

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 7:40 AM on Friday, 30 April 2021, our confrere passed away peacefully at the *Haus der Barmherzigkeit* residence of the Archdiocese of Vienna

FATHER PETER ADALBERT SCHOLZ

84 years, 63 of Pauline life, 60 of profession and 57 of priesthood

Peter was born in Berlin on 20 September 1936, the first of the two children of Gertrude and Rudolf Scholz. In the German capital, he grew up and, while the 2nd World War was raging, he attended elementary school. At the end of the conflict, in a city almost totally destroyed by the Allied bombings, he attended high school at a Catholic school. After the final exams and some small work experiences, on 10 December 1957, he entered as a postulant in the small Pauline community of Remscheid, a town located in the Archdiocese of Cologne. A year later, he moved to Rome to learn the Italian language. In September 1959, he began his novitiate in Albano Laziale (Rome), which ended twelve months later, on 8 September 1960, with his first religious profession, taking the name of Adalbert.

Later, he attended philosophical-theological studies at the International Theological College of Rome. During those years of formation, which coincides with the first sessions of the Second Vatican Council, in addition to being proofreader, he also provided a valuable linguistic contribution in the evaluation of various texts written by the major German theologians of the time, some of which will enter the famous *Biblioteca di cultura religiosa* series of the then *Edizioni Paoline*.

On 8 September 1963, he made his perpetual vows in Rome and on the following 22 December, in Alba, he had his priestly ordination. After a year of pastoral care in Rome, at the end of 1964, he returned to Remscheid. Here he carried out his apostolate in the local German-language editorial office, which in those years published some important theological texts. At the same time, he was chaplain of the parish led by the Paulines, dealing in particular with youth animation. Later he held the position of teacher of religion and mathematics in a high school in the city.

In 1971, he was local Superior of the community of Remscheid-Lennep, where in a new project two theology students and some young Pauline priests were hosted, with the assistance of two Pious Disciples. In 1976, he returned to Italy and spent a year of experience in Albano Laziale, following the music-record production with the intention of later launching a similar attempt also in Vienna. In 1978, in fact, he moved to the Austrian capital, where, alongside the attempt, which was later aborted, to start an apostolate in the field of music, he also held the position of parish vicar.

In 1980, he was appointed parish priest of the "St. Theresia von Lisieux", located in the residential district of Starchant in Vienna, an activity that he carried out with dedication and passion until the end of 2002, when, after suffering a cerebral stroke, he was forced to resign as parish priest and find

accommodation at the “Stephanushaus”, the clergy house of the Archdiocese of Vienna. Later, when his health conditions deteriorate further, he was welcomed into the residence for non-self-sufficient priests “Haus der Barmherzigkeit”, assisted with much love and attention by the health staff and his faithful guardian, the lawyer Dr. Adolf Schopf, his former parishioner.

With strength of spirit and also with a certain dose of serenity, Father Peter accepted his limitations, always grateful for the frequent visits of former parishioners and friends. On the occasion of his 75th and 80th birthdays, as well as the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination, beautiful celebrations were organized which were attended by several priests, friends and former parishioners. Among these also Father Peter’s brother, Father Dieter Scholz, a Jesuit priest and missionary for almost 50 years in Zimbabwe and in recent years also Bishop of the Diocese of Chinhoyi, suffragan of Harare. Among those present were also the Pauline priests Father Bruno Gonella and Father Gino Levorato, who followed him with a lively fraternal sense in recent years, thus keeping Father Peter’s ties with the Congregation alive until the very end.

In June 2014, for the priestly jubilee, Father Silvio Sassi, the late Superior General, wrote to Father Peter: *«You have come a long way in the service of the Church in the Society of St. Paul, dedicating yourself to different tasks: from the publishing sector in Remscheid to the leadership of the Lennep community, to the parish ministry in Vienna, always “for the glory of God and for the peace of men”. In the name of the Congregation I thank you from my heart, but above all may the Lord reward you with abundant joys and consolations».*

After some renal and respiratory complications that occurred in the last few days, Father Peter passed away peacefully in the early morning of 30 April, assisted by the medical staff of the “Haus der Barmherzigkeit” and by the chaplain of the house.

Rome, 30 April 2021



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

Father Peter's funeral will be celebrated on Tuesday, 12 May 2021, at 2 PM in the chapel of the Central Cemetery in Vienna. The body will be immediately buried in the section of the cemetery reserved for priests.

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