

SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
The 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)

At 9 in the morning, local time, of 19 March, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Brother Disciples of the Divine Master, in the *Clínica Cardio Infantil* of Bogotá (Colombia), has returned to the House of the Father our brother Disciple of the Divine Master

BRO. ELIÉCER ANTONIO LÓPEZ SARMIENTO
75 years, 55 of Pauline life and 50 of religious profession

Eliécer Antonio was born on 2 October 1940 in Úmbita (Boyacá-Colombia) by Papá Matteo and Mama Dolores and was baptized on 22 October 1940. On 5 February 1961, at age 21, he entered the Calle 170 community in Bogotá. The formators immediately noticed his deep spiritual attitude, accompanied by his serious commitment to the apostolate, the tenacity in doing things entrusted to him and love for the Congregation, along with a character a little reserved. After receiving the religious habit (11 February 1963), on 10 February 1964 it was the Superior of the house, Fr. Renato Perino, future Superior General, to preside over the rite of his entry into the Novitiate, which was guided by the master Fr. Attilio Cendron. His Novitiate terminated, he made his first religious profession on 11 February 1966. On 11 February 1975, during a Mass presided by Fr. Vincenzo Miotto, Brother López made his perpetual religious profession of vows.

After years of formation, especially dedicated to the apostolate of the press, Brother López lived the rest of his Pauline mission in the field of diffusion, becoming an expert and reliable book diffuser. After his perpetual vows, we found him first in the bookstore of *San Pablo* of Calle 12 No. 6-11 in Bogotá, then, from 1984, in Medellín, to manage the bookstore of that city, and from the beginning of 1987, still in Bogotá. In November 1995, his experience was put to good use for a few months to open the *San Pablo* bookstore in Bucaramanga. But the time was ripe for him to become a “founder” and, in fact, on 26 July 1996, he was among the first of the Brothers who opened the new Pauline community of Panamá. Here, Brother Antonio Eliécer helped to consolidate the bookstore, which was opened just three years earlier.

The rest of his apostolic life took place in the city of Panama Canal. Here, for 20 long years, he was a true example of apostolic dedication, whether in friendly welcome of people who frequented the bookstore and of the young Paulines during

their year of apostolic experience or in the management of the diffusion sector. He also held the position of being the legal representative of the Society of St. Paul.

Since late last year his health has gradually turned for the worse as a result of cardio-pulmonary complications. Last 14 March, as soon as his condition allowed it, he was transferred to Bogotá where he was welcomed by his relatives and by the entire Pauline community. A few days later, unfortunately, his condition suddenly deteriorated and, because of a severe heart failure, was hospitalized in the *Clínica Cardio Infantil* of Bogotá, where he died shortly after admission.

Brother Eliécer Antonio has always been known as a discreet person, reserved, dedicated to a very intense piety and apostolic life. His superiors testify to a high preparedness to accept promptly and with diligence all the tasks, thanks to the great skill learned in his assignments which were gradually entrusted to him.

The birth of this brother of ours in heaven took place on the day of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Disciples of the Divine Master. We want then to entrust to him today, who now enjoys eternity with God, the prayer for all the our brothers Disciples of the Congregation and also his intercession for the needs of the Colombia-Ecuador-Panamá Province.

We take leave of Brother Eliécer Antonio, thanking the Lord for the gift of his Pauline vocation, all spent for the glory of God and the good of souls. We entrust him to the Divine Master, who is the merciful and loving face of the Father, so that, in the light of the Holy Spirit, he may enjoy eternal life. Welcomed by the loving embrace of our Mother Mary, Queen of the Apostles, may he now enjoy the company in eternity of our Blessed James and Timothy and all the other Pauline “saints” of paradise.

Rome, 20 March 2016

Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on Sunday, 20 March, at 14:00 (local time) in St. Paul Chapel of the community of Bogota - Calle 170. His mortal remains will be buried in the cemetery of the Immaculate at Bogota.

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