



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 3:30 p.m. (local time) of 21 January, in Antipolo City, our brother Priest has returned to the Father

FR. FRUTO MATTHEW ROSALES

72 years, 60 of Pauline life, 47 of religious profession, 43 of priesthood

Fr. Fruto was born in Palo (Leyte, Philippines) on 25 October 1941, the fifth of eight siblings of Gaudioso Rosales and Maria Quimbo. He entered the Congregation in Pasay City on 7 June 1953 and attended there high school and courses in philosophy, in the Seminary of the Society of Saint Paul. After having finished the novitiate in Makati (1964-1966), on 30 June 1966 he made his first profession taking the name of the evangelist Matthew. He then studied theology in the Pauline International College in Rome, where he also made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1969. He was ordained a priest on 17 May 1970 by Pope Paul VI in the Basilica of St. Peter. Then he studied in Adamson University (Manila) for specialization in pedagogy.

In 1973 he asked for permission to be absent from the Congregation to take care of his sick and elderly parents, for seven years. After the death of his parents, he went to the United States at the start of the 1980's, exercising the ministry in the diocese of Rockville Center, in the parishes of Nostra Signora di Fatima and Nostra Signora di Loreto, until his return to the Philippines on 13 January 2014, already seriously sick.

In the internal circular letter of 20 January 2014, the Provincial Superior Fr. Jose Aripio informed the confreres about the definitive return of Fr. Fruto to the Philippines-Macau Province. He said he was sorry for his long absence and that he intended to be reconciled with the Congregation. Fr. Aripio accepted his sincere gesture of reconciliation and entrusted the confrere to God «whose justice is the fidelity of Christ, our Master, Way, Truth and Life, and his liberating sacrifice, salvific and giver of life».

Fr. Fruto had to submit himself to dialysis for years due to his debilitating diabetes and serious renal problems. He passed away on 21 January 2014, barely a week after his return to the Philippines, in a house of rest in Antipolo City, where he was admitted for the needed care. The news of his death reached us yesterday afternoon, during the meeting of the General Council.

We now entrust this our confrere to the mercy of the Divine Master, so that he may be welcomed in the heavenly liturgy, together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God, who «has given us his only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life» (Jn 3,16).

Rome, 28 January 2014

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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