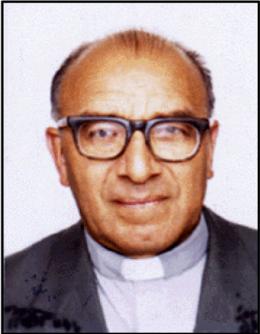


In the Father's House

*«As we have been united
in the profession of the faith,
so let us keep ourselves united
in suffrage and intercession».*
(Fr. Alberione)



On February 4 at 7:30 am (local time) at the “Simón Bolívar” hospital in Bogotá, our brother priest who was hospitalized since last January 24 has returned to the Father due to cardio-respiratory arrest.

FR. JORGE ENRIQUE GABRIEL CÓRTEZ FORERO

79 years of age, 64 of Pauline life, 57 of profession and 49 of priesthood

The first of six brothers, Fr. Jorge was born in Arcabuco (Region of Boyacá) on June 14, 1938 to a poor family. On 26 January 1954, at the age of 16, he entered the Congregation in the Community of Bogotá. Thus, he began a long journey of Pauline life lived with generosity and passion. Those were the years in which Colombia faced great contrasts, the result of which was social inequality and which led to the civil war known as “la Violencia”.

His novitiate years began in Bogotá, after which he made the first religious profession on 11 February 1960. He left for Rome to study theology and, like many other confreres around the world, attended the International Pauline Theological Class. It was during these years that he made his perpetual profession (11 February 1966). Two years later, he received the presbyterate (30 June 1968). This year, he would have celebrated his 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Returning to Colombia, where he stayed in Bogotá from 1970 to 1984, Fr. Jorge was assigned with different tasks, ranging from formation (teacher in the minor seminary until 1986, Master of the Juniors during the period of 1971-1972 and 1981-1982, vocation animator, Master of the aspirants from 1973-1977, Master of postulants 1978-1980) to the editorial staff (Assistant Editor, Editor-in-chief of Familia 1970-1974, director of Rivista Popular from 1974-1980, director of El Cooperador Paulino 1982-1983, director of Vida Pastoral 1984-1995). He was later appointed as Master of Novices from 1987-1989 in the community of Medellín, after which he returned to Bogotá as the Provincial Superior (1989-1993).

Fr. Jorge, also called “Pepo”, will still receive other assignments—a sign of a dynamic life wherein he was ready to be of help in the various apostolates. Blessed with a good sense of humour and an amiable soul, he was certainly a Pauline who loved our mission. He stayed in Medellín from 1993 to 2001 as Superior of the community and Coordinator of the pastoral care of vocations and formation (1996-2001), Director of the apostolate (1997-1998) and Councillor and Provincial Vicar (1997-2001), before leaving for Quito (Ecuador) as the Local Superior until 2003.

His last community was in Bogotá where he served as Superior of the community, and then as Councillor of the Province (2005-2009).

For his 25th anniversary of presbyteral ordination, he wrote a testimony which he entitled “Humble Offering”. These were the words that show us what

was within his heart and his living relationship with the Lord: “... I offer you my family to whom I owe my life and affection, my friends of good and bad times, my community because I owe it to who I am ... Now, I remember that nothing belongs to me because there was that day when I have consecrated everything. Today, I want to renew that consecration: I give myself back to you, with all my soul. I ask you only one thing: give me as much love as you have for me, from sunrise to sunset; grant me everything and I give myself completely to you, and we will be one and the same host of love”.

Let us now entrust Fr. Jorge to the Divine Master, that his love heals all of our fragility. Recalling the apostolic dynamism of this confrere of ours, we renew the joy of belonging to the Pauline Family, to live as apostles. “Let us ask for the grace to love the apostolate, or better, thanking the Lord who has chosen us for this. It is not a grace that we do to God, let us say, when we exercise the apostolate: it is instead a privilege that the Lord has granted to us” (Thoughts of Blessed Alberione in today’s Pauline Agenda). To Fr. Jorge, may he intercede for us as the Interchapter begins next week, Thursday 15 February.

Rome, 6 February 2018

Fr. Domenico Soliman, ssp

The Circumscription superiors may kindly inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages for the deceased (Cost. 65 e 65.1).