

# 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 hours of Sunday 18 October 2020, our brother priest died in the infirmary of the Pauline community of Vizconde de los Asilos (Madrid, Spain)

**FATHER RICARDO SANTIAGO ARES CERQUEIRO**  
**90 years, 76 of Pauline life, 71 of profession and 63 of priesthood**

Ricardo was born on 31 March 1930 in the picturesque Galician town of Rial, in the province of La Coruña, north-west of Spain. He was baptized that same day. He received Confirmation 6 years later, on 11 August 1936. The family is deeply Christian and is made up of mother Maria, father José and seven children. Up to the age of 14, he attended the schools of his hometown.

He entered our house in Deusto-Bilbao on 4 September 1944, 10 years after the first arrival of the Paulines in Spain. These are the difficult years that follow the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and that mark the beginning of the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. In Bilbao, Ricardo, after having attended high school, entered the novitiate, which ended on 9 September 1949 with his first profession. He took the religious name of Santiago. Meanwhile, his brother Francisco Jesús, now resident in Madrid-Vizconde de los Asilos, also began his vocational journey in the Congregation.

He lived the period of juniorate first in the community of Zalla (Vizcaya), where he studied philosophy, and then in the newly formed Community of León as assistant and teacher of the aspirants. In 1953, he moved to Rome to complete his studies in the Pauline International Theological College. The formators grasped in the young cleric those good human and apostolic potentialities, which will be fully confirmed in the course of his long life. On 8 September 1954, in the Eternal City Ricardo made his perpetual profession, followed, on 7 July 1957, by the priestly ordination by the imposition of hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial.

The new priest is destined for an all-round apostolic experience, both in the field of the apostolate and in formation. In the summer of that same year, full of enthusiasm and apostolic zeal, he returned to Spain, destined for the community of Zalla as Master of aspirants and their teacher. In August 1964, a new stage in his life began, which saw him as a protagonist in Latin America for a few years. In fact, at the wish of the Founder, he arrived in Caracas, Venezuela, with the post of local Superior. In 1968, the Delegate of the Superior General, Fr. Luigi Zanoni, transferred him to Santiago de Chile as Master of aspirants. In 1973, when the socio-political situation of the country began to deteriorate under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, he returned to Spain, where long years of Pauline life awaited him in the service of authority and in the apostolate.

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In Madrid, inserted in the community of Coslada as Novice Master, he felt the need to follow a period of updating and attended a two-year course in Pastoral Theology at the Madrid branch of the University of Salamanca. Then he returned to the Provincial House, where he assumed various functions in the field of canonical and delegated authority service: consultant for the *San Pablo* Publishing House (1975-1984); Provincial Superior (1984-1988); Editorial director (1988-1991); Director General of the Apostolate (1991-1997). A year of ongoing formation followed, the fruit of his desire to keep himself up to date.

In 1998, obedience called him for another three years as a missionary abroad. In fact, he was appointed Regional Superior in Portugal and sent to the house of Lisbon until 2001. In 2002, he returned to his motherland, inserted in the House of formation, where he assumed two important functions over time: Director of the music sector of the *San Pablo* and, for two consecutive terms (2002-2008), local superior. He then returned to the Provincial House, where obedience still calls him to fill the role of Director General of the Apostolate (2008-2010) and, later, of consultant for *San Pablo* (2010-2013). It is the moment when his strength began to decline in an evident way and he was placed in the infirmary of the community of Madrid-Vizconde de los Asilos, where he carried out, as long as he could, ministry and continued to lend a hand as a consultant to the publishing house.

Father Ricardo was a Pauline with great human, Christian, religious and charismatic values. A person endowed with a great charge of humanity, always open to dialogue and understanding towards everyone, he always enjoyed excellent health until, about four years ago, he began to show symptoms of memory loss, which worsened over the last few years. He continued to lead normal community life until last 28 September, when he suffered a severe stroke. After a three-week hospitalization, he returned to the community, in the early morning of 18 October he gave his soul to God.

Rome, 19 October 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*Father Ricardo's body will receive Christian burial in the cemetery of his birthplace in Rial (La Coruña).*

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