

SOCIETY OF SAINT 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 15:00 (local time) of 7 December 2016, at the “Santa Maria” Hospital of Lisbon (Portugal), our Brother Disciple of the Divine Master was received in heaven

BROTHER ARMANDO PAULO BARATA SANCHES
88 years, 66 of Pauline life, 61 of religious profession

Armando Barata Sanches was born on 15 August 1928 in Alcaria, in the inner part of Portugal. The son of José Bento Sanches, tailor, and Ana Antune, housewife, is the ninth of eleven children born to a religious family. He participated as a young man in the Catholic Action before entering the Congregation at age 22 just completed and after a few years of work experience as a barber and mechanic. It is the Lisbon community that welcomed him on 3 September 1950. During the years of initial formation he already lived his Pauline ministry in the printing press, initially at the platen press and then to the Nebiolo printing machine, and later to the monotype and linotype. In 1953-1954, we find him in the bookstore of São Sebastião da Pedreira, Lisbon, together with Fr Saverio Boano.

He entered the novitiate, still in Lisbon, on 7 September 1954 and here, on 8 September of the following year, made his first religious profession, taking the name of “Paulo” and immediately taking the responsibility of the printing press. In this time, he also served as assistant of the boys, as nurse and assistant to the group of novices.

He then moved to Rome in late August of 1959 to prepare himself, for the whole year, to perpetual profession. During this time, he was engaged in the apostolate of diffusion at the International Bookstore of St. Pius X, located near the Vatican.

Fr Franco Testi accompanied him as his Father Master, whom he would meet again in Portugal when, many years later, he would spend some time at the community of Fatima, closed today. Fr Testi himself would describe Brother Armando Paulo as very devoted to the spiritual work, gifted with a character that is generous, open, optimistic, sincere. He was also much admired for the love that the young disciple nourishes towards the Congregation. Finally, the spiritual exercises of eight days preached by Fr. Alberione were to prepare him for the final consecration, which took place on 8 September 1960 in the Crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of the Apostles in Rome.

After a few months spent in Modena to help in the local printing press, he returned to Portugal. Soon he was asked to follow up the construction work of the Apelação formation house, which would end in September 1963. The printing press of this community and, at the request of Fr Gino Ignatius Pizzeghello, the bookstore of

Largo Trindade Coelho in Lisbon, would be his new apostolic activities for some time.

After a month of spiritual exercises at Ariccia (August 1964), we find him in Lisbon (warehouse and printing press) and then again from 1968 to 1982, as the head of the printing press in Apelação. In September 1982, he was sent to Arpajon, France, engaged in the local warehouse and in the bookstore of Paris, and here he remained until 1986. In that year, he returned to Apelação to help in the audiovisual and editorial sectors and performed other tasks within the community. From 2005 to 2011, he was the Delegate of the Fatima community, and from 2011 to 2015 had the same responsibility in the community of Braga. In September 2015, finally, he returned to Apelação, in the house of which he had been following the construction many years ago. Here, despite his advanced age and ill health, he made himself available whenever possible, always with his usual fraternal spirit, apostolic availability and sense of community life. For two weeks, finally, he was hospitalized at the Santa Maria Hospital in Lisbon with clear symptoms of a galloping leukemia, which made all attempts to cure him unsuccessful.

The Portuguese brothers remember Brother Armando Paulo as a man of good temperament, sociable and always welcoming, having a lively and cheerful spirit, always enthusiastic of our charism and therefore a good witness to the beauty of the mission that the Founder left us as a legacy. On the eve of the canonical Visit in this Region, we entrust to him the future of this small and promising Circumscription, which has just started with enthusiasm in Angola to announce with the most modern means of communication Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life.

Rome, 12 December 2016

Fr Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral have been held on 9 December at the parish Church of Apelação. Brother Barata has then been interred in the nearby cemetery of Apelação, where the remains of our other confreres rest.

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