

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 5:30 PM on Friday, 3 March 2023, he died in the infirmary of the Community of *San Paolo* in Rome, due to *dissection* of the aorta,

FATHER JOVEN JOSE LAGDAMEN JAGURIN **49 years, 29 of Pauline life, 24 of profession and 16 of priesthood**

Father Joven bade us goodbye unexpectedly, all too quickly, almost without disturbing us, bequeathing us that smile that characterized him. A brother with a simple trait and always ready to do good. His jovial face spoke of a person who was spontaneously capable of creating fraternal relationships, intent on opening up new possibilities, thanks to his capacity to dialogue.

His goodness was concrete, truly Pauline, because he loved our mission, dedicating his best energies full-time to it. His apostolate took place above all in the area of administration, first as Bursar of the Philippines-Macau Province (2006-2011) and then as Assistant to the General Bursar (2015-2022). And all this with an unmistakable style: generosity. Yes, the generosity for the time he dedicated to it, for what he gave of himself, for his concern for the confreres, sick or not, committing himself to the needs of the community. He had prepared himself for this apostolate by attending a specialization course at the Ateneo Business School, but above all, by practicing to do well what is good. He was not afraid to be demanding, just as he knew very well that every form of providence had to be kept for the benefit of the apostolate. He knew how to value everyone's talents, something that the lay collaborators who worked with him easily recognized.

His life was sustained by a faith born in the family and matured along the course of his Pauline vocation. To get to know Father Joven well, one must know how was his relationship with the Divine Master, which is also simple and concrete at the same time. He preferred to narrate facts, episodes, rather than dwell on abstract considerations. This faith of his in Christ was contagious and for this very reason he knew how to find the right words to support others, as when he encouraged a sick man, initially indifferent to faith, to entrust himself to the Lord, who like him and with him was facing serious bronchial problems at the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome due to Covid-19.

Father Joven was born on 28 August 1973 in Libon (Albay - Philippines) to father Herminigildo and mother Elizabeth Jagurin, the youngest of six siblings (one brother and four sisters). It is, thanks to the faith that he breathes in his family and, above all, thanks to the relationship with his mother, that on 2 June 1993 he decided to enter our community of Silang. On 4 June 1997, he entered the Novitiate in the community of San Fernando, making his First Religious Profession in Makati on 7 June of the following year, which he would pronounce in perpetuity on 5 December 2004. On 28 May 2006, Msgr. Socrates Villegas, Bishop of Balanga, ordained him Presbyter.

During the years lived in the Philippines, he increased the sense of belonging to the Pauline Family by animating the various communities, accompanying the members of the Pauline Institutes of Secular Consecrated Life, a relationship that will last for life, and which in Rome will expand even more.

He arrived in Italy in the spring of 2015, when the then Superior General, Fr Valdir José De Castro, asked him to join the Office of the General Bursar. He accepted it with joy, ready to start a new chapter of his Pauline life. His style does not change, because simplicity and availability continue to accompany him within the *Canonico Chiesa* Community. Here he engaged in an experience of internationality, a context that made him more aware that the Pauline mission truly embraces the whole world. In the community, he became a point of reference for various needs, until he was appointed Delegate of the Superior General (2018-2022). How can we fail to mention his attention to persons, his care in preparing moments of celebration well. Precisely, doing well what is good.

On 16 June 2022, the chapter confreres elected him General Councilor. When asked if he accepts this service, Father Joven bursts into tears, a mixture of surprise and awareness of the responsibility that awaits him, but once again, his “yes” expresses an available heart. And so, there he was in Congo for his first canonical visit, then in India, in Portugal, in Venezuela and, his last trip, in the United States. The Houses dependent on the General Government were also entrusted to him.

In the invitation made for his priestly ordination, he placed the verse of Isaiah 61:1: «The Lord has anointed me; he sent me to bring good news...». This is what Father Joven really shared among us and with many people he knew. His person was a “good news”, not just a trait that speaks of his origins, but an apostolic style, that of the Pauline “editor”, of one who loves to create communion.

Let us thank the Divine Master for having given us this confrere. Together with Blessed James Alberione and the Pauline Family who now live with God, he will continue to support our mission. He will continue to remind us how necessary it is to allow ourselves to be transformed in our way of thinking and living (Rom 12:2), in order to “prophetically proclaim the joy of the Gospel”. Yes, the true joy that is Jesus.

To you, dear Father Joven, our profound “thank you”.

Rome, 5 March 2023

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp
Superior General

The funeral will be celebrated at 9:30 AM, on Monday, 6 March, in the Shrine of the Queen of the Apostles. The body will be transported and then buried in the cemetery of Libon (Philippines).

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