

In the Father's House

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



At 7,30 (local time) of 26 June 2017, at the Pauline community of Vizconde de los Asilos (Madrid) our brother priest has reached eternal life after a long illness.

FR. ANDRÉS LUIS GAINZARAÍN ALBAINA

83 years, 68 of Pauline life, 60 of religious profession and 54 di priesthood

Andrés was born in Lagran, northeast of Spain, on 30 November 1933. His father Patricio was a farmer and his mother Conception was a housewife. He was baptized the following December 3 in the parish of his town named after Mary. The young man is the eighth of ten children, part of a deeply Christian family which will give to the religious life two other sisters: Presentación, who joined the Mercy Sisters of Charity, and Sabina, of the Daughters of St. Joseph.

Andrés joined the Society of St Paul on September 4, 1948, barely as a 15-year old. Accepting him is the community of Zalla, where, as he makes the first steps in the Pauline life and mission, he attends the studies for baccalaureate and philosophy. Then he starts his novitiate on September 7, 1955 in the community of Deusto-Bilbao, where he makes his first profession on September 8 the following year. In 1958 he undertakes theological studies in Rome which he finishes receiving the Licence. Also in Rome he makes his perpetual profession on September 8, 1961. The following year, July 1, 1962, he is ordained a priest by Mons. Ettore Cunial.

During his years of formation he stands out in all the four “wheels” of the Pauline cart, showing at the same time both a certain emotiveness and a great generosity toward his peers. As for the apostolate of the editions, about which the formators of those years always paid much attention, he shows great responsibility and availability in assuming the hardships of the printing machine where he spends many hours of the day.

Fr. Gainzaraín starts in this way after his Ordination a journey of Pauline life that will lead him to carry out the most varied apostolates in the passage of the years. As a new priest, Fr. Desiderio Costa, the founder of the Congregation in Spain, assigns him to the community of Coslada (Madrid), where he dedicates himself first as Formator of the aspirants (1963-1966), then as Formator of the novices (1966-1969) and, finally, as teacher: first as in Coslada (1969-1972) and, after that in Zalla (1972-1975). At the end of that year he returns to Madrid to take care of the San Paolo Film Agency (1976-1979).

In January of 1980 he is transferred to the Madrid community of Las Rozas, where until 1995 he fills the role of Superior of the community for four mandates interrupted only during the years 1987-1989. During these years he

dedicates his energies also to the growth of the Institutes aggregated to the Society of Saint Paul (1987-1995) and actively collaborates in the vocational animation of the Province. Then he is assigned to the apostolate in the bookstore in Bilbao, a task which he carries out until September of 1998, when he returns to Madrid as Superior of the House of Formation (1998-2002), General Coordinator of Formation (1998-2000) and again as Provincial Delegate of the Aggregated Institutes (2002-2004). In December of 2004, finally, he is reassigned to the community of Bilbao as local superior.

After that year, with the advance of the years, he dedicates himself to the priestly ministry in various communities of Madrid, until at Las Rozas (Madrid) in 2008, at age 71, he begins to feel the first symptoms of Alzheimers disease, aggravated starting 2009 by repeated cerebral ictus which have gravely reduced his motor capacities. After his recovery in the infirmary of Vizconde de los Asilos on January 20, 2012, he had to carry out various hospital recoveries, until the final and irreversible outcome which took place on the morning of June 26, death due to cardio-respiratory deficiency.

We entrust to the mercy of the Risen One Fr. Andrés, who has exercised his long and fruitful Pauline priestly ministry with exemplary fidelity and commitment, dedicating the best of his energies to the formation of the young men and to the delicate apostolate of the service of authority. Now that he rejoices with the saints and the angels in the liturgy of heaven, may he intercede for the needs of our Congregation and in particular for those of the Province of Spain, above all so that the new young people may feel the call to announce Jesus the Master, the Way, the Truth and the Life in the Society of Saint Paul.

Rome, 27 June 2017



Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

His funeral will take place on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 10 a.m. (local time) at the Provincial Community of Protasio Gómez. His remains will then be buried in the Pauline Chapel in the Municipal Cemetery of Las Rozas (Madrid).

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