

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
General 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 3:50 (local time) today, in the “Holy Family Hospital” of Mumbai (India), our brother disciple has returned to the house of the Father,

BROTHER JOHN THOMAS VINCENT ALEMCHERIL
79 years: 58 of Pauline life and 53 of religious profession

His death was due to a relapse after he suffered a sudden heart attack and a cerebral stroke in India in the month of July last year, apparently adequately overcome as to allow him to organize his return trip to Rome from vacation.

Brother Vincent was born in Kothanelloor, Kerala (India) on 9 January 1937 and at age 20 entered the Congregation at the Allahabad community that would be his home for more than 15 years. Here he lived some important formation stages: the novitiate (1960-1962) and his first religious profession (16 July 1962). Exactly five years later he made his perpetual profession in Bombay (now Mumbai). In this city Brother Vincent began his apostolate in the book centre, with skill and apostolic passion that accompanied him for 50 years, first in his native land and then in Italy. In fact, in 1980 he left India and, bringing them always in his heart, reached the community of Bari (Italy) where he stayed for 23 years. It is a long period characterized by his great kindness to all who entered the book centre, with the parish priests in particular, and travelled along the length and breadth of some dioceses of Puglia. In 2003 he inserted himself into the International Book Centre of Rome – Via Conciliazione – and remained there until six months ago, when he went back to India for a period of vacation, got sick and up until to his death today.

In this last book centre Brother Vincent has continued to be a Pauline skilled in relationships, able to accommodate and to be well appreciated himself, a disciple who felt the book centre as the true “pulpit” of evangelization, showing how good relations are essential in our apostolate. This is where he became friendly with many people, among them Prof. Andrea Riccardi (founder of the Community of Sant’Egidio), Card. Kurt Koch (President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity) and Card. Agostino Cacciavillan (former apostolic Nuncio to India). The granting of Italian citizenship took place in Bari in 1996 expresses his great ability to fit into a country and a distant culture, a quality typically Pauline. Writing a few years ago our brothers of India he said: «This is my twelfth year of service to the book centre in Rome and I would be very happy to continue to give the best of myself as long as the Lord will give me health».

We thank the Lord for the gift of Brother Vincent, for what he has witnessed, for the apostolate that we shared with him. We entrust him now to the Divine Master and his infinite Mercy. Together with our dear Blessed James and Blessed Timothy, the Venerable Brother Andrea Borello, may he enjoy the Love that never ends and live in Christ for eternity. We accompany our brother with suffrage.

Rome, 13 January 2016

Fr. Domenico Soliman

The funeral will be held tomorrow, 14 January, at 8:30 in the Pauline community chapel in Mumbai. The remains will then be brought to his birth place, where he will be buried as per the will of the family.

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