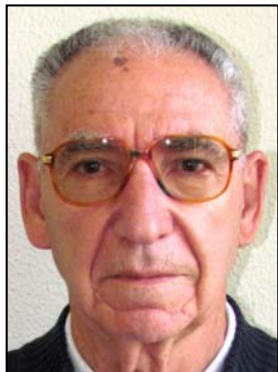


In the Father's House

«As we have been united
in the profession of the faith,
so let us keep ourselves united
in suffrage and intercession».
(Fr. Alberione)



At 5:00 AM (local time) yesterday, Saturday, 2 April 2022, our confrere died at the Unidade de Cuidados Integrados “Naturidade” in Laveiras (Caxias - Portugal), due to a tumour,

FATHER JOSÉ BENTO BERNARDO DUARTE NUNES **88 years, 73 of Pauline life, 66 of profession, 58 of priesthood**

A confrere who gave a lot to the Pauline mission, available in the various needs and, above all, a lover of work. To this trait must be added his ability to cultivate friendships, even if apparently shy and of few words.

The apostolic life of Fr José Bento is characterized by the many years he spent in the bookshop in Lisbon (1969-1999), but also by his commitment in administration as a Regional Bursar (1999-2002 and 2020-2022) and for the direction of *Família Cristã* (1967-1969). As community Superior, he knew how to take care of the confreres, in *Apelação* (1992-1999 and 2017-2018) and in Lisbon (2005-2008), but also when he was Regional Councillor and, most recently, Regional Vicar, in two periods: from 2005 to 2008 and from 2017 to 2022. For a short period, he was Master of the Juniors and responsible for the Pauline Cooperators.

The words of Fr Silvio Sassi, then Superior General, written on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination, during the *Year of Faith*, highlight all the good accomplished by this confrere of ours: «In the name of the Congregation, I thank you heartily for your availability and generosity, but above all may the Lord reward you with abundant graces and consolations».

Fr José Bento was born on 14 June 1933 in Alcária (Province of Fundão), in the centre of Portugal, to mother Julieta Nunes Duarte and father Antonio Bento, parents of five children, three of whom were gifted to the Pauline Family: Fr José Bento, Fr Antonio, also a Pauline who died in 2017, and Sister Julieta, Pious Disciple of the Divine Master.

On 13 September 1948, he entered the community of Lisbon, where, a few years later and precisely on 7 September 1954, he began his novitiate and the following year, on 8 September, he made his first religious profession, taking the name of Bernard. He was transferred to Rome to study theology and on 8 September 1960, he professed his religious vows in perpetuity; on 7 July 1963, he was ordained a priest by the imposition of the hands of Msgr. Ettore Cunial. He was supposed to leave as a missionary for Congo, at least this was the plan made to him by Fr Luigi Damaso Zanoni, but he returned to Portugal, given the many needs of our Circumscription.

For some time now, Fr José Bento had suffered from skin cancer that has recently metastasized. After some operations that took place in recent months, he was a guest at the “Naturidade” nursing home in Laveiras (Caxias), where he left us yesterday for Heaven.

May the Divine Master accompany this brother of ours to the Father, and may all the good he lived remain for eternity. In this liturgical season in which we are preparing for the now approaching Passover of the Lord, we renew our faith in Christ who, with his Resurrection, makes us new creatures, renewed apostles. May Fr José Bento also intercede with the Lord for our next General Chapter.

Rome, 3 April 2022



Fr Domenico Soliman, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral will be celebrated tomorrow, Monday, 4 April, at 10:30 AM, in the Divine Master Chapel of our community of Apelação. The body will be buried in the Apelação Cemetery.

The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities for the suffrages prescribed (Const. 65 and 65.1).