



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 2:30 p.m. today (local time), 3 June 2012, while he was at the hospital in London, the Divine Master has called to his eternal reward our brother Priest

FR. SEBASTIAN JAMES KARAMVELIL

73 years, 54 of Pauline life, 48 of religious profession, 43 of priesthood

Fr. Sebastian was born on 19 March 1939 in Kuravilangad (Kerala, India) and entered the Congregation on 27 June 1957 in the community of Allahabad. Here he spent the time of his novitiate (1962-1963), at the end of which he made his first profession of religious vows on 16 July 1963. In 1964 he left for Rome for the Pauline International College, carrying out here his studies of philosophy and theology. He made his perpetual vows on 8 September 1967 in Rome, where he was also ordained priest by Mons. Ettore Cunial on 30 June the following year. After ordination he still remained in Rome (1968-1970) to complete his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, tasked at the same time to assist the newly-ordained priests. He attended a course of journalism by correspondence with a U.S. university and in the first half of 1971 he had the chance to stay in London for study and practice at the Catholic Radio and TV Center.

In 1971 Fr. Sebastian was destined to a new circumscription other than that from where he came: he left for the Philippines (Makati), where he was an esteemed director of international services of Radio Veritas. In 1974 he returned to India, where he remained until 1981 committed in various offices: first in Bombay (1974-1975), in the general redaction of the Pauline Editions of India and in teaching (1974) and as administrative vice-director and publicist of *Home Life* (1975), then at Kochi (1976-1978), where he filled in rapid succession various offices: teaching communication and technology, preaching retreats, work in translating the Bible into Malayalam language, catechetical and biblical apostolate, commercial coordination, at the same time working also in the secretariat of the Episcopal Commission of India for social communications (1976-1978). In 1979 he was transferred again to Bombay, where he was director of the magazine *Petrus* (1979-1981).

After a brief interval of a year of absence from the community (1982) spent in Oman, a state in the south of the Arabian peninsula where he was head editor of Muscat News, Fr. Sebastian was destined to the Province of Italy, where after a brief starting period in Albano Laziale, he carried out his apostolate in the bookstore of Milan, while member of the community of Cinisello Balsamo (1982-1987).

In 1987 a new destination still awaits him: this time for the Region of Great Britain – Ireland, where he will remain until his death. From 1987 to 1995 he is in the community of Slough, where he fills various duties successively as director of the editions, local superior (1991-1995), personal delegate of the Superior General and as Regional Superior (1991-1995), as well as director of the bookstores (1995-1996). From 1996 to today Fr. Sebastian has been in London, holding along the way the roles of director of the bookstores, editor, regional councilor (1998-2000 and 2008-2010), regional vicar (2004-2007), general director of the apostolate (2004-2007 and 2008-2010), until his nomination as Personal Delegate of the Superior General for two times (2011 and 2012).

An enterprising character and strong-willed, of lively intelligence and with a nose for apostolic opportunities that offered themselves, these are the characteristics that have distinguished Fr. Sebastian, a Pauline in love with his vocation which he has honored brilliantly and with a versatile ability to adapt himself to varying tasks, from authority to the apostolate.

We entrust this our brother, who goes to join the “multitude of witnesses” (Heb 12,1) of the Pauline Family in heaven, to the mercy of God the Father and to the kind face of the Master, who has promised to his own: “When I shall have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you with me, so that where I am you also may be” (Jn 14,4). And in saying goodbye to him, and assuring him of our suffrages, we ask him to intercede for the many needs of the Congregation, particularly those of the Region of Great Britain - Ireland.

Rome, 3 June 2012

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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