

In the house of the Father

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



At 10 (local time) on 20 January 2017, in the community of Santiago of Chile, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has completed his earthly journey

BROTHER PABLO URIARTE LAFUENTE
96 years, 69 of Pauline life, 67 of religious profession

With Brother Pablo, one of the last Paulines of the third generation has left us, true pioneers of the mission entrusted to us as a gift by Blessed James Alberione. From the story of his life, we can draw many useful lessons, a precious legacy to us that, like him, even though today in a radically changed world, we work in the apostolate of social communication. What strikes us, while reading his biography, is the enthusiasm and faith that have always supported him, both in heavy apostolic challenges he faced throughout his Pauline life – especially in Chile where he lived from 1952 to the present – as in the difficult moments that accompanied him at his death.

Brother Pablo was born in Sarría, in the Spanish Basque Country, on 2 March 1920. He was the second of nine brothers and sisters. His father Jose was a farmer and his mother Amalia helped in the fields and cared for the children. The intense religious climate that was lived in the house led him to live the faith with simplicity, helping as an altar boy in the liturgical service of his parish. He was part of the *Catholic Action* during the years when the Spanish Civil War was raging (1936-1939), but left no particular traces in his life. In an interview published in 2013 on our Chilean website, he confided that his vocation was born slowly and that it intensified only during the long military service he had to perform, which lasted for six years, in which «the unrest of being a missionary» was born in his heart, something that distinguished him from his friends. It is a desire destined to come true a few years later.

Upon returning from military service, he resumed his farming in the family. At the end of a Mass, which he served as an altar boy, he came across a magazine that speaks of a congregation, the Society of St. Paul, which has a community in Bilbao, only 45 kilometres from his village. He recalled that he went there a few days later, on the day of the feast of St. Anthony, and with courtesy and affability, Fr Desiderio Costa received him. Thus, Brother Pablo made his entry into the Bilbao community: 16 September 1947, at the age of 27 years. From aspirancy, he would go out every day from village to village in propaganda with his companion, just like the disciples of Jesus. His stay in Bilbao lasted only a couple of months because he was then sent to Madrid in the next summer, to carry out the apostolate. On that occasion, recalled Brother Pablo, «Fr Desiderio gave me

a few pesos to buy a suitcase and to put in my belongings». In August of 1948, recalled by his superiors, he returned to Bilbao where he began his novitiate. Here on 8 September 1949, he made his first profession. In the following years he was still in Bilbao (1949-1951) and, then for a year, always as a propagandist, in León. On 20 August 1952 started the call to mission, a presentiment during the years of military service. He, therefore, left with a cargo ship to Argentina, where he arrived a few weeks later. Arriving in the community, he was at once sent to Santiago of Chile, where Fr Pascasio Marsigli welcomed him.

In Santiago, on 8 September 1954, he made his perpetual profession and began his new life, always in the diffusion, but this time as bookseller (but would also be assistant-Master and Provincial Councillor in the coming years), an apostolate that would continue for long, up to twenty years ago when, with great suffering, he must abandon the “battlefield” because of spinal problems, unresolved despite two surgical operations. Brother Pablo, in the interview mentioned above, as a good son of Saint Paul recalled proudly that the apostolate is also a way to support himself. During the years of apostolate, he learned to love Chile, his adopted homeland, and especially the people of Chile. He was a friend, as often happens to our booksellers, of some bishops. Among those mentioned with affection was Msgr. Juan Francisco Fresno, Archbishop of Santiago from 1983 to 1989, of whom he “predicted” the episcopal appointment.

During these last years, as noted by the Superior of Argentina-Chile-Paraguay, Fr Martín Dolzani, Brother Pablo lived the apostolate of silence and prayer, sharing with the brothers the joy of brotherhood. In the final days of last year, he was serenely aware that for him “the time was growing short”. Thanking God, the Virgin and the Congregation for the gift of vocation, he received with faith the Anointing of the sick, before offering his soul to God. Now, on the eve of the second year of election as Superior General of the Society of St Paul of Fr Valdir José De Castro, whom Brother Pablo knew well, having been his Provincial Superior from 2006 to 2010, we entrust to the intercession of this apostle the future of our Congregation.

Rome, 21 January 2017



Fr Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral will be held today, 21 January 2017, at 14.30 (local time) in the chapel of the community of Santiago de Chile. His mortal remains will be immediately buried in the Cementerio Metropolitano of Santiago of Chile.

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