

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 9:20 PM (local time) of Saturday, 17 June 2023, he died due to a fatal car accident on the previous day

FATHER ANTHONY SWAMY

40 years, 24 of Pauline life, 20 of profession and 10 of priesthood

Fr Anthony was born at Otterthotti, Valan Nagar (India), on 27 June 1982, the last of four children (three brothers and a sister), by parents Arockia and Mary Amalorpava. He entered the community of Bangalore on 5 July 1996, began his Novitiate on 30 May 2002, made his First Religious Profession on 31 May 2003, was definitively consecrated with his Perpetual Profession on 1 January 2012. He was ordained a priest on 10 May 2013.

Fr Swamy was passionate about the Pauline mission and dedicated himself to it with all his heart. His fidelity and his love for the apostolate made him a joyful missionary of the Word, promptly accepting his first transfer to Nigeria, immediately after his priestly ordination. Although it was all new to him, Fr Anthony made every effort to familiarize himself with the new culture, language and traditions of Nigeria. When he set foot in Ibadan (Nigeria), he did not yet know how much it would cost him to be a Pauline missionary in concrete terms. However, with his modest style, he gave himself totally, trusting in God's providence and docilely entrusting himself to Jesus, the Divine Master, and this made the difference in his life in Nigeria.

The following year he was transferred to the community of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), where he devoted himself passionately to growing the then last book centre in the region, perhaps one of the largest book centres in the entire Congregation and thus establishing the Pauline presence on site. After the service carried out in Port Harcourt, he became part of the strategic Pauline center of Enugu, where once again he dedicated himself entirely to giving impetus to the Pauline apostolate, together with his confreres. Nigeria, at that time, was experiencing a moment of crisis and Fr Swamy, as always, managed to find a way to be able to continue our mission even during those critical times of financial, political and other types of difficulties which raged in the Country. In Enugu he held various responsibilities: Vice Superior of the community, Assistant Parish Priest of Queen of the Apostles Parish and Associate Director of St Paul Book Centre.

Fr Swamy was a man who lived life in common to the fullest. When he happened to return to the community after a very hectic day at the Centre, he put on his farmer's clothes and started working on the small domestic farm, planting vegetables and other seasonal products. He also had a special love for domestic animals, he liked raising chickens, rabbits, and livestock on a small scale.

Once the experience in Nigeria ended, he returned to India and accepted the position of Parish Priest of St Paul's Church, Nagasandea. The commit-

ment and dedication that Fr Swamy has poured into his new ministry, the positive influence of his personality, the Pauline style he has transmitted and his love for the parishioners have made a great difference in the parish and made himself a particularly beloved shepherd. Certainly, the memory of his person will fondly linger long in the hearts and minds of the people of St Paul's Parish. As Parish Priest he also followed the animation of young people and children with particular care and love, and continued in this service of his until he breathed his last.

Fr Swamy was a kind soul and left an indelible mark on all who knew him, with his contagious smile, his fun way of relating, easy and deep personal communication, his informal and simple traits and a decided preference for the poor and marginalized.

With the sudden and unexpected passing of Fr Swamy, the Society of St Paul in general and the India-Great Britain-Ireland Province in particular have lost a special and zealous Pauline, a pious and dutiful religious, a diligent and always helpful, a hardworking missionary, a loyal friend, and a loving person. Although difficult for us to understand, Jesus, his Master, saw that it was the right time to take him to his heavenly home when he was in the full swing of the ministry, he had entrusted to him.

May Fr Swamy's love for Pauline life and mission inspire all members of the Indian Province, especially the young. May his soul rest in the peace of the Lord. And may he intercede for numerous and holy vocations for the Pauline Family.

Rome, 19 June 2023

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral was celebrated today Monday, 19 June, at 3:00 PM in St Anthony's Church, Pascha Nagar, Jageri (India).

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