

In the Father's House

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



In the early hours of the morning of January 7, 2019 at our community of Havana (Cuba) has returned to the eternal reward our brother priest

FATHER JUAN MANUEL ESTEBAN GALAVIZ HERRERA

77 years of age, 65 of Pauline life, 58 of religious profession, 53 of priesthood.

In the early hours of the morning of January 7, Father Juan suffered from a heart attack that despite the prompt arrival of a doctor, led to his death in his beloved community of Havana (Cuba), which in December 2012 with two other confreres he had reopened and dedicated the last days of his long and rich missionary journey. Father Juan is well known in the Pauline Family as a resource person for teaching pauline charism. He has been General Councilor for two terms and contributed substantially for our mission in Mexico.

Juan was born in Aguascalientes (Mexico) on May 9, 1941, to Jesus, a railway worker, and Maria del Carmen, a housewife. He is the third of 12 children, 7 males and 5 females. The Divine Master, whom in the course of his life he learned to love and serve, called him very soon to the Pauline vocation. After his primary studies, on 2 February 1953 he entered the community of Mixcoac, a district of Mexico City, our first community in Mexico. He had the novitiate in the community of Taxqueña, and professed the first vows on 11 February 1960, taking Esteban as the religious name. In 1961 he moved to Rome to complete his theological studies at the Pauline International College. He made the perpetual profession on September 8, 1964 and was ordained a priest on 30 June 1965.

On his return to Mexico, given his exceptional intellectual capacity, he was instructed to teach in various academic disciplines, as well as being Prefect of studies and to lecture on the charism in various sister Congregations of the Pauline Family, along with the service of spiritual director. Being a good writer, in 1967 he was appointed director of *Familia Cristiana*, which under his care reached commendable quality and circulation. These were times of great commitment, which also lead him, without neglecting this mission, to studies in literature at the University of Iberoamérica. In those years he was prophetic in his intuition of starting the *Instituto Paulino de Comunicación*, now *Instituto de Comunicación y Filosofía*, and subsequently to other apostolic initiatives, such as the *Centro Audiovisual Paulino*.

In 1980 he began to serve the Congregation in the service of authority: for two years (until 1982) he was a local Superior in Taxqueña, before being appointed Provincial Superior for two terms (1982-1990). During the first mandate, given the need to deepen and spread the Pauline charism, he founded the *Centre of Pauline spirituality* for the Province of Mexico, of which he later become director in 1990 at the end of the second term. Together with it he also served as the Delegate for Aggregated Institutes and the Pauline Cooperators for a long time. In fact, he has always been a great promoter of it and he has always been a model of Pauline life, a teacher, a guide.

In 1992 he was Superior of the community of Guadalajara. In 1996, he was transferred to Taxqueña, and founded the *Centro de Asesoría Pastoral*, of which he was director until, in October 1997, when he was appointed by the papal Delegate, Mons. Antonio Buoncristiani, coordinator of the Preparatory Commission of the VII General Chapter, a delicate role which had to be carried out with true evangelical wisdom. In this Chapter he was also elected General Councilor (1998-2004), and further reconfirmed in the VIII Chapter. During these twelve years he was General Delegate for the Pauline Institutes and Cooperators as well as a member of the General Direction of the Course of the Charism of the Pauline Family, for which he drew up the first statute. These are the years in which his deepening of the charism reached the maximum development. Among the books he wrote, we mention the *Pauline wagon*, his workhorse.

On his return to the Mexico-Cuba Province, in December 2010, he devoted himself body and soul to the reopening of the community of Cuba, which took place on December 8, 2012, for which he requested everyone for prayers. And the prayers were answered: on April 4, 2018, in the presence of the Superior General, the *Nuevo Centro de Evangelización San Pablo* was inaugurated in Havana, his last great dream come true.

Father Galaviz was aware of his precarious state of health. So he wrote to Father Valdir José De Castro, Superior General, on January 7, 2018 (exactly a year before leaving): *«As for my health, I would lie if I told you it was excellent, but it would be just as ungrateful if I complained. The Lord continued to support me despite myself. Sometimes, I confess, it occurs to me that my end is not far away and my desire to see this mission in Cuba well-established to be able to sing the Song of Simeon grows. Not because I am aware of it or because it is indispensable, but because I have the conviction that God asks our collaboration for the realization of his projects»*. A thought that says everything about a brilliant man, ironic first of all with himself, able to carry great burdens and to guide many people to the encounter with the Divine Master.

Now from heaven he, who loved so much the young, intercede for all the vocations of the Pauline Family and for the many initiatives of the Year of Vocation, which will start next 25 January.

Rome, 9 January 2019



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary general

The funeral will take place in the community of Taxqueña on the return of the body to the City of Mexico. Here, in the chapel of the Pauline Family in the San Nicolàs Tolentino cemetery, his remains will rest.

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).