

# DIOCESE OF UDUPI

Bishop's House, Udupi P.O. – 576 101, Karnataka, India

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To

31.12. 2020

Sua Eminenza  
Cardinale Giovanni Angelo Becciu  
Perfectus-Congregazione della Cause Dei Santi  
Palazzo Pio XII-10, 00193  
Roma, Italia.

Your Eminence,

**Subject : Request to obtain NIHIL OBSTAT for the process of Beatification and Canonization of Rev. Fr. Alfred Roche, OFM Cap, and to initiate the Diocesan Inquiry for the same.**

I, Most Rev. Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo, the Bishop of Udupi send you my prayerful greetings. I have received a petition letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from Rev. Fr. Dr. John Alwyn Dias, OFM Cap., the Provincial Minister of Holy Trinity Capuchin Province of Karnataka, India. The Capuchin friars of the Province of Karnataka intend the cause of sainthood for one of their confreres, a holy priest, Rev. Fr. Alfred Roche, OFM Cap., who was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1924 and died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1996. They have taken the decision to this effect, in the Provincial Chapter 2010 held at FISI, Bengaluru, India.

The general postulator of the Capuchins Rev. Fr. Carolus Calloni has formally presented a petition to the Local Ordinary to initiate the Diocesan Inquiry and do the needful as per the requirements of the law. He, as the official petitioner of the cause has formally appointed Rev. Fr. Santa Lopes as vice-postulator. He is a professed member of the Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka, ordained on April 23, 2001.

Fr. Alfred Roche was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at Moodhadu Kudru, belonging to St. Peter's Parish, Barkur, in the Diocese of Udupi, South Karnataka. His father Isaac Roche and Anastella Carmine Monteiro were devoted Catholics. Fr. Alfred Roche was brought up in the same manner and he too fostered and nourished the deep faith of his parents. He took keen interest in religious vocation and chose to be a Friar Minor Capuchin. As a Capuchin priest, endowed with an evangelical spirit, proclaimed the message of Christ through his life of simplicity, purity and Franciscan joy to his brothers and people at

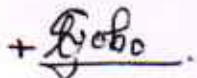
large. All the people who came in contact or lived with Fr. Alfred Roche have experienced in him deep spirituality, sacerdotal commitment and love for the poor, sick and needy.

His life of holiness continues to inspire many religious and lay people near and far. Many people visit his tomb and pray. Many favours are being received through his powerful intercession. As the Bishop of Udupi, I have visited his tomb and personally witnessed many people praying in front of his tomb with great fervour and devotion. Moreover, we have a number of living witnesses who speak about his saintly life. He is hailed as a holy and compassionate pastor by people.

May I present the cause of Rev. Fr. Alfred Roche, OFM Cap., to your Eminence and request you to grant the *Nihil Obstat* of the Holy See to initiate the Diocesan Inquiry of Canonical Procedure, so that *Deo Volente*, he may be eventually raised to the Honour of the Altar.

Requesting your guidance and relying on the Providence of God.

Your sincerely in our Lord,

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Most Rev. Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo,  
Bishop of Udupi

