

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)



On 31 December 2017, at 6:45 on the Sunday when the Church was contemplating the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth, in the *Clínica Vitalem IPS* of Bogotá, our brother priest handed his soul to God to receive his eternal reward:

FR JORGE ALBERTO ROBERTO MELO BECERRA
*72 years old, 59 years of Pauline life, 51 of profession
and 44 of priesthood*

With Fr. Melo Becerra's parting, we lose an eclectic Pauline who knew how to interpret in a creative manner the charism that Don Alberione left us in heritage in its varied possibilities of expression whether in the field of apostolate, formation and in the service of authority.

Jorge Alberto was born into a family of farmers in Duitama, in the area of Boyacá, a Colombian city founded by the Dominicans in 1556. His father, Manuel, worked the land, and his mother, Annarosa, took care of the house and the six children that the Lord entrusted to them—four boys and two girls. Annarosa was to die at a fairly young age in 1968. Theirs was a simple family, rooted in solid Christian traditions. One month after his birth, little Jorge Alberto was brought to the baptismal font in the Cathedral of Boyacá.

He entered fairly early into the Congregation, on 28 January 1958, when he was only 12 and a half years old. His entrance into our first community of Bogotá, at "Calle 170", marked the beginning of his apostolate and intellectual formation. He started his novitiate on 11 February 1964. Exactly two years later, still in the capital of Colombia, our young brother made his first religious profession and took the name Roberto. His profession would be confirmed perpetually on 8 September 1970. Afterwards he completed his theological formation in the International Pauline College in Rome. It was in this city of Rome, in 1973, that he received his diaconate ordination (6 May), and then his priestly ordination (29 June) through the imposition of hands of Bishop Ildebrando Antoniutti.

At the conclusion of his formation, Jorge Alberto returned to Bogotá where he worked in the typography (1975-1978), and then in the graphic department (1978-1984), before becoming editorial director (1984-1987). In 1987, obedience called him to transfer to Medellín, where he was local superior for two terms (1987-1993). At the end of this period he returned to the community at "Calle 170" and for four years was the director of the liturgical periodical *El Domingo*, a task that he was to cover again from 2003 to 2005, and yet again for a longer period of time from 2009 until practically the end of 2016. In August of this same year, he needed to withdraw definitively due to health reasons and he moved to the

community of “Calle 170,” the same place where he had entered 58 years before.

Between 1998 and 2003, we again find him in Medellín where he held the role of Superior and Delegate, besides giving classes to the novices. For some years, Fr Jorge Alberto was also called to fulfill various roles in the Provincial Government, first as Secretary (2006-2008) and then as Councilor (2009-2012). From 2013 until he retired in 2016, we find him yet again in Medellín where he helped with the administration of the house, besides putting into practice his aptitude of working with the young by teaching lessons to the novices.

At the end of August 2016, as mentioned, Fr Jorge Alberto had to move to the community of “Calle 170” due to serious health problems. Two months beforehand, hospitalization was recommended and he went into the *Fundación Cardio Infantil* hospital in Bogotá. Then, last December 26th, due to a pronounced deterioration of his general health, he went to the *Clínica Vitalem IPS*, again in the Colombian capital. It was here that in the early hours of the morning of 31 December, a cardio-respiratory arrest caused his death.

We now recommend our brother to the intercession of the most holy Mother of God, whose solemnity we celebrate, and whom we venerate under the title of Queen of the Apostles, so that he may enjoy eternally the fruits of the good sown along the course of his 59 long years of Pauline life. On our part, we ask him to intercede for us so that many young people may feel the urgent call of the Divine Master, “Come to me all of you,” and follow the call to Pauline consecration.

Rome, 1 January 2018



Fr Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

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