



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 8.05 pm (local time) on Tuesday, 8 March 2011, in the infirmary of the house of Mumbai, left for his eternal reward.

FR LEO MATHEW VECHOOR

73 years old, 56 years of Pauline life, 51 years of religious profession, 46 years priest

Fr Leo Vechoor was born on 14 June 1937 at Paika, near Pala, Kerala, South India. He joined the Society of St Paul at Allahabad in 1954 where he completed his aspirancy and novitiate and made the First Profession on 16 July 1959. He did his Philosophy course also in Allahabad and then proceeded to Rome where he completed the Theology course in the International Pauline College. Fr Leo made his Perpetual Profession in Rome on 20 August 1963 and was ordained Priest in Rome on 30 June 1964.

Fr Leo spent the major part of his life as a Pauline in the house Allahabad, holding various responsibilities. After he returned to India in 1965, for two years he taught aspirants in the house of Mumbai. In 1967 he was transferred to Allahabad where he served as teacher, master of Aspirants, vocation promoter, research scholar in Hindi language and as Superior of the community. While in Allahabad he recruited many vocations to the Society of St Paul. He took his Doctorate in Hindi language with distinction which won him a scholarship for further research in the British Museum in London. From 1983 to 1985 he edited *Home Life* magazine in Mumbai. In 1985 he returned to Allahabad where he rendered various services till 1991. From 1991 to 1992 he was in New Delhi, editing *Yuva Spandan*, a national Catholic Youth magazine.

In 1992 he returned to Allahabad once again and offered there various services as youth animator, in charge of the semi-parish in our house, editor of *Prabhu Ka Din* (a liturgical animation leaflet in the Hindi language), and as Director of Catholic Inquiry Centre which was also located in the house of the Society of St Paul.

He continued his services in Allahabad till he took seriously ill and was taken to Mumbai in September 2010. For the last two months he was totally bed-ridden. On 8th March 2011 about 6.30 pm his condition suddenly became serious, and he was given the Anointing of the sick. The end came before long as he quietly breathed his last.

Fr Leo was hard working, sociable and cheerful. He was noted for his learning, simplicity of life, identification with the poor and pastoral care of the youth.

Let us invoke Divine Mercy upon him that he may hear the Divine Master telling him, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

His Funeral will take place on Thursday, 10 March 2011, at 9.15 am.

Rome, 8 March 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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