



JESUITS
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Office of the Provincial

11 November 2020

Bishop Lorenzo Leuzzi
Bishop of the Diocese of Teramo-Atri
Piazza Martiri della Libertà 14
64100 Teramo
ITALY

Dear Bishop Lorenzo Leuzzi,

Greetings of Christ from Goa!

My Jesuit confreres in Rome informed me that your Diocese is commemorating the 530th Anniversary of the birth of Fr Rudolf Acquaviva SJ who was martyred in Salcete, Goa, in the year 1583. On behalf of the Jesuit members of the Goa Province, I write to greet you and the members of your Diocese when you celebrate this occasion on 13 November 2020.

Rudolf Acquaviva came as a young man and as a missionary to Goa. He had big dreams but nothing much happened until, in 1579, the great mogul Emperor Akbar invited Jesuits to his court in Agra, North India. Fr Acquaviva shared the Christian faith with the Muslim King who was very interested to learn more about Christianity. But Fr Acquaviva was disappointed that he could not convert Emperor Akbar before his return to Salcete-Goa. He thought his mission had failed. But Acquaviva's discourses had an impact on Akbar; the powerful mogul was very good to the Christians and even permitted them to construct Churches in the Kingdom.

Rudolf Acquaviva desired martyrdom. In 1583 he was martyred in Cuncolim, a village in South Goa. Every year in July the local parish priest invites the Provincial of the Jesuits to celebrate the Eucharist and to remember the works done by Rudolf Acquaviva and the other Jesuit martyrs of Cuncolim. These early martyrs brought the faith to our villages in Salcete. The Christian people are grateful!

I wish you all the best in this celebration and may I ask for your prayers that there may be peace and harmony in this land where Rudolf Acquaviva worked.

Yours sincerely,

Roland Coelho SJ
PROVINCIAL