

## 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)



At 1 AM on 17 August 2019, the Disciple of the Divine Master died in São Paulo (Brazil) due to cardio-respiratory failure

### **BROTHER HONÓRIO PASCOAL DALBOSCO** **96 years, 74 of Pauline life and 72 of religious profession**

With the death of frei Pascoal (“Brother Pascoal”) an important piece of history of the Congregation in the Province of Brazil goes away. His existence represents well the lifestyle of that group of Pauline apostles who built – almost with bare hands, with so much good will and infinite sacrifices – the first outposts of the Pauline apostolate in South America. In the circumstances of life he has ceaselessly made of necessity a virtue, thanks to that strong inner drive – a mixture of Christian faith inherited from the fathers and of human will, offspring of his peasant origins –, which has always led him to overcome the difficulties of life. Since he was a child he was, in fact, self-taught by necessity, something he was proud of. Thus, as a child he can attend only up to the third year of the municipal primary school, a circumstance that leads him to recover the subjects on his own. So also in the long years of his old age and physical immobility spent in the “Cidade Paulina” in São Paulo, where he is asked for so much apostolate of suffering as a last effort before entering the Kingdom of Heaven. In the midst of so many stories, a book could be written. So, in this regard, he writes of himself: *«All the activities carried out in my life have required me a lot of study, especially of languages. So I learned Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, French and English without ever sitting on a school desk. Everything is grace. I hope I have not lost anything in my efforts to make this grace bear fruit».*

Honório was born into a poor but religious family on 14 June 1923 in Lageado Alto – Guabiruba, a place of Italo-German colonization at the end of the 1800s located in the State of Santa Catarina (Brazil). His parents, Luiz Dalbosco and Madalena Smaniotti, are labourers. He was baptized on 29 July 1923 and confirmed on 16 April 1931. From the local chronicles, we learn that at the age of 17, in 1940 and up until 1944, he was the sacristan of the nearby Capela Imaculada Conceição, a job he inherited from an elder of the place, João Batista Suem. The pay, two bins of corn for each of the 62 families that benefited from the service, is low but sufficient to think big: in addition to supporting himself, the boy saves enough to buy land in the area, a future base to stabilize his life, to build himself a house and marry the girlfriend who he found in the meanwhile. But the young man is restless. The magazines published by the Paulines of São Paulo regularly arrive from the nearby town of Brusque. He reads them from top to bottom with voracity. Thus, almost by chance, he became passionate about an apostolate which he grabbed, as a user, all the potential: bringing the good news of the Gospel to men, especially to those more distant.

At the age of 22 the decision is taken: after explaining the reasons for his choice, he left everyone – parents, girlfriend and camps – to enter the Pious Society of Saint Paul as a postulant. He crossed the entrance of the old community of Rua Major Maragliano to São Paulo on 6 January 1945. The Paulines have been in Brazil for only 14 years and the work to be done is still much...

Beginning the novitiate in 1946 under the guidance of Father Ireneo Gramaglia, on 19 March 1947, on the occasion of the solemnity of St. Joseph, he made his first

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religious profession as a Disciple of the Divine Master, taking on the name by which he will always be known from then on: Pascoal. After two years in printing at São Paulo, on 7 March 1949 he was sent with Father Isidoro Traffano to found the community of Caxias do Sul. There, the Pauline missionaries opened a small bookstore in Rua Sinimbu and went to live in a modest house. On 19 March 1952, frei Pascoal professed the religious vows forever. Now the house of Caxias started, in 1954 the young man was sent to the northeast of Brazil, to Recife, capital of the state of Pernambuco. Here for two years he was engaged in the local printing house and taught some subjects in the Pauline student in residence. In 1956, at the request of the Superiors, he returned to Caxias and remained there until 1962, contributing greatly to the growth of the community. From that year until 1975, we found him in the community of Cidade Paulina in São Paulo. During this period he was sent as a representative of the Province to the Special General Chapter (1969-71), a task he took with great effort and dedication. In 1975, as frei Pascoal himself said, something extraordinary happened: at the General Chapter of 1975, under the third Superior General Fr. Raffaele Tonni, he was elected General Councillor (together with Fr. Perino, Fr. Teofilo Pérez, Fr. Zilli, Bro. Milella and Bro. Prando). At the end of this service, in 1980, he returned to São Paulo, engaging himself in the publishing field as a reviewer, translator and editor of some works. He will later be Provincial Councillor (1992-1996) and Master of Novices in Caxias (2001-2004).

In December 2010, he left Caxias and returned to São Paulo – Cidade Paulina, where, after having undergone a femur surgery, he lived immobilized in a wheelchair until the end of his life, always well assisted by health workers. Despite his infirmity, he has always participated daily in the Eucharistic celebration and in the Eucharistic Visit, not forgetting the good habit of reading the printed newspaper and keeping up to date on the news on television. In the last two years, his health has deteriorated considerably and he has lost the ability to speak.

During his long life frei Pascoal exercised the Pauline apostolate in its various expressions: creativity, technical, diffusion, teaching, government, resulting in an important source of inspiration for the new generation of Disciples of the Province. An all-round apostle, always available and, at the end of his life, well gratified to see that so many efforts have been rewarded with many young people willing to take on today the witness of the Pauline mission in Brazil.

*Rome, 18 August 2019*



*Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General*

*The funeral has taken place on August 18, 2019, at 10 AM in the Chapel of the community of Cidade Paulina (São Paulo). His body has then been buried in the Cemitério Santíssimo Sacramento of São Paulo.*

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