



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 12 noon Sunday, 31 July 2011, in the Clinic of San Camillo in Madrid, our brother priest has returned to the house of the Father.

FR. JOSÉ IGNACIO FERNÁNDEZ DE LARREA

80 years, 66 of Pauline life, 59 of profession, 53 of priesthood

José Ignazio Fernández de Larrea, the fourth of eight brothers of a deeply Christian farming family, was born in Armiñón (Álava, Spain) on 19 March 1931. One of his sisters, Antonia, is a religious of the Servants of Jesus. José entered the Congregation on 26 August 1944, at Deusto-Bilbao where he attended high school and secondary school as well as studies in philosophy, while he made the first steps in the Pauline life and mission. He lived the novitiate in Zalla (Vizcaya), where he made his first profession on 8 September 1951. In the International Pauline College in Rome he finished his theological studies and made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1955. He received the presbyteral ordination by the hands Mons. Luigi Traglia on 6 July 1958, in the crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles.

Soon after he has been destined to the House of Zalla (Vizcaya), where he began the long period of his fruitful apostolic activity, leaving always traces of his good humor, of his generous dedication to the tasks entrusted to him and of his deep love for the Congregation. At Zalla he stayed from 1959 to 1976 as teacher of the aspirants, collaborator in the printing press and in charge of various services in the House; there has only been a brief parenthesis from 1961 to 1963 when he found himself at Coslada (Madrid) as in charge of the magazine *Vida Pastoral*. Later, from 1976 to 2009, that is, for well 33 long years, he gave the best of himself as bookstore worker, first in the bookstore of Carretas in Madrid (1976-1984), then in that of Oviedo (1984-1992) and finally in that of Bilbao (1992-2009). In the periods spent at Oviedo and Bilbao he tied to his service in the respective bookstores the task of superior for two triennia in the respective local communities. Ultimately, coincidentally with the closing of the House of Bilbao on 15 December 2009, he was destined to the House of Las Rozas (Madrid), already in some way frail in health, yet still available and generous in continuing to busy himself with some services, in particular that of assisting the sick.

Fr. Larrea distinguished himself for his cheerful and jovial character and for his deep love for his native land and for his family, from which he has never detached himself without, because of this, lessening in any way his community and apostolic commitments. His manner of expressing himself, his clever quips contributed a note of mirth, so necessary many times to keep alive the flame of dialogue and to overcome difficult moments in the life of the community.

Until a short time ago Fr. Larrea has enjoyed good health. Only on the first days of November of 2009 has he begun to feel more tired every day. After a clinical exam he has been diagnosed with a pulmonary infection, for which he has had to undergo a surgical intervention at the San Sebastián Clinic of Bilbao. After surviving that difficult moment and

recovering his habitual optimism, he had joined the community of Las Rozas (Madrid). A few days ago, he was taken to the Clinic of San Camillo in Madrid, where last July 24 he has been operated for cancer at the bladder. At midday yesterday, July 31, he passed away due to an unexpected heart respiratory arrest.

We invoke the mercy of the Lord for this our dear brother, so that he may hear the voice of the Divine Master calling him to himself: “Come, good and faithful servant.” And may he intercede for all of us before the Lord, particularly for the apostolic needs of the Paulines in Spain.

Rome, 1 August 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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