

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 approximately 22:00 (local time) of 30 March 2019, our brother priest died in Kochi (India) as a fatal result of a previous tumour

FATHER OUSEPH STEPHEN PULLAN

88 years, 64 of Pauline life, 59 of profession and 54 of priesthood

Ouseph was born in Nedungapra, in the state of Kerala (India), on 4 August 1930, memory of St. John M. Vianney, patron saint of priests. He was baptized on 10 August 1930 in the parish of Keruppanpady, dedicated to St. Anthony, and he was also confirmed here at the age of 12. His deeply religious family is composed of father Ouseph and mother Rose and gladdened by three other brothers and two sisters.

He entered the House in Allahabad on 24 July 1954, at the age of 24, after graduating in literature. *«I ardently desire to serve God in the Society of Saint Paul. So I ask you to admit me in the Society of Saint Paul»*, he wrote to the Superiors in view of his entry. After four years of initial formation, the novitiate began in Allahabad on 15 July 1958, finishing a year later which, on 16 July 1959, he made his first profession, assuming the religious name of Stephen.

After a year, he was sent to Italy, in Rome, to continue his theological studies. It was on 21 August 1960, with Vatican II fully in session, when he arrived in the Eternal City. During the four years that he attended profitably in the Pauline International College, the formators were happy with his spiritual growth and his attachment to the Pauline mission. On 8 September 1963, he made his perpetual vows before proceeding, on 30 June 1964, to the presbyterate by the laying on of hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial, Vice Regent of Rome.

Almost a year passed when, in May 1965, Father Stephen returned to India with the assignment of Master of the aspirants first in Allahabad, until 1970, and then in Bangalore where, in 1972 he was also named Superior. In 1976, he wrote a letter to the then Superior General, Father Tonni, inviting him to the first profession of 20 novices and anticipating the imminent entry into the novitiate of 25 postulant Disciples. These are the years of the tumultuous growth of the Province, established canonically only eleven years earlier. In 1978, at the end of two terms as Superior, he was transferred to New Delhi, where he served until 1980 in *St Paul International Book Centre*.

In 1980, a clear sign of his missionary flexibility, his apostolate changed again. The Superiors assigned him to Madras (today Chennai) to take on a pastoral role in St Luke Parish, a parish of the Archdiocese entrusted only

a few years before to the Paulines, who in those early years saw its activity grow greatly. So much so that, only six years later, with great joy Father Stephen shares his experience with the then Provincial Superior: *«I am happy to say that our parish now has more than 500 families. The number of them is constantly increasing. [...] Our parish is one of the best in the Archdiocese. The credit goes to the entire community of Madras»*. Even today, the parishioners remember him affectionately as a caring pastor.

In 1986, Father Stephen returned to Bangalore, where he was a local bursar and editor of the Pauline Family *Paulines in India* news bulletin. In 1990, he moved to Bombay (now Mumbai), where he worked in the publishing sector for a couple of years, also undergoing heavy open-heart surgery, before returning for a year to the Bangalore community with teaching assignment for our young people. In April 1993, having given a good account of himself as a local Superior, assuming this post in Madras (1993-1996), New Delhi (1997-2000), Vijayawada (2000-2003) – where, during his tenure, he was also Master of the Juniors – and, from 2003 to 2006, as Delegate to Kozhikode. He then moved to the community of Bangalore, where he remained until 2009. In that year, strained by age, he was transferred to Kochi, where he continued to serve the Lord as confessor to various religious communities and parishes.

In November 2018, he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer, but because of his compromised health, doctors cannot intervene intrusively. Father Stephen faithfully accepted the approaching end of his earthly life, which he rendered to the Divine Master at the “Lisie Hospital” in Kochi. Conscious until the end, in the last moments, accompanied by the prayers of the confreres, he issued his last breath sighing: *«Jesus is coming»*.

We now entrust the life of this brother of ours, who has greatly contributed to the building of the Society of Saint Paul in India, to the love of the Father, whom he has witnessed so well for many years. In this year of vocation, may this brother of ours intercede, who over the years has followed many young Paulines, for the perseverance of the many young people who, in the world, today look with enthusiasm to our Pauline vocation proposal.

Rome, 1st April 2019



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral has taken place at 8:00 on 2 April 2019, Tuesday, in the chapel of our Kochi community. After Mass, his mortal remains will rest in the cemetery of his place of origin, Nedungapra.

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