

SOCIETY OF SAINT 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 13:30, local time, 18 July 2016, at the Palliative Care Unit of Concord Hospital of Sydney, our brother priest completed his earthly pilgrimage

FR. RUBÉN OSCAR NADALICH

65 years, 52 of Pauline life, 43 of religious profession and 38 of priesthood

Fr. Rubén, affectionately nicknamed “El Coco”, was born on 26 May 1951 in Reconquista (Argentina), North-East of the city of Santa Fe province. The third child and only son of a peasant family with five sisters – one of whom, Ines, became a Franciscan Sister of Mary –, felt the Lord’s call to consecration as a boy and so entered at 14 years old in the Florida community (Buenos Aires) on 6 March 1964. We are in the midst of a long and troubled time of this South American country, which sees alternating governments from legitimately elected to continuous military coups that destabilize even the economic situation of the population. The formation of the young Rubén, however, was moving forward very fast, and on 22 February 1973 he pronounced his first vows in the Quisquizacate community which was followed three years later by perpetual vows. Initially inclined to manual work, he completed his philosophical and theological studies in Cordoba, which opened the doors to the presbyterate. His ordination then took place in his hometown on 23 July 1977. In the report for Holy Orders presented to the General Government, his formators described him as «faithful and gentle», «matured in his search for God», «responsible and helpful», «generous even to the point of sacrifice» and «communicative».

The young Pauline would be able to develop these qualities right from the start, focusing at first on a postgraduate course in journalism in Cordoba (1980-1982) and then collaborating with the editorial Office (1984-1986), until becoming its Director, a task which he would faithfully assume for 10 years, until 1996.

In that year began a cooling time of his life experience and went first to Rome to attend a specialization course in Social Sciences at the Pontifical Gregorian University and, then to Madrid, to follow a course of specialized studies in publishing. At the end of this biennium he felt the need to open himself to the mission and was transferred to the Australia Region which occurred in January 1999. Five months later he arrived at the house of Brisbane where, over the next twelve years, he uninterruptedly performed his Pauline apostolate in the local St Pauls Book Centre. During this long period he was into certain mandates, whether as Regional Councillor

or as Delegate of the house. Finally in 2011, he moved to the community of Strathfield (Sydney) where he served his apostolate in the distribution sector.

In 2013, during a visit in Argentina, he was diagnosed for the first time with a tumour in the rectum and underwent a difficult surgery. After a long period in his native country for recovery, he returned to Australia to resume at full speed his mission. However, the difficulties associated with cancer resurfaced quickly and he was forced to undergo for two and a half years various clinical treatments, which progressively reduced his autonomy and was not able to avoid the final outcome, preceded by a short period of palliative care that has eased his pains.

In the testimony of the confreres who have assisted him, it showed that “El Coco” has always accepted his situation with good spirit and always did his best to carry out the Pauline mission. He led a simple life, which had as its centre of gravity the evangelical counsel of poverty, so much so that the few belongings that he left could easily be contained in a couple of suitcases. He always loved most of all the conversation and dialogue with the brothers, even if they were not lacking with some sufferings arising from certain disagreements, which are inevitably present in community life.

During the last farewell addressed to him by the brothers of the Argentina-Chile-Paraguay Province, gathered in these days in their XXIV Provincial Chapter, they remember that when Fr. Rubén visited them in Argentina during his holiday periods, he was proud of his Australian passport, always recounting that «he feels good among the kangaroos». We now entrust in particular to the intercession of this our brother, who represents an ideal “Pauline” bridge between the two worlds geographically and culturally so far apart – that is, Argentina and Australia – precisely the future of these two Circumscriptions, so that the Spirit may guide them to a profitable time of discernment and apostolic work according to the needs of our times.

Rome, 19 July 2016

Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on 20 July at 13:30, local time, at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Rockwood Catholic Cemetery of Sydney. Part of his ashes will then be buried in this cemetery and some of these will be brought to the family tomb of Fr. Nadalich at the cemetery of Reconquista, Santa Fe (Argentina).

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