

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)



At 2:30 AM (local time) on Wednesday, 25 October 2023, passed away in Nigeria our Novice

EMMANUEL PAULINUS OKABICHI
22 years old and 2 of Pauline life

Novice Emmanuel Okabichi hails from Kogi State, the north-central region of Nigeria. He was born on 13 April 2001 in Kano State north region of the country, as the second child of six children of Mr and Mrs Damian Okabichi. He received his baptism nine months after his birth at St Thomas Catholic Church, in Kano. Later the family relocated to their native place in Lokoja, Kogi State. After the West African Examination Council (WAEC) Emmanuel joined the congregation in the community of Lagos on 12 February 2021, becoming the first vocation from that region. On completing his first year, he was promoted to postulancy, which he did in the community of Enugu. He started the year of Novitiate in the community of Ibadan on 07 September 2022. Not long after that, precisely in January 2023, he took ill and was diagnosed with rectal cancer at an advanced stage. Emmanuel underwent multiple chemotherapy at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) with no improvement. In July 2023, his family took him home for herbal treatment where he was until his death. Throughout the period of his treatment, in spite of the immense pain he suffered, Emmanuel remained a simple, hopeful, and all-smiling brother that we all knew him. The doctors testified he had incredible tolerance towards pain.

Since he joined the congregation, he manifested an aptitude for writing and was the associate editor for the Pauline Eco, the annual journal of the Aspirants and Postulants, 2021 and 2022 edition. He assumed with even greater passion and cheeriness after he had been diagnosed with the disease the apostolate of suffering cum writing. He wrote short articles and stories whenever he was in less pain and published them online. He did this until the last moment. The last article he wrote was on the 19 of October which he titled "Before he comes". May the pains and sufferings he endured with cheerfulness earn him a place in the bosom of the Father.

Rome, 25 October 2023

Bro. Lorenzo Vezzani, ssp

He will be buried on Friday 3rd November 2023 at his home parish at Lokoja, Kogi State (Nigeria).

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