

Celebrating the Life of My Bosom Buddy, Nadeepa Dharmasiri



It was a Saturday in the month of September. Even though I couldn't remember the exact date, I still remember how remarkably enchanting that day was. Even though Saturdays were claimed to be very busy I never missed my class at Ms. Priyanthi Seneviratne VanDort's house for my singing class. I was a bit late that day after another class, and when I entered through the gate I heard a beautiful voice singing one of my favorite Sinhala hymns which captivated me "Jesu Amme Me Ahanna". I was quite curious to know who it was. When I entered I saw it was a new member. Chubby cheeks and the warm smile gave me a good impression about his personality. His eyes revealed a charismatic radiance. Ms. Priyanthi, introduced him to me and said "Ravindu, this is your new friend, Nadeepa" and I, a loyal Josephian and he a proud Royalist became very best "Bosom buddies".

I'll start with the beginning of my friend's life: Devnaka Abhisith Nadeepa Dharmasiri was born on 28.09.2002- the son of Aunty Ruklanthi and Uncle Ajantha, and, the beloved Brother of Navodhi Akki. He is very loyal and humble, generous, graceful, smart and funny. Someone who makes the people around him feel happy, because he laughs frequently and is always ready to greet with that endearing smile on his face. He had a great passion for music and for technology. He was a junior prefect and an eminent chorister at his Alma Mater, Royal College. Significantly both of our ambitions were coincidentally the same: To serve God in the Priesthood. But the only difference was he wanted to be a scientist and a priest. That may sound as a unique combination. But for me it sounded like "Helapa and Fish Curry". When I told him that, he started to giggle saying "yuck!!!...But I could serve the world in two ways through that!!". Even though it was a simple sentence the message he conveyed through it was greatly deep and divine.

Our connection, as a matter of fact, was something beyond acquaintanceship, it was actually brotherhood. We only met each other on Saturdays at Ms. Priyanthi, but never forgot to have a “tête-à-tête” about the week and the latest news about a movie or a movie actor or some prominent incident which made headlines in a newspaper. And I should mention about my brother Sandaru, a Josephian and Josh and Hershelle– two Peterites who were part of our click.

We were privileged to be chosen by God to be a part of Ms. Priyanthi Special Choir who sang the Welcome Song to receive Pope Francis at the Airport when he visited Sri Lanka on the 13th January 2015, Nadeepa was very happy. Even though he had made many speeches in front of large audiences and sung many times in variety of entertainment events he was very happy than any other performance he had taken part in. That morning as we were taken to the Airport Garden hotel to dress, an unforgettable incident happened. We as the big “Aiyas” were told by Ms. Priyanthi to look after the younger ones in our room, and one of them went screaming around the hotel corridor, disturbing the hotel guests at 4.00am. For our bad luck, Miss Priyanthi caught us and scolded us and gave us the punishment of standing right along the hotel corridor, with the finger on the lips. Nadeepa who was standing next to me, looking at the tourists who were coming in was dripped in sweat of fear and shame. But after we Welcomed Pope Francis while coming back in the bus he was sitting next to me he said “I was really scared that she might not give us to sing. My parents’ hopes will be gone then”. And I thought how that small incident could influence his parents’ hope. But today I understand why. It was because of the extraordinary love and respect towards his family members.

He had many shortcomings, challenges and troubles in his life. He had asthma from his very small days. Once, He fell down in a pool and broke his ankle. Subsequently, he was on crutches for two months. Yet, he never lost his spirit. All these were signs of his confidence. I admired his ways, and if it was me, I would definitely lie in bed complaining. Soon after recovery he had a fall in school and got a fracture on his hand but he participated at the drill display of the school sports meet with a plaster cast on his left arm. He was often a victim of vicious acts of jealousy and envy. But my dearest Nadeepa never fell in front of any challenge. He remained courageous. His response was that” God is making me a matured person through trials in life”.

It was quite upsetting to hear the news that Nadeepa was hospitalized. I couldn’t believe my ears when Ms. Priyanthi called us and told us to pray for him. I went immediately to see him and I saw him through the glass door of the MICU of the LRH. I couldn’t believe my eyes, because his health was perfect when we met him a week before at St. Theresa’s Church, Thimbirigasyaya when we sang for a wedding mass. But, sadly my Role Model and above all my friend left us and went to be with Christ, our Lord on the 08th of

August 2016. He was loved by everyone as it was evident in the way his friends, teachers and relations emotionally responded upon hearing of his sudden death.

Happily, I can profess anywhere that I learned many things from him; characteristic self-confidence, inner strength in obstacles, good nature, Helping and collaborating with others, welcome all with a smile and being large-hearted and many more.

So, Nadeepa, a year ago you left me. But, still I am your biggest fan, and will always be forever my beloved friend. Goodbye Nadeepa. May your soul Rest In Peace!

Your Loving Friend

Ravindu Fonseka

(Chorister-the choir INSPIRATION)