



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 10:52 p.m. (local time) of Friday 27 January 2012, the Divine Master has called to his eternal reward our brother Priest

FR. HERNÁN PÉREZ ETCHEPARE

47 years, 26 of Pauline life, 21 of religious profession, 13 of priesthood

Fr. Hernán was born on 16 November 1964 in Rafaela (province of Santa Fe, Argentina) and has entered the Congregation on 20 February 1986 in the house of Córdoba. Here he has finished his studies in Philosophy, in the meantime lending his collaboration to youth pastoral and Pauline vocation. On 24 January 1990 he has begun in Santiago del Chile the year of novitiate, at the end of which he has made his first profession on 25 January 1991. During the juniorate he has studied theology at the Pontificia Università Cattolica del Chile, collaborating meanwhile with the local editorial. In 15 August 1998 he has been ordained priest in Buenos Aires, receiving on the same period his license in public relations.

In 1994 he has been transferred to the community of Florida (Buenos Aires), where he has started collaboration with the editorial office, to then assume the direction of *El Domingo*, a periodical by him transformed into an instrument of pastoral communication of the local church. Always with the enthusiasm of a communicator of the Gospel, he has helped in the launch of the periodicals *La hojita de los niños* and *Aportes para la celebración* and the magazines *La oración de la Iglesia* and *La liturgia cotidiana*.

He has lent his service of animation in the Province of Argentina - Chile - Perú as a councilor and in the community of Riobamba as superior and vocation promoter. Last year he had been named as provincial delegate for the Annunciationists and the Gabrielini. Moreover, as a priest he has always willingly lent himself for the spiritual animation of the female branches of the Pauline Family.

Fr. Hernán has always distinguished himself for his ability to communicate, hard to equal, and for his spirit that always searched for ways so that Gospel and culture approach each other. Thus he has actively participated in Hebrew-Christian dialog, has promoted civil participation to strengthen democracy in the country; to these commitments has been added the promotion of ecumenism and interreligious dialog. Through his artistic sensibility as a poet he has promoted encounters of poets whose works were published in *La liturgia cotidiana*. He has dedicated himself with passion to the diffusion of iconographic art, obtaining since 1998 the annual realization of the meeting of iconography, a unique event in the country.

With the idea that communication is a transversal axis of the Church, by means of *El Domingo* he has given impulse to the knowledge that the various pastorals realize, putting the accent on those that promote the defenseless: prison pastoral, pastoral for indigenous peoples, etc. In the same way he has promoted the diffusion of activities of organizations that humanize society, like "Cuidá tu voto" (Pay attention to your vote), "Prevención de accidentes y seguridad vial" (Prevention of accidents and road safety). These activities won

for him many recognitions and awards for the magazine, like that conferred by “Fundación Talentos para la Vida.”

In September 2011 Fr. Hernán has undergone an operation for melanoma. The medicine has not succeeded in stopping the spread of the tumor, which has gone to gradually weaken his body. In the face of his illness, Fr. Hernán has shown great patience, fortitude and hope to the very end, until the night of Friday 27 January when he has entrusted his life in the hands of God. This handing over he has expressed in his poem titled *De los silos de mi vida*, of which we quote two strophes: “The malady knocked at my door / with the will to calm down the splendors, / I responded to my trembling soul / one can love in all situations. // From the silos of my life / I have sacked love in abundance / I have handed it over with my smiles / and with my hands full of flowers.”

His confreres remember him as a person who looked for harmony, as well as peace, love and justice, with everybody, and who has lived as one in love with life and communication. We entrust him now to the Lord of life who knows no sunset and who has swallowed death with his victory (cf 1Cor 15,54), asking him to intercede for us with the Divine Master for the needs of the Province of Argentina - Chile - Perú, in particular for vocations.

Rome, 29 January 2012

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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