



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

(Fr. Alberione)

In the morning of today, feast of saint Benedict, Patron of Europe, our brother Priest has returned to the Father.

FR. ALBINO TOMÁS BENTO PAIS

73 years, 61 of Pauline life, 51 of religious profession, 46 of priesthood

Fr. Albino was born in Alcaria (Fundão, diocese of Guarda, Portugal) on 17 October 1940. At the age of 13 he crosses the threshold of the Society of Saint Paul in the community that at that time resided in Lumiar, starting there his high school studies. He did in Spain the stage of novitiate, at the end of which he made his first profession on 8 September 1962. In 1963 he left for Italy to attend courses in theology at the International Pauline College of Rome. After having received the baccalaureate in theology at the Pontifical Lateran University in June 1967, he was ordained a priest on 15 August 1967 by the Patriarch of Lisbon, Card. Cerejeira.

As a young priest he worked as assistant and professor of the young highschoolers in the house of Apelação. Soon he lent his service in the warehouse, in the bookstore and for many years he helped in the redaction of the magazine *Família Cristã*. At the same time he was also a zealous parish priest in Camarate, where he succeeded Fr. Francesco Caponi.

Ever having a passion for journalism, in 1985 he accepted with great joy the invitation to transfer as a missionary in Macau as director of the magazine *O Clarin*, published in Portuguese. The invitation was addressed to him by Fr. Renato Perino, then Superior General, who envisioned through the development of the Pauline mission in Macau, a possible future entrance into China. In a letter sent to the Regional Superior, Fr. Perino emphasized that «the mission of Fr. Albino is to build a bridge for the return of the Paulines to Mainland China» and that «Fr. Albino has understood the importance of the mission that has been proposed to him and has accepted it in a spirit of faith».

In Macau Fr. Albino has remained for 28 years, connected to the Philippine Province, following the existing Portuguese community present in the island. In 2009 he suffered a serious traffic accident that left him in a coma for a period of time. After his recovery, a brain tumor that until that time remained hidden began to worsen. Already rather weakened, he was transferred to Portugal in 2013, to receive adequate care and to enjoy the closeness of his family. After a brief time his situation became serious, until his death that took place today in the retirement house of São Domingos (Mafra), where he had been admitted for special care.

His confreres remember him as a jovial person, sociable, good to be with and always with a good disposition. We now entrust this our confrere to the mercy of the Divine Master, so that after having made him similar to himself in his death and burial, he may associate him to himself in the glory of his resurrection and make him live in eternal blessedness, together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We ask him, in this year of our Centenary, to intercede for the needs of the Congregation and in particular for those of the Region of Portugal and of the Philippines-Macau Province, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God.

Rome, 11 July 2014

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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