

HIS EMINENCE ANTHONY SOTER CARDINAL FERNANDEZ, AFSC † 1932 April 22 - 2020 October 28

With faith in the resurrection, the Lasallian Family of Malaysia and the Lasallian East Asia District announce the passing of His Eminence Anthony Soter Cardinal Fernandez, AFSC on 2020 October 28 at St. Francis Xavier Home for the Elderly in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. He was 88 years old and an Affiliated Member of the Institute for 15 years.



*Eternal rest grant unto Cardinal Fernandez, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

MALAYSIA'S FIRST CATHOLIC CARDINAL, ANTHONY SOTER CARDINAL FERNANDEZ AFSC, DIES AT 88

Malaysia's first Roman Catholic Cardinal, Rev. Anthony Soter Cardinal Fernandez AFSC, passed away at 12.35pm on Wednesday (Oct 28) at the Little Sisters of the Poor home for the elderly in Kuala Lumpur, Cheras.

Cardinal Fernandez, the former archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, was diagnosed with tongue cancer in November last year and was cared for at the home after undergoing immunotherapy and radiotherapy.

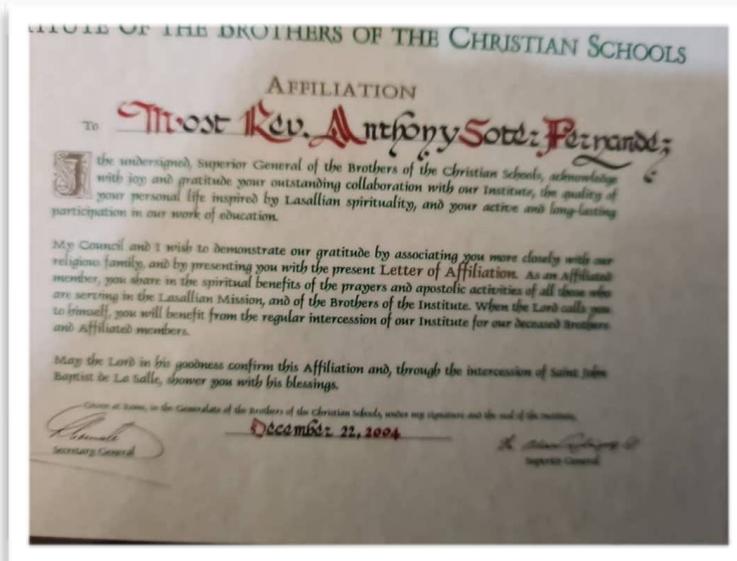
Born on 22nd April 1932 and ordained in Penang on 10th December 1966, he was Bishop of the Penang Diocese from 1978 till he was installed on 30th July 1983 as the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur. He retired as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur on 24th May 2003 after 25 years. As Archbishop Emeritus of the Kuala Lumpur Archdiocese, he was made a member of the College of Cardinals on 9th Oct 2016 and elevated as Cardinal on 19th Nov 2016.

The Church in Malaysia will surely miss their Prophetic Shepherd who cared for all Clergy and Faithful. His Eminence Anthony Soter Cardinal Fernandez had a special love for the Religious and especially for the La Salle Brothers, the Infant Jesus Sisters, and the Little Sisters of the Poor where he peacefully passed on at the St. Francis Xavier Home for the Elderly in Cheras.

His association with the La Salle Brothers goes a long way as a Seminarian when he came regularly to teach Catechism to the students in St. Xavier's Institution, Penang. When he became Bishop of Penang he used to visit the St. Joseph's Training Centre and even attend the Receiving of the Holy Habit for Novices. He knew many Brothers by name and was always interested in their health and showed a great affection for all of them.



It was this solicitude for the Brothers and their mission that Brother Superior General on 22nd December 2004 made his Eminence an Affiliated Member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. His deep concern for the service of the poor was close to his heart and thus initiated the Malaysian Catholic Education Council. As the President of the Council he was the inspiration for the transformative education in all our Catholic Schools. This was a project that gave the La Salle Brothers the opportunity to share his legacy with the Church in Malaysia. He also attended the Lasallian Renewal Course in Sangre de Cristo Santa Fe and spoke with joy and proudly communicated with others about this unique experience and till now a group photograph is hanging in his room and his visitors know his stories.



Brs. Andrew Loke and David Liao's last visit to Cardinal Fernandez at the St. Francis Xavier Home for the Elderly in Cheras on 2020 September 3.

During one of my recent visits and conversation, I asked him “Your Eminence is there any special message you would like to share with your friends?” Even with a body in pain, he was able to put a loving smile on his face and with his eyes glowing, his answer was “LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS.....FOREVER”.

Anyone who has encountered him knows that he deeply loved Jesus and tried to follow his path. Lasallians in Malaysia are proud to have an affiliated member who has lived the dreams of John Baptist de La Salle.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **(Text: Br. Anthony Rogers FSC; Photos: Br. Andrew Loke FSC)**