



At 17:30 (local time) on 14 May 2017, our brother priest died at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boardman (Ohio, United States)

FATHER THOMAS FOGARTY
90 years, 66 of Pauline life, 62 of religious profession
and 59 of priesthood

Thomas, affectionately nicknamed by friends and confreres "Tom", was born on 7 January 1927 in Cloghan, in the center of Ireland, by Papa John, a farmer, and Mama Bridget. The family, very Catholic, was severely affected in May 1928 by the death of the latter. Tom was just a little more than a year. Two other brothers and a sister remained orphaned with him. Three devoted aunts, Ellen, Margaret, and Kathleen of Birr, not far from his home, took care of Tom. A fourth aunt, Borgia, would soon enter the Sisters of Mercy.

After studying at the *Fortal National School* and the *Presentation Brothers Secondary School*, Thomas found work in the Tullamore Library and then in an electrical industry in the nearby Athlone town. One of its managers, impressed by the strong spirituality of the young man, presented him to Fr. Renato Simoni, founder of the Society of St. Paul in Ireland, who was sent by Fr. Alberione immediately after his ordination in March 1947.

Attracted by the Pauline apostolate and despite his health problems linked to a chronic form of asthma, Tom was accepted into the Congregation. On 9 September 1950, as a promising member of the first group of Irish young people who followed with enthusiasm Fr. Alberione, he went to Alba accompanied by Fr. Simoni. With the constant encouragement of the Founder, whom Tom would always be very fond of, the young man persevered and, after having learned the Italian well, passed the theological studies brilliantly. He professed his temporary vows on 8 September 1954 in Albano, confirming them forever three years later at Ballykeeran, Ireland, to where he returned at the end of his formation. On 7 July 1957, in Rome, shortly before the perpetual profession, he was ordained a priest by the imposition of the hands of Bishop Ettore Cunial.

At Ballykeeran, Thomas remained for 16 years, helping in the growth of the small Irish reality even in the midst of many difficulties. During that time, his editorial apostolate was focused on *The Sunday Messenger*, a parish newsletter diffused throughout the island, whose existence continues in a different form to this day. This publication is the trailblazer for the printing of our missalette, which then became widely spread in many parishes. Subsequently, in August 1968, Fr. Thomas was appointed Superior of the Ballykeeran community. At the

end of 1971, we saw him in Rome, where he enjoyed a sabbatical year to deepen his theological skills at the Antonianum Pontifical University. Just in that year, 26 November, Primo Maestro died. Some confreres testified to having seen him during those days near the Founder's room with rosary in his hand.

After returning to his homeland, on 12 November 1973, he moved to Canada for a short while, where he remained for only a year. In January 1975, in fact, he was transferred to the Canfield community in the United States, where he worked with Fr. Pietro Saverio Borrano at the Pauline publishing *Alba Paperback Books*. Here he took advantage of his long editorial experience gained in Ireland. In September 1979, he became Superior in Dearborn, where he also had his apostolate in the local bookshop and spent every Sunday in book exhibitions in the parishes of that area. At the end of his mandate, in 1982, he moved to the Staten Island community for a year. Here he lent his work in the *Alba House* editorial office. Returning to Canfield in 1983, he was appointed Master of Novices for two years. At the same time, the great work began – for which he is remembered with affection by many members of the American Pauline Family, who today weep for his death – in favor of the Holy Family Institute, which at that time had only 5 members. Over time, the Institute grows to the present of about 400 members. A love, which he had for families, has made a true father in him for so many brothers and sisters. For some years, in the early 1980s, he contributed also to the development of the Institutes of Mary of the Annunciation and of Saint Gabriel Archangel.

After being brought to the Emergency Room of the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boardman, not far from our Canfield community where he lived for years, for his worsening breathing problems, Fr. Thomas surrendered his soul to God because of a severe pulmonary-heart failure.

Precisely during these days when our Superior General, Fr. Valdir José De Castro, is on a fraternal visit to the US Province, we entrust to the intercession of this apostle of communication with a great heart the future of this Circumscription.

Rome, 17 May 2017



Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp

The funeral will take place on Saturday, 20 May 2017, at 11:00 AM (local time) at St. Paul Chapel of the Canfield community. The body will be buried in the cemetery adjacent to our community.

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Cost. 65 and 65.1).