

A message from Fr. Cedric Prakash (Gujarat India) on the death of Pater Gyorgy Bulanyi

Dear Sisters and Brothers gathered here today to say the final “goodbye” to Pater Bulanyi....

At the outset, my heartfelt sympathies to each one of you on the demise of Pater Bulanyi, your beloved "Gyurka bacsí = Dyourka batchi...May his soul REST IN PEACE!

When I heard the news of his death from Beata Schanda a few days ago, my immediate prayer was one of gratitude. Thanking God very specially for a great soul, a wonderful human being who spent more than 90 years of his life on this earth.

For more than 30 years now, I have known Pater Bulanyi through friends, through those whom he has inspired in the Bokor Movement and through my personal interactions with him on two or three occasions in Hungary. Over these years, I have been able to discover his warm charismatic heart and his courage to live against the stream. Each time one encountered him, one could not but help feel a difference in one's life. His ability to radiate compassion and inspiration truly had a transformative impact on me.

I have always been touched by the core principles of the Bokor Movement namely a deep spirituality based on intellectual growth and which is reflected in community life, family life, apostolic life using only what one needs and above all, sharing with others, particularly with those who have less. This spirituality of Jesus was not only reflected in his own life but became the hallmark of the movement which inspired thousands of Hungarians in his own life-time.

For us in Gujarat, we have been particularly blessed because of Pater Bulanyi's vision. For more than thirty years now, thanks to the sacrifices and generosity of so many, we have been able to support hundreds of poor and marginalized children through our Educational Sponsorship programme. For this we will always be grateful.

In a time when materialism, institutionalization and falsehood seem to rule the day, Pater Bulanyi's life has been truly prophetic; indeed “he was a voice crying out in the wilderness”. He was able to challenge people from across the spectrum: children, youth and adults. He set new benchmarks for all demanding that they give more from the little they have. In fact, in more ways than one, he was able to bring back the core message of the teachings of Jesus.

Today, as you gather together to mourn a great personal loss, we also need to celebrate a life who has contributed so much to so many. The only fitting tribute we can pay to him today is to, in some small measure, carry on the lofty ideals he has inspired us with and to live out the rich heritage he has kept with us.

May Pater Bulanyi REST IN PEACE!

Sharing your sorrow,

Your brother,

Cedric Prakash

17th June, 2010