

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL  
Secretary General



*“As we are united in the profession of faith,  
likewise we remain united in suffrage and  
intercession”.*

(Fr. Alberione)

At 12:30 am today, 20 March 2008, in the clinic of Ruber in Madrid (Spain), has returned to the Father our brother Priest

### **FR. ANTONIO LUIS DÍAZ MARTÍNEZ**

*67 years old, 53 years of Pauline life, 41 years of priestly ordination*

He has been called to celebrate the Paschal Feast in the eternal house at twilight today, Holy Thursday, following the escalation of a kidney tumour.

Fr. Antonio, the third of four brothers, was born in Caudete (Albacete, Spain) on 10 November 1940 to an honest, hard working and deeply religious family. He was baptised the week after his birth and was confirmed when he was yet to celebrate a year of life. He entered the Congregation on 25 February 1955, in the community of Zalla (Biscaglia), having completed high school and studies in philosophy. After novitiate he made his first profession in Coslada (Madrid) on 8 September 1959. From 1962 he was in Rome for theological studies. Here he consecrated himself definitively to the Lord on 8 September 1964 and was ordained priest on 20 June 1966.

Returning to Spain in the community of Coslada, he underwent a Pastoral year, was Master of the aspirants from 1967 to 1969, local bursar from 1970 to 1972 and Superior of the community from 1972 to 1976. On the same year he joined the Provincial House of Protasio Gómez (Madrid) and was immediately nominated Provincial Bursar, a responsibility which covered up uninterruptedly the rest of his days thanks to his competence and irreproachability. Without neglecting the provincial administrative and accounting tasks, he was also given the responsibility of the community of Protasio Gómez between 1984 and 1987 and Delegate in 2004.

The human, Christian and Pauline values that emerged from the life of Fr. Antonio are immense. Thanks to his accessible, joyful, tolerant and profoundly human character, he was a friend of all who was loved by all. Gifted with a brilliant intelligence, he took daily care, with generosity, of the properties of the Province without being asked. Throughout his life he demonstrated an exquisite dedication towards the fine points of ordinary life, with welcoming gestures and attention towards all, in the community life as well as in the apostolic activities. He leaves to his confreres the unforgettable memory of his profound faith, his fidelity to prayer, his deep love for the Congregation, the priesthood, the mission, and the Pauline Family. As every human being, Fr. Antonio naturally also had weaknesses that nevertheless fade away in front of his virtues and his merits.

He always enjoyed the best of health until, at the end of 2005, his right kidney was removed from him because of a tumour. From that time everything changed radically as the tumour soon spread to the rest of the body and successive cures proved inefficacious. Obligated to submit himself periodically to sessions of radiotherapy and chemotherapy, his health increasingly deteriorated. Even with this though, he maintained the ordinary rhythm of his work until the last days of life with admirable fidelity and constancy.

Fr. Antonio accompanies us and his relatives through his intercession in front of the Risen Lord; in a particular way he intercedes for his brother and sister confreres in Spain, with whom he has generously shared his sufferings and joy. May he rest in peace!

*Rome, 20 March 2008*

*Br. Lorenzo Vezzani*

*The funeral will take place tomorrow, Good Friday, 21 March, in the community of El Pinar de Las Rozas, at 11 am. Burial follows at the communal cemetery.*

**The Circumscription Superiors are to inform their communities of the suffrages prescribed. (Cost. 65 and 65.1)**