

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 2:15 AM (local time) yesterday, 8 November 2021, our confrere passed away in Guadalajara (Mexico), due to cardiac arrest



BROTHER LEOPOLDO EFRÉN GARCÍA ORTIZ *80 years, 63 of Pauline life, 56 of profession*

Leopoldo was born on 10 February 1941 in Cerano (Guanajuato, Mexico), to father Efrém and mother Margarita Ortiz, the fourth of ten children. On 18 January 1958, he entered the Congregation in the community of Taxqueña. He began his novitiate on 24 December 1962, made his First Profession on 25 December 1964 – taking the name of Efrén – and perpetual Profession on 25 December 1969.

The master, at the beginning of the novitiate, defined him as an “open and very generous character” and before the First profession “docile”, who offered himself “with great enthusiasm in all the offices entrusted to him”, a sociable and obedient person.

His apostolate was almost always linked to the diffusion in bookstores. In fact, before starting the apostolate of suffering, he worked for several years in the San Pablo Bookstore in Mexico City and subsequently in the Coatzacoalcos Community, where he worked for a long time in the local bookstore. He was also responsible for the printing press in Guadalajara and a mandate as a community Delegate in Merida.

Brother Efrén lived fully the words that our Founder said to the Paulines engaged in the book apostolate: “Our bookshops are apostolic centers ... not shops but services, not sales but apostolate, not customers but disciples and cooperators, not business and numbers but the Gospel that spreads light and warmth, not prices but offerings”.

The Provincial Government, in 2019, realizing his precarious health, asked him to spend a period in the infirmary of Santa Maria De Guadalupe, in the Community of Guadalajara. The examinations revealed the presence of prostate cancer, although not serious. Precisely for this reason, he asked to resume his apostolate in the bookstore. However, when the disease entered a more critical phase, he was permanently transferred to the infirmary to follow the various treatments more rigorously.

Gradually the tumor got worse, leading to metastases in his bones and other organs, which caused him severe pain. Despite all this, he never complained. With the medical staff, he was always smiling, friendly and joking. He could be seen walking alone, aided by his wheelchair, smiling and in a good mood. Joy always prevailed in him, even when he was bedridden.

Brother Efrén was a beautiful figure of a consecrated Pauline. In 1996,

the Provincial assigned him the Community of Guadalajara, writing: “The presence and witness of a Disciple of the Divine Master for the vocational project is of utmost importance in this community where the formation of young people is located”. Without a doubt, Brother Efrén has always carried these words in his heart, because in recent years he has been a great witness for the aspirants. When he met young people, he told them phrases that they wrote down in their notebooks, because they were like “pearls” for their vocational journey: “Come and dare, Christ calls you as his apostles”, “Do not be afraid, this adventure is beautiful”. “The vocation is like a seed, for this reason it must be watered and taken care of”.

He was a lover of the plants in his garden and, even when he was ill, he took care of them while waiting for them to bear fruit. However, the greatest fruit for Brother Efrén will be that which will be reaped in the life of those who have lived with him.

Blessed Alberione wrote: “The disciple has two vocations: a vocation to holiness and to the apostolate”. Brother Efrén lived this vocation to the full. From Paradise, he continues to pray and intercede for the Mexico-Cuba Province and, above all, for the Disciples of the Divine Master.

Rome, 9 November 2021

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

Brother Efrén’s funeral was celebrated on Tuesday, 9 November at 8:00 AM, in the community of Guadalajara. The body was buried in the pantheon Parque Funeral Colonia, in Zapopan, Jalisco.

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