

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 4:15 PM (local time) on Wednesday of 10 July 2019, our brother disciple died at Lisie Hospital in Ernakulam (Kerala, India) due to a stroke.

BROTHER THOMAS ANTHONY POTTANANI

83 years, 61 of Pauline life, 56 of profession

«Serve with a smile» was his motto, but even more so was his lifestyle, his way of being with others, of living the apostolate. Brother Anthony was really sociable, helpful and friendly towards the people who came into the bookstore. His anecdotes, the little stories told with a smiling face were signs of a friendly welcome, typical of those who are ready to help others, of those who try to give maximum attention to the person in front of them.

Brother Pottanani was born on 3 March 1936 in Anickad (Kottayam, India) into a family of farmers, the youngest of five brothers. Baptized eight days later, he owed her mother her love for the faith; he owed her as well the value of work after the early death of his father Joseph.

His vocational story is similar to the call of Zacchaeus, as the first meeting with our brother Father Chako Maniyangatt occurred while he was gathering fruit. After two weeks from that meeting, he received the letter inviting him to leave for the community of Allahabad: it was 29 June 1957, Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. A curious fact is the coincidence of seeing precisely in this our community his Hindi professor, originally also of Anickad, namely, Jose Poovathanikunnel, and who, later, will be named Father Anselm as a Pauline.

In the same community, the novitiate began on 15 July 1960 and, two years later, made the first religious profession (16 July 1962), taking the name of Brother Anthony. It is nice to know that Anthony himself, among the novices, will prove to be the best at singing. On the same day, five years later, Brother Anthony will profess his religious vows perpetually in our Congregation.

A long period of apostolic activity began in the bookstore for him, from 1967 to 2009, marked by an authentic passion to make everything to everyone. His evangelization "pulpits" were the bookstores of Bombay (1967-1972 and 1985-1988), Chennai (1972-1985 and 2000-2004), Kozhikode (1988-2000), Kochi (2004-2009). In these bookstores, he has borne his personal talents, putting them at the service of the people, of the local church. Experienced above all in religious and liturgical articles, he was consulted by many consecrated men and women and diocesan priests. At the same time, he worked to help the poor, the sick, in many small and concrete ways. Citing the phrase of the English poet Shelley, Brother Anthony lived among the people, doing «all the good possible, when possible... and then forget about it».

He spent the last ten years in the Kozhikode Community, from 2009 until yesterday, when the Divine Master called him to himself.

Let us entrust this brother disciple of ours to the love of the Father. May the many smiles, his love for others that translated in welcoming, listening and practical help... all this good generously sown, especially in the bookshop, be multiplied according to the Secret of Success of Blessed James Alberione. To him we entrust the young people in formation, especially those who are preparing for perpetual profession as Disciples of the Divine Master, in this Year of Vocation of the Pauline Family.

Rome, 11 July 2019

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral will take place on Friday, 12 July, at 1:00 PM at the St. Mary's Church in Anickad (Pallickathodu). The body will be buried in the parish cemetery.

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