

## 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)



During the night of 12 May 2017, at 1:30 PM local time at the Ernakulam Lisie Hospital (Kochi, India), ended the earthly life of the Disciple

**BROTHER MATHEW CARMEL KIZHAKEL**  
**82 years, 62 of Pauline life and 56 of religious profession**

With Brother Mathew Carmel, a tireless bookshop worker and editor, comes the loss of one of the witnesses of the mighty growth of the Pauline presence in India since the '60s. Reading in between the lines of his life, one easily understands that, like the faithful servant of the Gospel (see Mt 25:14-30), he has multiplied his natural talents for the benefits of many: above all, a strong propensity to read and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, especially aimed at theological deepening, which will prompt him to keep up-to-date on contemporary authors and the themes that they confront along the way. His Pauline apostolic life, spent largely in the bookshop – for 42 good years! –, is the most obvious evidence. Many Indian brothers still remember the many hours of the night dedicated by Brother Carmel to the study of his favourite authors. This tireless yearning for study prompted him, at some point in his journey, to undertake theological studies (1988-1991), which he completed brilliantly by obtaining the baccalaureate at the Saint Pius X College of Goregaon (Mumbai).

Mathew was born on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1934 in Kerala, Kappad (Kanjirappally diocese). His father Joseph, a farmer, and his mother Mariam, a housewife, attended to the eight children (four brothers and four sisters), of whom he is the third. He entered on 15 August 1954 in the Mumbai community and on 16 July 1960, after two years of novitiate, he emitted the first religious profession in Allahabad, taking the religious name of Carmel. Five years later, he confirmed his consecration in perpetuity in Mumbai.

Carmel immediately became one of the pioneers of the bookshop apostolate of the then India Region. As soon as he joined, he was, in fact, immediately involved in the *Examiner Press Bookshop* in Mumbai. During the years of formation, he found repeated confirmations, which pushed him to give his strength with ever-greater conviction to this privileged form of the Pauline apostolate. Among these we remember the encouragement of Fr. Alfonso Ferrero, the historical founder of our presence in India, who, as Master, promoting him to perpetual profession, wrote in the report that «Carmel's love for knowledge and his intelligence push him always to study alone» and that «his work in the bookshop, now for many years, is constant and continuously uninterrupted from eight in the morning to seven in the evening».

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Following his journey over the years, we find him as a bookshop worker at the *Examiner Press Bookshop* in Mumbai (1954-1957, 1960-1972, 1983-1988, 1991-1995), the *Good Pastor International Book Centre* in Chennai (1972-1976), the *St Paul Book Centre* in Kochi (1976-1978) and the *St. Paul Book Centre* in Allahabad (1995-2000). In Mumbai, thanks to his spirit of entrepreneurship, he also obtained the exclusive right to import and distribute in India numerous foreign periodicals, a service highly appreciated by a good number of Indian seminaries. His missionary parenthesis is also interesting: from 1978 to 1983, we find him, in fact, as a bookshop worker at the *Libreria San Paolo* in Rome.

In the years he was involved in the bookshop at Allahabad, Brother Carmel has also handled the publication of *Inspirational Quote*, a Pauline monthly of quotations and spiritual thoughts (1995-2000). In this same city, strong in his editorial experience, he subsequently took over the direction of the Hindi publication *Atmonnati Prakashan* (2001-2013). During this time, he also followed the publication and financing of several books, some of which were translated abroad. Many were his activities in the editorial sector that, in October 2011, the *Hindi Catholic Sahitya Samiti*, a Foundation dedicated to the promotion of books, conferred on him the title “Hindi Sahitya Ratna” for his contribution to the Hindi Catholic literature. Among the other assignments in his life, we recall his being the librarian at the Jeevadhara Theology Centre in Kottayam (2000-2001) in view of the affiliation of this institute at the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam.

Only in the last five years Brother Carmel has slowed down his life’s rhythm due to some malady, which has worsened over the last few weeks, until he was recently hospitalized. His simplicity of life and his unselfish dedication to the apostolate are the true legacy that he leaves to the brothers of the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province, now that they are about to undertake, with the next Canonical Visit, a new period of their history.

Rome, 13 May 2017



Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral will be celebrated on Sunday, 14 May 2017, at 11:30 AM (local time) at St. Jude’s Church, Ernakulam (Kochi). The body of Brother Mathew Carmel will then be buried in the adjacent cemetery.*

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Cost. 65 and 65.1).