

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 12:40 AM (local time) on Sunday 25 February 2024, the Lord visited the community of Makati (Philippines) and called to himself

BROTHER RODOLFO DOMINIC EGIDA **87 years, 66 of Pauline life, 61 of religious profession**

Rodolfo was born in Anini-Y (Antique, Philippines) on 12 March 1936 to Catalino Egida and Ceferina Hernaez. He had two older sisters. He entered the community of Pasay City on 17 June 1957 where he spent his formation as an aspirant and postulant. He began his Novitiate at the newly formed community of Makati on 29 June 1960. He made his First Profession of Vows on 30 June 1962 and his Perpetual Profession on 30 June 1967. Thus he wrote of his Pauline vocation: "This is an unspeakable grace that God and His Most Holy Mother gave me. I could say that this is the greatest gift I have received from them: the gift of serving God and souls."

Bro. Dominic (or Bro. "Gidz" as he was known) exercised his apostolate first in the St Pauls Bookshop, then in the printing house in Makati, operating the offset machine. The priest, Director of the printing house, once said that Brother Dominic, despite having no specialized training, was better than him in many ways.

When the Novitiate House was founded in Pampanga in 1983, Bro. Dominic joined the community and managed the printing press. In 2000, he joined the new community of Iloilo, where he remained for twenty-two years as Director of St Pauls Diffusion and administrator of the house. In 2022, after the COVID-19 pandemic, he moved to the Makati community due to his advanced age and health problems.

Bro. Dominic was a docile, serene, industrious and generous person. He had a practical sense of poverty: he did not have many needs; he was satisfied with what he received and he took great care of the community's goods.

Bro. Dominic was close to the younger members, those in the initial formation and the former seminarians. In Iloilo, he became a point of reference for former seminarians who organized themselves into an association of former students and met in the residence of the Society of Saint Paul. He was also close to his family which he visited regularly in Anini-Y. As a Pauline he was an "influencer" for those in the province of Antique who followed their religious vocation not only in the Society of Saint Paul, but also in the Pauline Family.

In Makati Bro. Dominic gave a strong testimony of prayer and patience in suffering. He joined the community during Mass and Visits, assisted by health workers. He greeted with a smile anyone he met during morning exercises or anyone who came to visit him.

In the last stage of his illness, caused by prostate cancer, he returned to Makati from the hospital and lived at home for his last two days. The day before his death he had the grace of receiving a visit from his family, who stayed with him and prayed together. He was lucid and did not appear to be dying. But not long after they retired, Dominic peacefully entered his eternal rest.

Bro. Dominic leaves us a beautiful example of Pauline life and apostolate. He was proud and happy with the vocation of Pauline Disciple that he had chosen. He will remain imprinted in the memory of the Disciples, especially the younger ones, who will remember him with esteem and admiration.

In 2012, the then Superior General, Fr Silvio Sassi, wrote to our confrere on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of Religious Profession: "Dear Brother Dominic, thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of the entire Congregation, for the generous contribution offered to the Philippine-Macau Province in various sectors of the Pauline apostolate: from administration to itinerant diffusion, to the bookshop... The Lord will not fail to reward your industriousness and your efforts with the 'hundredfold' promised to the apostles."

May the Lord welcome this dear brother of ours into the joy of his Kingdom and we ask him to intercede for numerous and holy vocations in the Pauline Family and above all for the Brother Disciples.

Rome, 26 February 2024

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated in the morning of February 28 and the body will be buried in the Pauline cemetery of Lipa City.

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