philippines. He was a simple man, available, generous, who could adapt easily. He was encouraging us to love the mission.

In San José, he came twice in three years to greet us since we are far from Manila. This shows his great love for the Assumption family and his fraternal love for us. It was his way to support us in our mission as Orantes in the Philippines and that has filled us with joy. Fr. Chuvi was happy and joyous; he is a saint. May he rest in peace !

A dedicated Priest and a True Missionary

by Bro. Cris Quiñal, a.a. (cont)

Fr. Chuvi is my superior for two years. He is my superior for 1 year when I was in my postulancy formation. After that I proceeded to another level of formation. Just last year when he was transferred to the post novitiate formation house that he became again my superior. He was still my superior when he went for his home visit.

As a superior, I can say that Fr. Chuvi had a lassies-fair type of leadership. He always consulted us about matters concerning the community. He also gave us space to work on our own initiative and with our own creativity. As a priest, we always call him “a trans-parochial priest”. It is because he has a lot of masses in many parishes. He is a dedicated priest when it comes to his apostolic and sacramental duty. He is also a real “AA” because he is “Always Available”. His last apostolic assignment was in ESCOPA. With the Pavel Community, he was in charge of the Sunday masses and other sacraments in the area of Zone 10 where the 4 barangays of ESCOPA belongs. Until his last moment in his love he was thinking of saying mass in the apostolate area. He did not want to be brought to the hospital Saturday afternoon because he still wants to preside the Sunday mass but he is too weak that he needs to be brought to the hospital. In the hospital, during his temporary recovery, he was asking what happened to the mass. When he knew that it was canceled because no other priest available, he was asking why and the people from ESCOPA who visited him in the hospital just tell him that he need not to worry and he need to rest so that he can say mass again.



As a missionary, I would say that he has the heart of a true missionary. He readily accepted his assignment here in the Philippines. He is part of the founding team of the Philippine mission. He was able to learn the language which is tagalog. He can preside mass in tagalog and delivered his homilies in the said language. He was able to immerse himself in the society especially with the people in our apostolate area. Not only by speaking their own language but also his lifestyle and his actions. People in the apostolate area love him.

A dedicated Priest and a True Missionary **by Bro. Cris Quiñal, a.a. (end)**

It is in thinking of Fr. Chuvi as brother that I have a difficulty of accepting that he is gone. He is too young to die. Thinking of his energy and his being active in the ministry that makes is passing a great lost to all. For ESCOPA, we lost a dedicated priest. For the Community of Pavel, we lost a superior. And for the congregation and for the whole church, we lost a dedicated missionary. It is only in faith that I can find a consolation that Fr. Chuvi is not anymore with us. I believe that God has a plan for him. I am happy that he already achieved the ultimate goal of his priestly, religious, and Christian life which is to be with the almighty God.

I will remember also Fr. Chuvi as a person who loved to drink San Miguel beer. I am just wondering on how Fr. Chuvi react if the rumor is true that in heaven there is no beer. But, I am happy for him that now he will meet the real San Miguel.

May he rest in peace!



For He is a Jolly Good Fellow: Remembering Fr. Chuvi **by Blair Nuyda, a.a. (Worcester, USA)**

Known as a kind and jolly fellow, Fr. Jean-Marie Adubangho Chuvi, passed away last May 20 in Manila, Philippines due to a sudden illness. He is one of the founding members of the Philippine Mission, esteemed and cherished by his Assumption brothers and those whom he had befriended, worked and lived with.

Having served as a pastor in Africa for many years, he brought to the Philippine Mission a very pastoral spirit. Chuvi has showed enthusiasm in collaborating with the local parish and ministering to basic ecclesial communities. He quickly learned the Filipino language and in a year's time, he was already saying Masses in Filipino. He is well-loved by people from Daang Tubo and Marytown, two impoverished areas in the parish where the Assumptionists have done pastoral and social ministries.

Chuvi has served also as a formator of young Assumptionists in the Philippines. He is one of the founding members of Pavel House, a formation community named after the youngest Assumptionist martyr. He was director of its residency program when it was a house for candidates and its local superior when it became a house for postulants and student-brothers.



Chuvi brought joy and camaraderie in community. He was a person who likes to joke and share stories. His laughter was highly contagious. He is known to have remarked that "a feast is not a feast if it is not celebrated with good beer."

Most people will agree that Chuvi was someone who had listening ears and friendly concern. People find it easy to confide in him and share with him their joys and sorrows.

All of good things that Chuvi has done for the Philippine Mission may be summed up in one word and that is: generosity.

He has committed himself to the establishment and growth of the Assumptionist mission and has done so with an ever joyful service.

“Maraming, maraming salamat, Chuvi. Mahal ka namin.”

(Filipino for: “Thank you very much, Chuvi. We love you.”)

From Sister Vicenta, Religious of the Assumption, Kenya



I just want to convey our deepest sympathy at the passing away of Fr. Chuvi. We were united with your Brothers last Saturday as we attended the memorial Mass for him so lovingly prepared by the Region at Emmanuel House (Nairobi). We pray much for you and the communities in the Philippines, knowing what a big hole Fr. Chuvi has left behind. God will provide in his own way and help you carry on. The Nairobi communities have been specially moved because he spent his last day before his departure, visiting us... Lunch at Lang'ata and then dinner at Kawangware. And he wasn't in a hurry... though we didn't want to keep him long because he didn't look well (his hands were shaking whenever he had to pour water for himself which he did several times during dinner) and was traveling the next day. Fr. Chuvi will always be fondly remembered... He is seed sown for a fruitful harvest in AA-Asia. Loving prayers, Sr. Vicenta and the Lang'ata Sisters (Juniorate).

p.s. Sr. Daria, our superior, is presently in Rwanda for her home visit, but she sent her condolences because she will forever be grateful to Fr. Chuvi who, during the genocide, as a young seminarian, went to Rwanda to fetch Sr. Daria's father and bring him over to Nairobi by plane.

Fr. Chuvi's Last Moment By Jaypee Calleja

It was Sunday, May 18, when I received a call from Kuya Jun that Fr. Chuvi was in serious condition at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Makati Medical Center. I knew for a fact that Fr. Bernard and the rest of the community were in Puerto Galera for the French camp. I sent a text message that I would be at the hospital in the afternoon. When I arrived, I met Sr. Bora, Sr. Josie, Bro. Nam, and Fr. Bernard. It was the first time I saw Fr. Bernard wearing the AA cross. The atmosphere in Fr. Chuvi's room was silent and solemn. Fr. Chuvi was restless. His hands were tied in the hospital bed. He kept nodding his head and even if his eyes were open, he could not recognize anyone of us.

There were four doctors who monitored him --- neurologist (for the brain and nerves), hematologist (for the blood), nephrologist (for the kidneys), and one for infectious diseases. I was able to talk to the hematologist and she told me that their prognosis was that Fr. Chuvi had malaria. The infection already spread in his body affecting his kidneys and probably his brain. Thus, the doctors needed to check Fr. Chuvi's brain, blood, kidneys, including his background—where he lived, the places he went to in the last three weeks.

Finally, they said that Fr. Chuvi needed to have blood transfusion as soon as possible. I was already editing some articles for Bayard when Kuya Jun made a call. He was able to contact a friend working at the Philippine Blood Bank and the blood bags were ready for pick up within 8 hours. But Fr. Bernard was alone that time in the hospital and Sr. Bora, Sr. Josie, and Bro. Nam have gone home to rest. The brothers too were in Puerto Galera for the French camp. Kuya Jun said that if the blood bags were not claimed within 8 hours, they will be given to another patient. Thus, I decided to get them and to bring them to Makati Med myself.



It was almost midnight. I decided to call Fr. Chuvi's doctor in order to get the prescription for without which, the blood bags would not be released. Charisse and I decided to go to their house. We asked her parents to prepare their ice box and printer. And when we arrived, Charisse immediately rushed to their computer to print the doctor's prescription while I put ice in the ice box. After a few minutes we were ready. I rushed to the Philippine Blood Center near Quezon City Circle. After getting the blood bags, I immediately proceeded to Makati Med where Fr. Bernard was waiting. We both gave the blood bags to the blood laboratory of the hospital, and after a long and tiring day, we separated ways hoping for the best.

The following morning I received a text from Fr. Bernard. The message said that Fr. Chuvi's condition has improved. He recognized Fr. Bernard. I was so happy and thankful that moment! I never lost hope and faith that Fr. Chuvi would get better. I told Fr. Bernard, "Father, Chuvi is a good priest. The Lord will make him well because many people still need him."

But on Tuesday, May 20, while I was having my class at ALC, I received very sad news from Kuya Jun. Fr. Chuvi passed away around 11 in the morning. At first I could not believe this news. Fr. Bernard explained that he had a heart attack, not only once but twice. The news was painful and unbelievable.

Fr. Chuvi has left us immediately. But through his death, he too has planted the first "Assumptionist seed" in Philippine soil. May this seed grow and bear much fruit. Fr. Chuvi, we miss your laughter and your presence. Pray for us while we still journey and accomplish our mission here on earth.

Last exchange of textos between Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi and Bro. Cris Quiñal from his community

Monday May 12 at 1:53pm

« Hi Cris! Chuvi here in Nairboi, have fever. If I get well, I will travel back to Manila on Wednesday pm. Say hi to all ! »

Friday May 16 at 6:19am

« Good morning Father Chuvi. Are you in Pavel now? When will you come here in Puerto Gallera? »

Friday May 16 at 6:21am

« Yes in Pavel. I will come Monday evening. »

Saturday May 17 at 12:32pm

« Good afternoon Fr. Chuvi. What time you are planning to come here in Mindoro on Monday ? »

Saturday May 17 at 12:35pm

« Am sick, will go to Hospital tomorrow after Mass. I wish I have replacement! »

Saturday May 17 at 7:12pm

« Fr. Chuvi how are you now? »



Your road map to get to the tomb of Father Jean-Marie Chuvi



Vidéo



A video of an hour and 39 minutes has been produced by members of the Congolese community in the »Philippines for the family, the brothers and sisters of Chuvi in Africa. You can ask for this video at this address:

A Jean-Marie Chuvi's Foundation

In order to continue the mission of Fr. Jean-Marie Chuvi for the poor and the victims of typhoons in the Philippines, the Assumptionist Delegation of the Philippines has created a foundation at his name to receive the donations of his friends.

Thank you to help us to help!

Please send your donations to :

In the Philippines (Php):

Account Name Assumptionist Philippine Delegation
Account No. 3081-1158-92
Bank Name Bank of the Philippine Islands
Branch Loyola-Katipunan Branch – Quezon City

In the States (US\$):

Augustinians of the Assumption, Philippines
330 Market Street – BRIGHTON, MA
02135 – U.S.A.

In Canada (Canadian \$):

Montmartre Canadien, Philippines
1679, Chemin Saint-Louis
QUEBEC G15 1G5 - Canada

Telephone Number: +632 929 0373
Email: assumptionist.philippines@gmail.com

A Mass for the 40th day

On Sunday June 29, on the eve of the National Independence Day in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we will celebrate the 40th day Mass with the Congolese community of the Philippines. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:00 am at Adveniat House, 17 C. Salvador Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

**AUGUSTINIANS OF
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***Our purpose is
to build an
international,
inter-Asian and
Christ centered
Assumptionist
community,
sharing our
charisma with
the Filipino
people,
attentive to
their needs,
especially those
of the poor.***

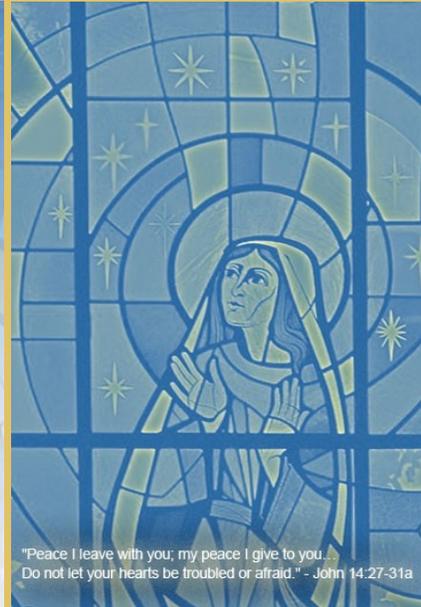
FR. JEAN-MARIE CHUVI PASSED AWAY

+ Rev. Fr. Jean Marie, Augustinians of the Assumption
(Adubangho Chuvi)



Birth: November 15, 1966
Entry to congregation: September 16, 1989
Ordination: August 21, 1998
Death: May 20, 2014

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." - John 14:27-31a



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." - John 14:27-31a



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