



*“Come siamo stati uniti nella professione della fede, così manteniamoci uniti nel suffragio e nell’intercessione”.*

(Don Alberione)

At 10.35 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2011, at the Holy Family Hospital, Mumbai, left for the Home of the Father

### **FR. PAUL MARUTHANAKUZHIL**

**74 years old, 54 years a Pauline, 48 years of Religious Profession, 43 years Priest**

Fr Paul was born at Monippally (Kerala, South India), on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1937. Paul joined the Society in the community of Bombay in 1957. He did his Novitiate at Allahabad and made his First Religious Profession on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1963. Having completed his Philosophy studies at Allahabad, Paul proceeded to Rome along with eight of his companions to pursue his Theological studies. He made his Final profession in Rome on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1967, and was ordained a Priest there on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1968. After the Ordination he returned to India and joined the community of Mumbai where he pursued his secular studies, at the end of which he secured a Diploma in Mass Media from the prestigious St Xavier’s College, Mumbai.

In 1972, Fr Paul was transferred to Chennai as the Superior of the new Pauline community, the first Manager of Good Pastor International Book Centre and the first Parish Priest of St Luke’s Parish Church, Anna Nagar, which was entrusted to the Society that year. After having served the community with this three-fold responsibility for nine years, Fr Paul went to Bangalore for a short period and served the community as its bursar (1981-1982), and from there he went to Coimbatore as the pioneering Delegate of the newly established Pauline community for a term of four years (1982-1986).

Fr Paul was then transferred to New Delhi in 1986 as the first Director of St Paul Communications, where he worked tirelessly for seven long years to give the new sector a unique image. In 1993, he was asked to take up the responsibility of the Marketing Division of Better Yourself Books and St Paul Publications based in Mumbai. Here, he made every effort to ensure that the Marketing and Promotion initiatives for our publications reached their zenith during this period. Moreover, it was during this long tenure of 13 years as Marketing and Promotion Manager that Fr Paul discovered the “*Writer*” within himself. He began writing and compiling books, most of them very pastoral in nature, with renewed commitment and zeal. He has today to his credit over thirty-five books which are being reprinted almost every year, taking the total number of copies of his books in print to several lakhs. Just before his taking ill, he submitted yet another manuscript for publication which is expected to be released in a short while.

Fr Paul was transferred to the community of Pune in 2006, which he served as bursar for five years and lately as the Delegate as well, a responsibility he was holding at the time of his untimely death. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, Fr Paul was admitted to Ruby Hall Hospital, Pune, for replacement of the battery of his pacemaker which was successfully carried out. However, on 26<sup>th</sup> morning he suffered a stroke which resulted in a clot formation in the brain and simultaneously, paralysis at his entire left side. He was kept on ventilator for a week and seeing no improvement he was shifted to Holy Family Hospital, Bandra, Mumbai in the afternoon of 21<sup>st</sup> December, where he breathed his last. Fr Paul has his younger sister, Sr Marisa, and two nieces, Sr Lissy and Sr Shalini, among the Daughters of St Paul of the Indian Province.

Fr Paul Maruthanakuzhyil was indeed a true Pauline in the strict sense of the word, and we can surely say of him, with his heavenly patron St Paul, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept up the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me on that day*” (2 Tim 4:7-8).

*His funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011, at the Mumbai community Chapel and his mortal remains will be laid to rest at the Sewri Cemetery, along side other departed Paulines.*

Rome, 22 December 2011

Don Vincenzo Vitale

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