

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 7.50 AM (local time) yesterday, 23 April 2018, at the infirmary of Saint Paul Community of Bogotá – Calle 170, where he had been there for some years and after being hospitalized for a few days at the *Clinica Esimed Jorge Piñeros Corpas* in the Colombian capital, our brother priest returned to the Father due to a cardiac arrest

FATHER ARISTELIO MONROY HURTADO

82 years, 70 of Pauline life, 61 of profession and 56 of priesthood

Aristelio was born on 18 August 1935 in Paipa (Province of Boyacá), a small village in the North of Bogotá immersed among the many hills that characterizes this green area of Colombia. On 26 August, he was baptized in the parish church of Saint Michael, and here he also received the Confirmation on 4 December 1938. His parents, Antonio and Angelica Hurtado, educated him on the faith and on a simple and laborious lifestyle. In this family environment, at 14 years, in 1949, he entered our community called “La Casita” in Bogotá, located in Calle 13, in the San Cristóbal neighbourhood. In 1953, he received the religious habit. His formation continued, also in the Colombian capital, with the study of philosophy (1953-1955), concluded before starting the novitiate, on 1st February 1956. He emitted a year later (2 February 1957) the first religious profession, also in Bogotá, during the Eucharist presided over by the then new Regional Superior, Father Renato Perino. On that occasion, he took the name of profession Norberto.

In June 1957, the cleric left for Rome: here he would study theology at the Pauline International College until 1961. These were the years in which he made his perpetual profession (8 September 1960) and, in the following year, he had the diaconal Ordination (7 May 1961). Finally, on 2 July 1961, at the *Regina Apostolorum* Sanctuary in Rome, he became a presbyter by the laying on of the hands of Msgr. Ettore Cunial. These were important years especially for studies. In the Eternal City, he finished philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and then he graduated in catechesis in Brussels (Belgium), until he later graduated in Communication Sciences at the Bolivarian University of Medellin.

From 1988 to 1994, he was the Delegate of the Community of Bogotá – the Provincial House. From 1994 until 2003 Father Monroy Hurtado was in Quito (Ecuador) as Director of the National Catholic Radio and of the Department of Evangelization and Social Communication of the Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference and, for a year, Superior of the same Community.

After this service, he returned to Colombia. In fact, in 2003, the first serious health problems began to appear, so much so that he underwent a delicate operation at the heart. At the beginning of the following year, he then transferred to Medellin, still in Colombia, where he held some courses for the Pauline novices, attending at the same time some updating seminars at the Pontifical Bolivarian University. Finally, from 2009 until his death, his community of departure was that of Bogotá – the Vocation House.

During his apostolic activity Father Aristelio wrote for the periodicals *Familia Cristiana*, *Vida Pastoral* and *El Cooperador Paulino*; he was responsible for the “Hora Paulina” column for *Radio Continental*. He collaborated with *Radio Nuevo Mundo* and *Radio Lumitón* of Bogotá. He was Director of *El Domingo* and *Ediciones Paulinas*, also dedicating himself to vocation animation. He then committed himself to teaching at the Minor Pauline Seminary and worked at the Department of Social Communication of the Colombian Episcopal Conference.

Father Monroy Hurtado had a decisive character; he spent a lot of his life in studying, teaching and editing. Among his works, it is worth remembering a small book entitled *El vagabundo del buen Dios. Padre Santiago Alberione*. The title is not only striking, but it is a simple and effective way to present Father Alberione and the Pauline Family, with clear vocation promotion intent.

Let us now entrust Father Aristelio to the Divine Master. Together with Blessed James Alberione and Timothy Giaccardo, he can live in the eternal Love of God, Love that in these days after Easter speaks to us of the new life of the Christian and invites us to proclaim the Risen One as he himself did as a Pauline; he too is an “Editor of Jesus”.

Rome, 24 April 2018

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, 25 April at 11.00 AM in the “Saint Paul Church”, at our Community of Bogotá – Calle 170. The body will then be buried in “The Immaculate” cemetery of Bogotá.

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