

## 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 7:50 PM (local time) on Tuesday of 8 September, he died at the Mission Hospital of Jorhat (India), because of complications due to Covid-19 and in a clinical situation already of general weakness due to age, our confrere

### **BROHTER RUFUS PANCRATIUS TIRKEY** **89 years, 66 of Pauline life, 62 of religious profession**

Rufus was born on 21 April 1931 in Sakea (Ranchi) from mother Agata Toppo and father Joseph, the second son of five children. Thanks to his parents of peasant origins, after having received Baptism three days after birth, he grew in faith, learning what is essential in life. We are in the years in which Gandhi worked for the independence of the Indian people from English rule.

On 16 June 1954, he entered the community of Allahabad and on 8 September of the following year, he began his novitiate in the same city. On 9 September 1957, he made his first religious profession – taking the name of Pancratius – which he confirmed in perpetuity on 8 September 1962, always in the same community.

His apostolate is marked by two main activities: the press and the bookshop. In fact, from 1954 to 1981 he was continuously engaged in the press, first in Allahabad (1954-1970) and then in Bangalore (1970-1981). Five years followed in the bookshop in Coimbatore (1981-1986), before returning to the community of Bangalore as head of the press (1986-1994).

Subsequently, Brother Pancratius was sent to the communities of Jorhat (1994-2009), Guwahati (2009-2018) and, finally, Jorhat again, always available for the different needs of the community.

A Disciple of the first Pauline generation in India, capable of giving vigour to apostolic action with determination and great availability. A true “pioneer” from the beginning, who often remained standing even at night to speed up the printing process of some books. In one of his brief profiles, the Indian brothers remember Brother Pancratius as the man of the “*ora et labora*”, because he always tirelessly stretched out his work, always ready to nourish his personal and intimate relationship with the Divine Master. His was a true and proper lifestyle, a way of being that was able to sustain his Pauline religious life for countless years, making him a simple and concrete witness of our mission not only for the Pauline confreres, but also for our lay collaborators. And all this always with a cheerful and pleasant style, which made him a brother among brothers. His stay in the community of Bangalore, seat of the novitiate, allowed this brother of ours to be an example for the young. Even his way of helping

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the poor of the neighbourhood, offering them water from our well, showed his goodness of soul and the ability to be attentive to the needs of others. Truly a man with a deep social conscience.

In Brother Pancratius the new generations have a model of life given, of a disinterested and free disciple interiorly, who spent all of himself to give Jesus Way, Truth and Life to the Indian people.

The Lord called him to himself on the day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the one who welcomed and gave the Lord of life to the world. May He now welcome Brother Pancratius into His arms of mercy. And all that he lived, may become a welcome offering in his joyful encounter with the full Life together with the whole Pauline Family in Heaven.

*Rome, 10 September 2020*

*Father Domenico Soliman, ssp*

*The funeral took place at 6:00 PM (local time) on Wednesday 9 September in the parish church of Mary Mother of the Church in Jorhat, following the sanitary procedures of the Government of Assam. The body of Brother Rufus Pancratius Tirkey has been buried in the cemetery of the parish church.*

**The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).**