

SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
The Secretary General



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 7.00 of Saturday, 19 September, at the Sacred Heart Hospital of Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico), returned to the house of the Father our brother priest

FR. FRANCISCO BERNARDO ALCARAZ ZAVALA

76 years: 57 of Pauline life, 52 of religious profession and 46 of priesthood.

Fr. Francisco was born in Puruándiro, a village located between Guadalajara and Mexico City, on 3 June 1939. He entered the Society of St. Paul in Mexico City on 17 January 1958 and he made his first religious profession in the Community of Taxqueña on 25 December 1963, taking the name of Bernardo. He was ordained a priest in Rome on 30 June 1969. He graduated in Philosophy at the Pontifical University of Mexico and in Spanish Literature at the Ibero-american University in Mexico City. He carried out his Pauline ministry in various fields, especially in formation, as a teacher of Aspirants, Novices and Juniors.

He was local Superior in Guadalajara and Mexico City and, above all, the second Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Paul in Mexico, from 1978 to 1982. Professor of Literature and Philosophy, he was director of the periodicals *La Familia Cristiana*, *Vida Pastoral*, *El Victorioso*, *El Domingo*, and of the Centre of Pauline Spirituality. He attended the course of Pauline Charism in Rome in 2004. In his remaining years, already in a state of poor health, Fr. Francisco lived in the community of Guadalajara, collaborating in the preparation of homiletic comments to the monthly Missal *Pan de la Palabra*, teaching at our school and accompanying spiritually the Pauline aspirants.

Fr. Francisco, our new intercessor in heaven, leaves to the Paulines of Mexico and the world an unforgettable memory and the gift of an exemplary witness. A well-rounded Pauline, he lived the integrality in which we are called as sons of Blessed James Alberione. Intelligent without fanfare, pious without ostentation, understanding without weakness, he has been equipped with exquisite humanity. He was always polite, friendly and helpful, always over and above every situation, without ever leaving his innate simplicity. He assumed different tasks, showing the signs of the supernatural spirit that moves the real obedient person to the Lord. He was good in sports and in the apostolate, in teaching, in spiritual direction and in the service of authority. He loved the Congregation, the Pauline Family, the Church, anticipating in his life the spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy that we will live shortly.

After undergoing ischemia last June and having been operated successfully, Fr. Francisco had shown signs of a slow recovery. In recent days, however, the situation has worsened because of serious lung problems which occurred due to a viral infection, which was not possible to remove.

Let us now pray that the Lord may grant eternal reward to Fr. Francisco and for us to imitate his uncommon religious and human talents. Through his intercession before the Divine Master we entrust our entire Congregation, especially the apostolic life of the Province of Mexico, which has just celebrated its 12th Provincial Chapter.

Rome, 20 September 2015

Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on Sunday, 20 September at 10:00 in the SSP Community of Guadalajara after which he will be buried in the cemetery Jardines del Tiempo of Guadalajara.

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