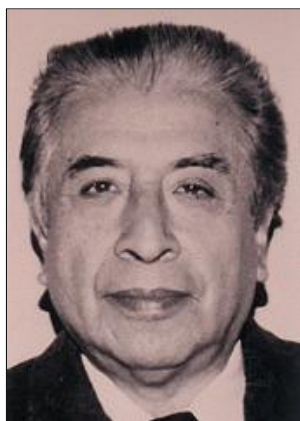


SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
Secretary General



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

(Fr. Alberione)

Yesterday, Thursday 12 November at about 11 o'clock (local time) in the city of Mexico, our brother priest has returned to the house of the Father.

FR HERIBERTO AGUSTÍN JACOBO MÉNDEZ
84 years, 64 of Pauline life, 57 of profession and 53 of priesthood

Fr Heriberto was the dean of the Mexican Paulines, being born on 24 September 1931 in Tangamandapio (Michoacan). He entered the Society of Saint Paul on 20 November 1950, three years after the arrival of the Paulines in Mexico.

The thought of the day in the *Agenda paolina*, taken from the *Book of prayers* of the Pauline Family reminds us: «Let not the ups and downs of this our exile make us cold in the service of God, but make us ever more faithful and fervent». It is exactly this that Fr Heriberto has lived in his existence, in spite of the gradual lessening of his strength due to the illness that has accompanied him in the course of the last years, in particular starting 2006. A frame of mind that has led him to live in full, till the end, the Pauline charism by means of the apostolate of suffering.

In all the areas where obedience has put him, Fr Heriberto has always served with dedication and responsibility the Congregation and, by means of it, the civil society. In his long Pauline life he has lived in almost all the apostolic sectors, always showing and in every service his pioneering and creative abilities, the fruit of a solid and deep spirituality. Great has been his marian devotion, like his love for the Word of God, his admiration for the apostle Paul and his affection for Fr James Alberione, the Founder of the Pauline Family, who he has met personally. Among the numerous works of which he is author, we remember *The book of my prayers*, an incalculable instrument of good and reedited several times for the benefit of souls.

Fr Heriberto in 1954 has had the grace to receive the religious habit directly from the hands of blessed James Alberione, during one of his visits to Mexico. He made his first religious profession on September 1958. Three years after, he renewed for good his vows in the presence of the Founder: it was 8 September 1961. In Rome, where he followed theological studies, he was ordained a priest on 1 July 1962. Upon returning to his Country of origin, he lent service mainly in the Communities of Taxqueña and Guadalajara, where besides being committed in various apostolates, he was also superior. In 1985 and in 1992 he participated as delegate of his circumscription in the V and VI General Chapters.

We shall remember this our brother as one of the pillars of the Province of Mexico in the course of so many years, as a tireless servant, an enthusiastic companion, a loyal friend and an example of joyous announcement of the Gospel. On 1 July 2012 “Father Beto” – as he was familiarly called – had celebrated his 50th of priestly ordination. He now enters into eternal joy reserved for the faithful servants of the Lord. We entrust to his intercession the spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness of the Province of Mexico and of all the Ibero-american circumscriptions that are living in these days the X General Assembly of CIDEP.

Rome, 13 November 2015

Fr Stefano Stimamiglio

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

His funeral has been held on Friday 13 November at 1 p.m. (local time) in the chapel of Queen of Apostles – community of Taxqueña in Mexico City. His remains have then been buried in the cemetery of Texcoco.