



"As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession."

(Fr. Alberione)

At 8 p.m. (local time) of 18 May 2010, in the House for Priests "S. Vicente de Paulo" of the Patriarchate of Lisbon, our brother Priest has returned to the Father.

FR. RUI AGUSTIN PRATES CORTIÇO
70 years, 45 of profession, 41 of priesthood

He was born on 2 February 1940 at Vale de Açor, in the commune of Ponte de Sor of the province of Portalegre, a small and poor village of Portugal, of Antonio Manuel Prates and Rosa Maria Do Cortiço. He received his baptism, first communion and confirmation on the same day, on 16 June 1949, in the parish of S. Francesco of his town.

The young Rui entered the house of Lisbon at the age of fourteen, on 9 September 1954. He completed his secondary school in the Pauline house situated north of the city, in which were present a printing press and other sectors of the apostolate. He made his first religious profession in the same city on 8 September 1964 and consecrated himself definitively to the Lord exactly three years after in Rome, where he had been sent to frequent Theology at the International Theological College. He was ordained a priest on 30 June 1968 by Mons. Ettore Cunial, in the Crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles (Rome).

He received the first obedience from the Vicar General Fr. Luigi Damaso Zanoni who sent him to support the Pauline mission in Germany, in the city of Remscheid. After a few years from his arrival in the German city, he obtained the permission to do pastoral work for the Portuguese migrants, as their chaplain. Motives of health convinced him to return to his country in 1993 and he joined the community of Fatima with the task of following up the pastoral of vocations.

In September of 1996 he obtained permission for a triennium of exclaustation to exercise ministry in the Parish of Nazaré, a coastal city of fishermen of the Patriarchate of Lisbon. He equally continued to do the same task even at the end of the triennium until his health allowed it.

Because of a congenital illness, his general state of health rapidly became worse up to almost total blindness and global worsening of the vital functions.

Fr. Rui had a filial and tender devotion towards Nossa Senhora de Nazaré, the Patroness of the Parish where he has exercised his ministry. To the Queen of Apostles we entrust this our confrere called to his eternal reward in the month dedicated to her, when the Year for Priests is approaching its conclusion.

Rome, 19 May 2010

Bro. Lorenzo Vezzani

The funeral has taken place in the afternoon of 19 May in Lisbon. His body will be brought to his town of birth where it will be buried in the family tomb.

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