

A Tribute to Rev. Brother Herman Nanayakkara

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Those who bloom in the hearts of others never fade away.....

Teachers are known for their intuitive perception, erudition, learning and intelligence. They are beacon light of sagacity as savants who disseminate ideas, to benefit mankind for intellectual enlightenment. Teachers are men of vision, trend setters, and revolutionary of the evolution of ideas to follow the pace of academic, cultural pursuit to uplift culture, civilization with liberal and tolerant enlightenment. Teachers are institutions incarnate. They are men of imagination and perception who inspire generations through sound, tangible and revolutionary ideas to embark forward to touch new horizons of knowledge and learning to redeem humanity. Generations are trained through their wisdom, words and exchange of ideas which give birth to culture of voice.

While thinking of the above said qualities and requisites of a “Teacher”, I recall the personality of Brother Herman Nanayakkara, who was a true picture and complete embodiment of all the characteristics possessed by a genuine teacher. It is very excruciating and painful to say that he is no more with us and has slept in eternal peace. In total perplexity and confusion it is hard for me to which dimension of his personality should I focus on because Brother Herman was multi-talented and versatile in his deeds. As a teacher of course he was par excellence but more than a teacher, he was a motivator, inspirer, planner, keen observer, mentor, a very calm and composed listener and above all a very good human being and a humble servant of God.

I had personal experience of working under his able guidance when he came from La Salle Higher Secondary School Multan to La Salle High School and College Faisalabad. He was a guide and counselor of students to sort out their problems. Students loved to see him and discuss their issues. His approach to listen to the students was so affable, friendly and responsive that students, who at a stage were sagging and slack showed enormous and positive change in their behaviour, both in academic or otherwise.

Brother Herman was a gem in the Community of Lasallian Brothers. For years and years he had the responsibility of school publication in both Multan and Faisalabad. In the year 2010, the La Salle Brothers of Pakistan celebrated “Golden Jubilee of Lasallian Mission in Pakistan”. It was an uphill task to write the history of all Lasallian Institutions serving or had served in Pakistan since 1959. Lasallian Brothers felt it and felt it rightly that this task could only be accomplished by this great man the one and only known as Brother Herman. I was lucky enough to join Brother Herman in this gigantic task. Truly speaking, working under his dynamic personality I found this huge task as an interesting, exciting and thrilling experience. I consider this period as the golden period of my life as Lasallian. Sharing the completion of this Booklet of “History of Lasallian Institutions

of Pakistan” remains an all time honour for me firstly, being a student (*admitted in Nursery in 1973 and passed Matric in 1984 under Admission number 1707*) and then as a teacher (1994-2013) in La Salle High School and College Faisalabad. For the teachers who have joined Lasallian Institutions in the near past in particular and for all the teachers in general I would strongly recommend and suggest reading this booklet to know the services of Lasallian Brothers in Pakistan. Today I salute to the untiring efforts of Brother Herman for the compilation of this booklet for the future Lasallian to be benefitted from it. In spite of his growing age and certain health issues he was committed to this work. I remember that for the composing and printing of this booklet Brother Herman had to travel many times to Lahore, which he never minded, although it was too hectic and arduous for him. This showed his commitment and loyalty to his mission.

Brother Herman was a very calm and soft spoken person. Yet the people who know him admire him of his witty and jolly nature. Having long travelling with him was a novel experience for me. He was very choosy with his words and in his conversation. It would be hard rather impossible to find anyone saying that he saw him in anger during his entire stay in Pakistan which expands to more than four decades.

Brother Herman was a great planner and organizer of different activities held in school and Brothers’ community. It was his nature to work in his own way and with his own pace. He used to see each and every angle and detail of the event and made sure the involvement of the whole staff. His philosophy was to make it a show of everybody. By seeing the final performance on the stage one could not help appreciating the mastery and skills of Brother Herman. But you would have never seen him taking credit of it. He was so humble and modest to distribute this credit to others. It was always difficult for the Brothers to bring him to the stage, as he was always happy to encourage others. That’s how he motivated students and teachers.

Brother Herman had a very good habit of reading and writing. His personal computer was full of different articles which he used to send to different communities in Pakistan and abroad. He inculcated this value among his pupils and teachers.

If we recall the services of Brother Herman to the Lasallian Mission in Pakistan we won’t be able to do justice in few words. Even many articles would not be able to express the work done by this great man. Yet in his lifetime the Brothers of Faisalabad Community commemorated his services by naming the newly built “College Theatre” after his name. Though it is a humble tribute to remember his services and dedication but is a great sign for the coming generations to remember this **Lasallian Legend**.

In the end I would say Dear Brother Herman you are gone away from this temporary world and from our sight, but never from our hearts. We are sure that you will be resting in peace in heaven.

Lasallian Legend Departs, Good Bye Brother Herman