

Overwhelming act of Generosity by a Catholic Bishop



Al Ain: The Parish Priest of Saint Dionysius Orthodox Church, Al Ain, (a garden city in the Arabian desert of United Arab Emirates in the Province-Emirate-of Abu Dhabi) had a surprise phone call the other day. The caller was none other than His Grace Paul Hinder, Bishop of Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia based in the capital city of Abu Dhabi, covering UAE, Oman and Yemen.

Bishop Paul Hinder wanted to visit the site where the Al Ain Orthodox Church construction is in progress (the basic edifice has been completed) and requested Rev.Fr.Saji Abraham to accompany him. Saji Achen though taken by surprise was very happy to escort the Bishop to the site with a handful of then summoned church members.

Bishop Paul Hinder accompanied by Rev.Fr. Anthony Puthenpurackal, Vicar, Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Al Ain discussed with Saji Achen the progress of Church construction. The Bishop together with all assembled PRAYED inside the proposed church building and having realised the paucity of funds in completing the Church gave Saji Achen a cover containing cash of Dirhams 30,000/= (About Indian rupees 43 lakhs) towards the Church construction fund.

An overwhelmed Saji Achen was left suddenly speechless at the unexpected generous gesture, almost like from an appeared Angel of the Lord, later profusely thanked the Bishop and the accompanying Priest Rev.Fr. Anthony Puthenpurackal, who was instrumental in bringing the Bishop. (Bishop Paul Hinder hails from Switzerland belonging to the Franciscan Cappuchin Mission Order)

It may be noted that Rev.Fr. Saji Abraham, a very simple unassuming but very quietly enterprising efficient humble Priest, has won the hearts of other Christian denomination priests and heads by his humanly appealing ways. Saji Achen said though funds are coming trickling, God's Grace twined with intercession of Vattasseril Thirumeni has been keeping the Church construction going and humbly sought everybody's ardent prayers and generous support.

Let us pray that we can worship God in His sanctuary in Al Ain very soon.

Dr.Vinu Thomas, Dubai.