



At 4:25 PM on Saturday, 17 August 2019, the Disciple of the Divine Master passed away as a result of pneumonia at the Austinwoods Nursing Center in Austintown (United States)

BROTHER BIENVENIDO EMMANUEL CAÑA
84 years, 66 of Pauline life and 61 religious profession

Bienvenido was born in Sagpon – Daraga (Province of Albay) on 22 March 1935 from a family of poor farmers, made up of father David, mother Maria, a brother and a sister. Soon, however, the three children remain orphans of both parents. As soon as he finished high school, at 18, the young man crossed the threshold of the community of Pasay City, on 22 May 1953. After three years of initial formation, he lived the novitiate in Pasay City, which he concluded with his first profession on 30 June 1958. On this occasion, he takes the religious name of Emmanuel. Good and upright, a little reserved, faithful in living his piety, always active and industrious in the apostolate, on 30 June 1964 he made his perpetual vows in Pasay City.

For some years, he remained in this city, engaged on several occasions in the press, warehouse and bookstore. In 1982, he left the Philippines and arrived in Rome to attend a two-year theological study at the Pauline International College. At the end of this formation, he was transferred by the Superior General to the United States, to be precise to Staten Island, where he helped for some time in the press. Shortly thereafter, however, came his new destination, the Dearborn community, where he will live until 2006. In all these years, he had a fruitful apostolate in the bookstore. The American brothers describe this particularly fruitful time. With his resourcefulness, in fact, he managed the bookstore with extreme diligence and, with a limited budget, managed to always propose new titles, keeping the assortment of books and magazines constantly fresh for the benefit of the faithful visitors to this pulpit of ours.

When, in 2006 he returned to Staten Island (New York), he was called to direct the local bookstore for a few years, much larger and more demanding than the previous one for the greater presence of the faithful. The massive attendance of Spanish-speaking public also pushed him to expand the offer of texts in this language. The evolution of technology, moreover, led him, always faithful to the Founder's mandate to use the fastest and most effective means, to learn to use the new computer systems for the best management of the bookstore.

When, in 2016, he was removed from this position due to his deteriorating health, Brother Emmanuel experienced a great personal suffering. So in December of that year he accepted for the Divine Master's sake to be transferred to the community of Canfield, where he could receive care and assistance appropriate to his state of health. Here, now abandoned in the arms of God, he often repeated with faith to those who visit him: «Now I am only waiting that St. Peter would come to take me».

Some time ago, because of the worsening of his general conditions, Brother Emmanuel was admitted to a specialized clinic, the Austinwoods Nursing Center in Austintown. Faithful until the end of his mission, even in this last part of his life, he went every day from room to room, pushing a cart full of books to offer them to the other patients. He died last Saturday after a brief struggle with a severe form of pneumonia that struck him suddenly.

At this moment, we entrust to the intercession of this faithful Disciple of the Master the apostolic future of the US Province, which welcomed him many years ago and which he always served to his full potential.

Rome, 19 August 2019



*Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General*

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