

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)



In the early morning of 14 October 2020, our brother priest died in the infirmary of the Pauline community of Guadalajara (Mexico)

FATHER RICARDO ANSELMO ROJAS SARMIENTO

81 years, 68 of Pauline life, 60 of profession, 55 of priesthood

Father Ricardo was born on 3 April 1939 in Atlixco (Puebla), a town not far from Mexico City. Papa Serafin is a worker, mother Sofia is a housewife, dedicated full time to raising and educating her seven children – four boys and three girls – who were born from their marriage. Ricardo was the third in order of birth. From his simple and hard-working parents, he learned a certain essentiality of life, which made him a boy with an uncomplicated character, always smiling and available, a gift that will be important for his future as a Pauline religious.

He entered the Congregation on 20 January 1952 in Mexico City in the community of “Giotto 35” (later closed), the first Pauline house founded in the land of the ancient Aztecs. Here he received his first Pauline formation, where he also lived the novitiate. On 11 February 1960, he made his first religious profession, taking the name of Anselmo.

In August 1961, he arrived in Italy to attend academic studies. In 1965, he completed his baccalaureate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, followed by special studies in philosophy in the same institution and until 1967, when he returned to Mexico. Meanwhile in Rome he made his perpetual profession (8 September 1963) and lived together, among others, with his fellow student and fellow countryman Father Juan Manuel Esteban Galaviz. He received the priestly ordination (30 June 1965) by the laying on of the hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial.

Returning from overseas, like a true Pauline in love with the apostolate, he confirmed that passion for the typographical apostolate in which, among the praise of formators, he had distinguished himself during his years of study. In the community of “Giotto 35”, in fact, he dedicated himself to this activity for almost 14 years, combining it in some aspects with that of formator, vice master of novices and master of aspirants and juniors. In those years, he was also a professor of mathematics for our students. Furthermore, thanks to his study experience in Rome, he also updated the philosophical curriculum of our students' formation program.

From 1988 to 1991, we found him in Mexico City-Taxqueña as Superior of the community and administrator of the *Ediciones Paulinas*. Precisely in that last year, he was appointed Director General of the apostolate, associating that position with that of Vicar Provincial until 1994. In 1996, he became Director of Production for his circumscription, an apostolate which he had to leave when he was appointed Provincial Superior, a position he held for the

period 1998-2002. After his mandate, in 2003 obedience again called him to coordinate production at the provincial level.

In 2006, he was sent to the United States, to Miami, where he was Delegate and Bursar of the community. He remained here for three years until, in 2009, he was assigned to the community of Aguascalientes, where he was also the local Delegate and Bursar. Here for some years he distinguished himself for his attention, love and dedication to the local Pauline Family, in particular with the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master and the members of the Aggregated Institutes, which he accompanied with conferences and retreats. During this time, he also devoted himself to teaching *Corpus Paulinum* at the diocesan interreligious institute. It is in recent years that his health had definitely begun to deteriorate and the Provincial Superior was forced to send him to the “St. Maria de Guadalupe” of the community of Guadalajara. For a certain period, he did not lose hope of being able to return to “his community”, as he said, but was called to do the last obedience that the Lord asks of him because of his precarious state of health, accepting to stay in Guadalajara. His life ended here on 14 October.

In recent years, he was seen walking slowly with his walker, celebrating Holy Mass, preaching some retreat, sitting in the garden absorbed in meditation perhaps on the abundant riches that the Lord has granted him in his long life. What will remain impressed was above all the serenity of his face, the last reflection of his testimony of life. The day before appearing before the master of the harvest, still conscious and serene, he began to have respiratory complications until, at 5:20 in the morning, his death due to a pulmonary embolism occurred.

Let us now entrust to this faithful apostle the intentions and projects of the Mexico-Cuba Province and the successful outcome of the Biblical Year, which will open for the whole Pauline Family, so loved by him, on 26th November.

Rome, 15 October 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral was celebrated on 15 October 2020, at 9 AM (local time) at the chapel of our community in Guadalajara. The body was placed in the “Parque Funeral Colonias” cemetery in Zapopan (Jalisco).

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