

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 01:00 PM (local time) on Saturday, 18 December, our confrere suddenly died in a retirement home in Tabuaço, in the north of Portugal, where he had resided for just under a year

FATHER AGOSTINHO JOÃO CORREIA DE FRANÇA **79 years, 66 of Pauline life, 51 of priesthood**

Father Agostinho was born in Boaventura (Portugal) on 8 October 1942, into a family of 11 children, from parents José Correia and Maria José De França. He entered the community of Lisbon on 1 September 1955. He began his novitiate on 7 September 1964, made his First profession on 20 August 1966 and perpetual profession on 8 September 1969. He was ordained a priest by Pope Saint Paul VI on 17 May 1970 on the Sunday of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Father França, as he was known, lived his entire Pauline life exercising the publishing apostolate ever since he was engaged in Linotype machines. Thousands of pages of books passed before his eyes, from which he was always learning something new.

Most of his apostolic activity was dedicated to the magazine *Família Cristã* of which he was Director for almost 30 years, a magazine in which he committed all his energy and creativity and where he tried to bring to overseas lands, operating as well as pastoral animator all over places among Portuguese-speaking peoples.

His apostolic commitment was also made concrete in the formative sphere, as Master of the preparatory Aspirants, Vocational Animator and Coordinator of Formation on several occasions. For some years, he was Director General of the Apostolate and Editorial Director (2002-2005). He also accompanied the journey of the members of the Pauline Institutes of Secular Consecrated Life. Among his assignments, we should mention that of Regional Vicar (2002-2005) and Regional Secretary (2008-2009).

Father França was a religious who was very attached to the charism of Blessed James Alberione because he was proud of our Founder who gave the Church "new ways" for evangelization.

In community, Father França was a very serene and peaceful man, "playful", always with equilibrium. He was in many ways a "formator", especially for making himself available to modern apostolates, and for all types of apostolic, pastoral and parish work that he diligently carried out. The young people and many lay people, observing him, saw in him a model to inspire them for the way in which he lived his missionary commitments.

«Your Pauline ministry – wrote the Superior General, Fr Valdir José De Castro, to Fr Agostinho on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination – has been rich in experiences, encounters, apostolates... The Lord bless you for your generosity».

Suffering from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, he recently needed a lot of treatment, so in February 2021 it was necessary to move him to the retirement home "Santa Casa della Misericordia" in Tabuaço, in the north of Portugal, where he died the other day.

May the Lord abundantly reward this dear brother of ours with the peace and joy of his Kingdom and may he now fully contemplate the mystery of God's love. Let us pray that he may intercede for holy and zealous vocations of the Pauline apostolate.

Rome, 20 December 2021

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

As of now, the date of the funeral is not known. The body will be buried in the Apelação cemetery.

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