

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 1:45 AM (local time) on Sunday, 7 August 2022, our confrere passed away

FATHER TOMÁS RAFAEL MARTÍNEZ RAYAS
75 years, 61 of Pauline life, 53 of profession, 47 of priesthood

Father Tomás, who belonged to the Los Angeles community for many years, and was on vacation in Comonfort, Guanajuato (Mexico), his native land, when he contracted Covid 19 which compromised his health, causing his death.

On 19 September 1946, he saw the light in a simple family, and his parents, Esteban Martínez and Consuelo Rayas, taught him a sense of responsibility, work and the foundations of the Christian faith from an early age. The values absorbed within the family were those that accompanied him in his life as a Pauline. In his letter of recommendation, the Parish Priest describes him as a convinced and God-fearing young Christian. His simplicity and essentiality have always characterized him, both in his way of dressing and in his relationship with people.

He entered the Congregation in the Community of Taxqueña on 24 February 1961, accompanied by his guitar, faithful companion of his life, with which he interpreted traditional music and cheerful songs. Due to his somewhat introverted character, he was not often seen playing in public and when someone praised him, he blushed and said nothing.

He entered the novitiate on 24 December 1966, and made his first profession on 8 September, taking the name of Rafael; exactly six years later, he made his perpetual profession and received the priesthood on 28 June 1975 from the hands of Cardinal Miguel Darío Miranda. Days before his ordination, he wrote to the Provincial: "I am willing to do what you think is convenient, that I can do well and that is necessary, and go where there is need, even if for my part I would like to continue working in the editorial office, possibly studying for this". Much of his life was dedicated to the editorial apostolate and he published some catechetical booklets for children. Another of his passions was taking care of fruit trees in the communities where he lived.

From 1975 to 1995, he lived in Mexico, mainly in Guadalajara, combining formative and apostolic activities: Master of aspirants, novices (1994-1998) and juniors and at the same time Editor and Director of production.

From 1995 to today, he has almost always lived in the United States, especially in Los Angeles, where he has devoted his energies entirely to the Pauline apostolate: in charge of the bookstore, of circulation, of periodicals and particularly of "Together".

Tomas was a person who supervised his formation by constantly reading and paying attention to the grammar rules that he strictly applied. For 16 years, he had been publishing weekly reflections on the liturgy. He was reserved, spoke little, a lover of punctuality, discipline and work. We entrust Fr Tomas to the Divine Master, who awaits his faithful servants, so that he can enjoy eternal happiness in the heavenly liturgy and that he can now intercede for us in our fidelity and love for the Pauline apostolate.

Rome, 9 August 2022

Brother Lorenzo Vezzani

His funeral was celebrated on 8 August 2022, in the San Francisco Church of Comonfort, Guanajuato, where he was interred in the Municipal Cemetery.

The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities for the suffrages prescribed (Const. 65 and 65.1).