

# 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 8:00 PM (local time) on Thursday 23 December 2021, our confrere died in the Community of Vizconde de los Asilos (Madrid), due to cardiorespiratory arrest

## **FATHER FRANCISCO JESÚS ARES CERQUEIRO** **87 years, 74 of Pauline life, 60 of priesthood**

Father Francisco Jesús Ares Cerqueiro was born in the picturesque town of Rial del Dubra (La Coruña) on 18 July 1934, into a family with a profound Christian life, consisting of father José, mother Maria and seven brothers, one of whom a Pauline, Father Riccardo, who died a few months ago. He was baptized on 19 July of the same year and confirmed on 2 August 1946. On 23 August 1947, he entered the community of Zalla (Vizcaya), where he also began his novitiate on 7 September 1953, at the end of which he made the first religious Profession on 8 September 1954. He moved to Rome to study theology, where he also perpetually professed his religious vows on 8 September 1959. Also in Rome, he was ordained a priest on 2 July 1961, by the imposition of the hands of Msgr. Ettore Cunial.

“Padre Paco”, as everyone knew him, was a cheerful, serene person who lived intensely the Pauline life and priesthood.

As soon as he was ordained a priest, shortly after his return to Spain, he began his apostolate as a formator of aspirants in the Community of Zalla.

In 1962, he left for Santiago de Chile as a teacher and formator of aspirants, at the same time engaged in the publishing field. In 1969, we find him in Buenos Aires (Argentina), always as a formator and inserted in the editorial office.

In 1977, when Argentina was going through difficult times on a social and political level due to the dictatorship of General Videla, he returned to Spain, in the community of the Provincial House, where he gave his precious collaboration in publishing. From then until 2012, living in the different communities of Madrid (Protasio Gómez, Las Rozas, Resina and Vizconde de los Asilos), Padre Paco showed his precious and always committed availability in various areas of our mission: master of aspirants (1992-1996), of the juniors (1999-2001) and Coordinator of the Vocation Ministry; superior of the community of Resina (1997-2008) and Visconde de los Asilos (2008-2011); Provincial Councilor (2008-2011) and Provincial Vicar (2010-2011). To be underlined is his continuous apostolic commitment in the editorial office from 1977 to 2012, as well as in the marketing and advertising sector of our publishing house, demonstrating that his cultural heritage was truly vast.

He leaves, in all the people who knew him and who were lucky enough to live with him, the pleasant memory of a truly responsible and very committed Pauline. A really kind and caring man, a lover of conversation, sometimes a bit enigmatic in his answers, but always clear and transparent in what he wanted to communicate.

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Around 1980, doctors identified an onset of osteoporosis. Although our confrere took his health very seriously, this disease soon showed him its ugliest face, forcing him, between 1988 and 2013, to undergo six operations on his left hip. Added to this, from 2014, was the appearance of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. And he was not lacking in other diseases, including some complications of a pulmonary nature. Padre Paco has made the infirmary his habitual residence, especially during the last three years, moving from bed to chair and from chair to bed.

We heartily entrust to the Lord this dear brother, who lived the Pauline life and mission with true passion, living his illness united to the redemptive cross of Christ. May he, so committed to accompanying and forming young Paulines, intercede with the Divine Master so that new vocations may flourish in the Spanish Province and throughout the Pauline world.

*Rome, 28 December 2021*

*Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp*

*The date of the funeral is not yet known. The body will be buried in the parish cemetery of Rial (La Coruña).*

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