

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
il segretario generale



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 6 p.m. (local time) of Sunday 13 February 2011, in the residence “Residencia Reina Sofia” of Las Rozas (Madrid), our brother priest has returned to the house of the Father.

FR. MIGUEL ROJO SERNA

73 years, 61 of Pauline life, 45 of priesthood

Fr. Miguel Rojo, the fifth of six brothers of a farming and deeply Christian family, was born on 8 May 1937 in Villamayor de Treviño (Burgos, Spain). He entered the Congregation at scarcely 12 years old, at Zalla (Vizcaya), on 26 August 1949; here he obtained his school leaving certificate and made his studies in philosophy, while he made his first steps in the Pauline life and mission. He spent his novitiate in Coslada (Madrid), where he made his first profession on September 1958. From 1961 to 1965 we find him in Rome for studies in theology; it's also here that he made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1963 and received the presbyterate on 30 June 1965.

A short time after ordination, he returned to Spain, starting a long period of fruitful apostolic activity, always leaving the unmistakable mark of his vitality, generous dedication to the tasks entrusted to him and love for the Congregation. His first destination was the house of Coslada (Madrid), first as professor of the aspirants, (1965-1973) and then as bookstore person at calle Cerretas di Madrid (1973-1978). Later on, in the house of Protazio Gómez di Madrid (1978-1995), he gave the best of himself as typesetter, proofreader and photographer of the magazine *Familia Cristiana*. He spent his penultimate stay in Barcelona (1996-2003), joining his work in the bookstore with that of in charge of the local community. Finally, coincidentally with the closure of the house and bookstore in Barcelona, in 2003 he is destined to the house of Las Rozas, by then poor in health, but always available and generous in continuing to be busy in some service, above all in the photo archives.

Fr. Miguel stood out for his cheerful and jovial character. His quick wit contributed that bit of picquancy that is sometimes necessary in community life to overcome moments of tension and to keep dialog alive. He was generous and responsible in the accomplishment of his apostolic tasks, above all during his long stay with *Familia Cristiana*, where he has been a protagonist of many adventures as a photographer. To be underlined among his personal hobbies are his love for travel and knowledge of various cultures, his study of languages (above all English), his passion for photography, painting, music and the practice of sports, especially tennis and swimming.

Fr. Miguel had always enjoyed good health until 1996 when he started to feel lumbar disturbances that quickly took shape through various slipped discs for which on doctors' advice he could not be operated. In 2005, the first symptoms of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease began which gradually became worse until it was necessary in January 2009, to hospitalize him in a structure for the elderly specialized for these types of diseases. He passed away due to unexpected cardiocirculatory arrest, in the “Residencia Reina Sofia” of Las Rozas (Madrid).

Sustained by our hope in the risen Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, we raise up to the Father our prayer of intercession for his eternal repose, while we thank the Lord for all the commitment of this our brother in the diffusion of the Gospel in the land of Spain.

Rome, 14 February 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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