



Richard De Souza: A Brief Bio



Richard de Souza, r.desouza@hotmail.co.uk, the youngest of four children of Virginia and Roy de Souza, was born in 1991 in Enfield, North London, and brought up in Bedford. He attended Sharnbrook Upper School and following a gap year to discern his vocation to the priesthood, started seminary at the Royal English College in Valladolid, Spain, followed by formation at St. Mary's College, Oscott in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, as a seminarian for the diocese of Northampton.

He traces his Goan roots to the Bardez village of Moira on his father's side and to Guirim, Siolim, Mapusa, Sangolda and Socorro, Porvorim on his mother's side. His ancestral surnames include: de Souza, da Cunha, Lobo, de Nazaré, de Sá, de Andrade, Sequeira, da Cruz, Corrêa, Noronha, Dias, Pereira, Veloso, Mendes, de Mello, Figueira, Viegas, Carrasco, da Costa, de Faria, Mascarenhas, Telles and de Ataíde.

His paternal grandmother Luiza de Souza, who resides in North London, came over to England from Uganda where his father, uncle and aunt were born and his maternal grandparents are retired in Guirim, Goa, from East Africa where his grandfather Mr DMT Nazareth worked for the British Police and late great-grandfather Mr LC "Cajetan" Nazareth was in Zanzibar.

Having started a basic family tree out of curiosity when aged twelve, genealogy soon became a favourite past time of his and he is now carrying out extensive research on the

families of Moira, putting together a collaborative book on the Moidekars with others around the globe. If you know anyone with roots in Moira, or with knowledge of Moira's families, then please put them in touch with him. His family tree research connects almost all of Moira village and he has a website with over 10,000 individuals. One relative recently told him how amazed he was that within just a few clicks he soon found himself going back generations into the family past. Contact Richard regarding the Moira village project at: the.desouza.family@gmail.com

His family tree website can be viewed at: <http://moirafamily.tribalpages.com/>

As well as his interest in Goan genealogy, preserving Goan heritage has become an important side interest for Richard. He not only wants other young people of his generation to be able to connect with the past, but wants to ensure Goan records and artefacts are preserved. Currently, he is assisting in a project which aims to do this.

Richard also acts as volunteer shrine coordinator at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Bedford, which is home to the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that toured the country in 2010. The Shrine not only welcomes pilgrims to visit, but also goes out on tour to parishes, cathedrals and religious institutions in England & Wales from 2014.

To find out more or to book a visit contact Richard at guadalupebedford@gmail.com or visit the Shrine website at: <http://www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk/>

Richard hopes that through his contributions with Goan Voice, he may inspire other young British Goans to be confident to share their stories, articles and opinions and to know that they have a Voice as part of our colourful Goan community.

