

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 6:15 p.m. (local time) on Sunday, August 2, our brother priest died at the Holy Family Hospital, Bandra, Mumbai, India.

FATHER MELITON MARK FONSECA

88 years of age, 66 of Pauline life, 61 of profession, 56 of Priesthood

Meliton was born on March 10, 1932, at Kandivli, a district of Bombay (now Mumbai), into a very religious family. Father Joseph and Mother Louise (who died in 1967 and 1973 respectively) had ten children: four boys and six girls. Meliton, the last one to remain alive, was the ninth in order of birth. Baptized on March 27, 1932, in the parish of Our Lady of Remedies in Bombay, he grew up nourishing his faith in the parish and family and began to quench his thirst for learning through his studies at St. Andrew's High School in Bandra-Mumbai.

Very passionate about reading, since 1952 he became a frequent visitor to our "Examiner Press Bookshop" in Mumbai. During these visits, he met one of the first Italian Paulines in India, Father Attilio Tempra, who helped him to discover his Pauline vocation. On June 17, 1954, he entered the community of Mumbai as an aspirant. After a year of novitiate in Allahabad, on July 16, 1959, he made his first religious profession, assuming the name of Mark. After a year of philosophical studies, he was sent to Rome to complete his theological studies at the International Theological College (1960-1964). In the Eternal City, he made his perpetual profession (September 8, 1963) and was ordained a priest (June 30, 1964) by the imposition of the hands of Bishop Ettore Cunial.

Returning to India, he was sent to the Community of Allahabad, where he was a professor of English in the Pauline seminary and became the second Editor of the youth magazine *The Teenager*, founded in November 1963 – only a year old – by the late Fr Mauro Ferrero, who died in Rome in 2018 after spending 34 years on mission in India. During this two-year period, Father Mark joined St Xavier's College, Fort, Mumbai, the most prestigious educational institution in the field of communication of his time. In 1971 he was transferred to Mumbai for two years as the Master of Clerics. Three years later, in 1974, he was called to complete his studies in communication by specializing at Jesuit Fairfield University (United States). Returning to India in 1977, for two years he was sent to Allahabad as the Master of the Clerics; then, for another two years, as the Novice Master in the community of Bangalore.

In 1981 he was appointed as the Director of correspondence Course in journalism, and as a professor at the *Amruthavani Communication Centre* in Hyderabad. In 1984 he was appointed as the Superior of the Community of Allahabad. He lived in this community for four years, where he

continued to serve as the Editor of *The Teenager* and a Professor of English in our seminary. In 1988 he returned to Mumbai to work in the editorial department and as an English teacher.

The obedience called him, then, in 1994 in Ibadan, Nigeria, to strengthen that promising prospect that had opened only three years ago. He remained in Africa for two years, as the Delegate of the Community. Returning to Mumbai in 1996, he was engaged for several years in the Editorial department and as an English teacher to the young Paulines. Since then, and until the end of his days, he remained in Mumbai, the community that welcomed him 66 years ago.

Fr Mark was a man endowed from a young age with a simple and sincere spirituality, the fruit of an authentic search for God which he expressed in typically Pauline apostolic forms, always obedient to his Superiors. His natural silence had made his presence among us gracious and kind. May the God of all mercy now grant him the well-deserved eternal reward. May he intercede from up there so that more and more young people may receive, as he did many years ago, the call to Pauline way of life.

Rome, 4 August 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

Father Mark's funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, August 3 at 11 a.m. (local time) in the chapel of our community in Mumbai. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the family tomb in the cemetery of his native parish in Kandivli (Mumbai).

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