



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 1,40 this night (local time), at the hospital Moncloa of Madrid, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

**BR. FRANCISCO JAVIER MARTÍNEZ DE ANTOÑANA**

*60 years, 46 of Pauline life, 38 of religious profession*

Brother Francisco Javier – Javi, as he was called familiarly – was born in Onraitia (Álava) on 12 August 1950, of a farming family with deep Christian roots, the last of seven brothers. He was baptized on the following day in his town of birth, where he received also the other sacraments of Christian initiation and attended the elementary school. He entered the Congregation in the house of Zalla (Vizcaya) on 23 September 1964. Between 1964 and 1971 he attended the basic studies and obtained his school leaving certificate at the Colegio Apostólico di Zalla. In the same house he made his novitiate, at the end of which he made his first religious profession on 8 September 1972. On 8 September 1981 he made his perpetual profession in the house of Las Rozas (Madrid).

After having been the assistant of the aspirants for a year in the community of Zalla, he went on to collaborate with the administration of the magazine *Familia Cristiana*, first in Zalla (1976-1978) and then in Madrid, accompanying the transfer of the seat of the magazine to the capital (1978-1986). Starting 1986, brother Javi passes to the administration of the bookstores, first in Oviedo (1986-1999) and successively in Bilbao (1999-2009). During the time spent in Oviedo, he has united to his commitment in the bookstore three mandates as delegate of the Provincial Superior in the local community. Finally, after the closure of the community of Bilbao, in December 2009, brother Javi was transferred to the community of Las Rozas (Madrid), to continue to lend his services as bookseller in the bookstore of San Pablo di Plaza de Jacinto Benavente, in the center of Madrid.

Brother Javi was rather reserved in his character and somewhat timid. As a person, he was simple, humble, sensitive, welcoming, very homely in his dealings with his confreres and of exemplary fidelity in his life of prayer and dedication to the apostolate. He loved greatly his vocation as a disciple of the Divine Master.

Though he felt that he was well, at the end of July 2010 he started to suffer stomach problems. In the beginning the doctors did not give weight to the symptoms that instead increased, forcing him to turn to doctors in the following month of August. He was diagnosed with a tumor in the stomach and on 30 August he was subjected to surgical operation. But it resulted that the tumor was already in metastasis and the surgical operation could not be carried out. From that time brother Javi was fading rapidly. He died this night in the hospital Moncloa, where he was admitted since last January 20.

Let us accompany this our dear brother with our prayers, so that he may enter the eternal dwellings prepared by the Divine Master for his faithful ones (Jn 14,2-3), who have loved him though they have not seen him and without seeing him have believed in him (cf 1Pt 1,8). To him we entrust intercession before the Lord for the Congregation, for all vocations and in particular for the disciples of the Divine Master in the Province of Spain.

*Rome, 9 February 2011*

*Fr. Vincenzo Vitale*

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