

# 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 7:15 PM (local time) on Friday, 22 May, our brother priest

## **FATHER PANKAJ KANDULNA**

**49 years, 31 of Pauline life, 26 of profession and 18 of ordination**

died at the Nazareth Hospital in Allahabad (India).

Father Pankaj died suddenly of a violent heart attack. He had spent the day serenely. After the Eucharist and the daily apostolate, in the evening, while he was playing badminton in the community of Allahabad, he began to experience a sudden and severe respiratory distress, which prompted the brothers to take him urgently to the hospital, where the doctors tried in vain to revive him for 30 minutes, until he had to surrender and ascertain his death.

Born on 11 July 1971 in Torpa, in the state of Bihar (now Jharkhand), in North-East India, Father Pankaj came from a large family (nine brothers and sisters) and deeply religious. He received from father Patras and mother Selestina a formation devoted to an exemplary simplicity of life and full of daily joy, which he then brought also into his Pauline religious life, which he always led in an exemplary way. There is another religious in the family: one of his brothers, in fact, Msgr. Binay Kandulna, is Bishop of Khunti.

His love for music, in particular for the "Hindustani classical music" (music genre typical of North India), cultivated since he was a boy, has accompanied him throughout his life, together with the passion for the direction of the choir in church when the opportunity arose.

Pankaj joined the Society of Saint Paul on 6 July 1988 in Bangalore. He made his first religious profession on 30 June 1993, confirming it perpetually 8 years later. He first graduated in English Literature from Andhara Loyola College in Vijayawada (1996) and then obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy (1998) and in Theology (2001) at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in Bangalore. Finally, he was ordained a priest on 24 April 2002 by the laying on of hands of Bishop Stephen Tiru, Bishop of Khunti.

Immediately after the Ordination, he served for one year in Mumbai in the diffusion sector of ST PAULS Publishing. In 2003, he was transferred to Vijayawada, where he was the Master of aspirants for a year. The following year, moved to the community of Ranchi, he carried out the role of vocational animator for North India and the teacher of aspirants in the Community of Ranchi and then was appointed, from 2006 to 2010, Delegate in the same community.

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In 2011, Father Pankaj was transferred to the Community of Allahabad, inserted in the editorial sector of *Atmonnati Prakashan* – our Hindi publications – and with the role of Director of *Prabhu Ka Din* (the Hindi version of The Sunday Liturgy). From 2015 to 2018, he was also the Delegate of the same community of Allahabad.

Father Pankaj's particular love for the Bible took the typical form of the Pauline apostolate when, in 2019 and 2020, he published *Ish Vachan*, a Hindi version of the Bible Dairy with good success. Even for the year 2021, the work was almost finished.

With a somewhat reserved character, this brother of ours has always witnessed the joyful simplicity of the Gospel, made of service, joy, positive energy and welcome for all he met. Unfortunately, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, his funeral could not be attended by family members and confreres, except those of Allahabad.

As we prepare for the Solemnity of the Ascension, in which we celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day, we like to think of Father Pankaj's life as a narrative of a beautiful, successful life, perfumed by the good odour of the Gospel. The certainty that his life now enjoys the fullness of love in God, bring consolation to all those who have known and loved him.

Rome, 23 May 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral was celebrated Saturday 23 May, at 3 PM (local time) at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Prayagraj. The mortal remains of Father Pankaj will be buried at the Christian Cemetery, Rajapur, Allahabad.*

*The Circumscription Superiors inform their communities of the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).*