



“As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession.”

(Fr. Alberione)

At 6 a.m. today (local time), at the hospital Santa Maria in Lisbon, our brother Priest has returned to the Father after a long illness.

FR. JOÃO MANUEL GOMES FILIPE
75 years, 62 of Pauline life, 47 of priesthood

Fr. João was born in Paradanta, a locality near São Vicente da Beira, a town in the interior, in the center north of Portugal, on 27 November 1935. On 13 September 1948, at the age of 12, he entered the Society of Saint Paul that had its seat then in Rua do Lumiar north of Lisbon. Here he has finished his high school and philosophical studies; in this community he has also made his novitiate, at the end of which he has made his first profession on 8 September 1955 and some years of Juniorate. During that period, including the first years of formation, he has been busy with some works in the printing press, has corrected proofs, been an assistant of the young men and even of the novices, and worked as director of the subscription department. During the last years of formation Fr. Giacomo Giraudo had charged him with paging (using lead) and with some translations for the magazine *Família Cristã*, which at that time consisted of sixteen pages.

After arriving in Rome for theological studies, he makes his perpetual profession on 8 September 1960; here he also receives the presbyteral ordination on 7 July 1963. During the years that he has been in Rome, he carried out his apostolate in the accounting sector (books).

After his return to Portugal (1964), following his priestly ordination, we find him occupied with various tasks for the Pauline community and apostolic life: in charge of vocations in the community of Apelação (1965-1966); formator of the boys in Apelação (1966-1970); director of editions, also in Apelação (1970-1972); then he has been parish priest of Camarate (1972-1975), Superior of the community of Apelação (1975-1977), in-charge of the warehouse in Apelacao(1975-1978), director of editions in Apelação (1980-1982), regional bursar in Alvalade (1982-1985), responsible for sales promotion and publicity in Lisbon (1986-1988), Superior in Alvalade (1989-1996); again in the editorial sector in Apelação (1996-1999); director of *Família Cristã*, in 1999, in Alvalade; Superior and corrector of proofs and translator for the magazine *Família Cristã*, always in Alvalade (1999-2002); Superior and director of marketing in Apelação (2002-2005). From May 2005 till the last days of his life he has worked correcting proofs and translating for the editorial sector.

In the last months of 2009, he had been diagnosed with a malignant tumor in the prostate. Operated and subjected to chemotherapy, Fr.. João has started his calvary of trips to the

hospital for continuing analyses, while he tried as much as he could, to work for the apostolate. There have been moments when Fr. João succeeded in transmitting to the community the sensation that he is much better and has even definitively defeated his illness. But in the last months of 2010, his situation has quickly worsened. The medical team of the central hospital of Lisbon, the Santa Maria, that had followed him for more than a year, has never tired of giving to Fr. João all the necessary cures. It was understood that by then little could be done. To give better assistance to the confrere, they have made recourse to recovery in the hospital. In the course of three weeks, Fr. João has passed away.

We entrust this our beloved confrere who like Saint Paul has fought the good fight and has already finished his course (2 Tim 4,7), to the Lord Jesus who he has praised and adored as Way, Truth and Life, so that He may lead him to the house of the Father and give him the reward of eternal life, in the communion of saints and in the company of the wonderful Pauline Family that is already in heaven.

Rome, 21 January 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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