

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 approximately 1:00 pm on 1st September 2019 at the Qualimed Hospital in Iloilo City (Philippines), our brother priest died because of the fatal outcome of colon cancer.

FATHER NICOMEDES REFOREAL

64 years, 50 of Pauline Life, 41 of religious profession and 36 of priesthood

Nicomedes was born on 15 September 1954 in San Roque, in the island of Bohol (Philippines), second of seven children. He joined the Makati community on 7 July 1969, when he was only 15 years old. In his formative years, he overcame the difficulty of a somewhat introverted character with a great commitment to study and press apostolate, always supported by a profound life of union with God. He completed the Novitiate in Makati and here on 11 June 1978 he emitted the first religious profession. He lived the years of theological formation in that same community, where he was involved in completing the philosophical-theological curriculum and in the press apostolate. He consecrated himself in perpetuity, also in Makati, on 9 January 1983. Finally, he received his priestly ordination on 24 March 1983 in Pasay City by the laying on of hands of Bishop Protacio Gungon, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila.

After the priestly consecration, “Father Nick”, as he was affectionately called by confreres and friends, thanks to the skills acquired by attending a journalism course, lent his apostolate to Makati in the editorial office of *Homelife*, the religious periodical of the Province, of which he became Director in 1985. In 1988 the Superior General, Fr. Renato Perino, in the context of a renewed missionary relaunching on the part of one of the most prolific Circumscriptions of vocations (to cite an example, the previous year two Filipino confreres had arrived in Macau, an ideal springboard for the “landing” in China), sent him to Venezuela because, thanks to his experience and ability, he took over the *Familia Cristiana* magazine. The transition from English to Spanish would not be easy, but the insertion proved to be effective in the end. He would remain in the South American country until 1993, when, back in the Philippines, until 1995, he was Director of the branch of ST PAULS Marketing in Cagayan de Oro City. In this large financial and commercial center located north of Mindanao, the largest island in the south of the country, he remained until 2001, also holding the post of Superior of the Community (1998-2001). After a brief term as Superior in Cebu, he asked and got a sabbatical year. Returning in 2003, he was sent to the community of Davao (2004-2005), where we find him responsible for the mobile library.

During the 5th Provincial Chapter, Father Nick was elected Provincial Councilor, a post he carried out with great dedication from 2006 to 2010.

During this time, he was for a few months also Parish Administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Pasay City. In 2007, he was the protagonist of a serious accident, which strained him very much in body and spirit. At the end of his term as Administrator, he was transferred to the community of Cagayan de Oro, where he was Superior (2011-2015), head of the warehouse and, for a certain period, Director of the bookshop in the “Limketkai” shopping center (2013-2015).

Arriving in Iloilo community in October 2015, he was assigned the position of Director of the bookstores located in the two shopping centers “Shoemart” and “Mary Mart”. In 2016, still in full swing of activities, he was diagnosed with a malignant colon cancer. It is a time in which, following the arduous care, he still managed to carry out his apostolic duties in the administration of the community warehouse with humility and dedication. His health conditions got worse and worse, until he was admitted to a hospital in Iloilo City, where he died.

According to the testimony of the Filipino confreres, Father Nick, always faithful to his apostolate despite his constantly declining health, always had his thoughts turned to the apostolate. In the three years of illness, he endured physical pain with a spirit of sacrifice, offering everything without complaining.

We now entrust him to the Divine Master, the human Face of the merciful and loving Father, so that, in the light of the Holy Spirit, he may be introduced into eternal life in the company of the whole Pauline Family in heaven.

Rome, 3 September 2019



*Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General*

The funeral will take place on 14 September 2019 in the Sanctuary of Saint Paul in Makati. His ashes will be kept in the tomb of the Pauline Family cemetery of Lipa City.

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