

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
Segretario generale



“As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession”.

(Fr. Alberione)

Today, 4 December 2008, at 10.30 a.m.(local time), in the house of Mumbai (India), following a cardiac arrest, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father

BRO. MARCUS DOMINIC LAKRA

78 years of age, 55 of Pauline life, 51 of religious profession

His day had begun as usual and he was in the company of some confreres when he has accused a sudden illness that in a few minutes has ended his earthly existence.

Affectionately called “Mamaji” (a word of the Indi language that means ‘uncle on the side of the mother’), Dominic was born on 2 February 1930 in Bargoda, diocese of Ranchi, in the present state of Jharkhand (once Bihar, India), the first of nine brothers, of Patras Mangu and Maria Nanki. On 15 February 1953, at 24 years of age, he entered the Society of Saint Paul in the community of Allahabad, as part of the second group of Indian Paulines. After the Novitiate (1955-1957), he made his first religious profession on 9 September 1957 and the perpetual profession on 16 July 1962, also in the same house of Allahabad where he stayed until 1982 when he was transferred to the community of Bangalore.

In these 29 years, he was in charge of the monotype department of the printing press and the hours that he spent there truly cannot be counted. In the technical area of our apostolate he has revealed himself to be at ease in all the sectors and various Paulines have been started by him in the apostolate of the press. A sports-loving person and very skillful in the game of hockey, he was called to represent the State of Uttar Pradesh in some tournaments. His interest in Indian music afterwards has led him to get a diploma in the playing of the tabla (typical drums), that he has practiced for many years and has transmitted to several confreres.

From 1982 to 1991, in Bangalore, he continued his commitment in the printing press sector, in the photography department and as in charge of the management of the large plot of terrain. After his transfer in 1991 to Mumbai, the main seat of the Pauline activities in the Indian continent, he continued his commitment in the photography department. When he felt that his energy was failing in the last years, he never diminished his spirit and initiative. It was difficult to see him seated notwithstanding his age and he was always present in the departments of the apostolate and in the bookstores where his apostolic commitment was in full swing. In the last two years his health felt the weight of age and he led a more retired life until this morning, when he has been unexpectedly called to join the Pauline Family in heaven.

Bro. Dominic, who had entered the Congregation already an adult, knew very well the demands and the beauty of the religious vocation. His total love for his vocation we clearly infer in his autograph letter written to the Superior of Allahabad on 20 July 1957, in which he asked to be admitted to the first profession: *“I shall be obedient and observe faithfully the Constitutions even if for this I should pour out the last drop of my blood”*. Those who have had the fortune to know him, know that he remained faithful to this oath of his. Bro. “Mamaji” will be remembered for his serenity, simplicity and ease of human rapport with everybody, within and outside of our communities. One who has had him close to himself will certainly feel his absence.

May his soul rest in the peace of the Lord and enjoy the reward it merited.

Rome, 4 December 2008

Bro. Lorenzo Vezzani

His funeral will take place on Saturday 6 December, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of the Community of Mumbai.

Let the Superiors of Circumscription inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1)