

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 12:00 noon (local time) yesterday, 5 May 2022, our confrere died of cardiac arrest in the community of Kochi (India)

FATHER SEBASTIAN ALOYSIUS KOKKATT **86 years, 65 of Pauline life, 62 of profession, 54 of priesthood**

Father Aloysius was born in Bharananganam (Kerala, India) on 24 April 1936, into a family of six children, from parents Kurian and Elisabeth. His was a deeply religious family who offered many priests and nuns to the Church. The younger brother, Fr Kuruvila, was a pioneer missionary who developed a missionary center in Agra, North India, while his maternal uncle is the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Mathew Kavukattu of Changanassery.

Father Aloysius entered the Allahabad community on 21 June 1956. After two years of studies and a year of novitiate, he made his first religious profession on 16 July 1959. After completing his philosophy in the Allahabad community, he left for Rome where he studied theology at our International Pauline College. In Rome, he consecrated himself in perpetuity on 8 September 1964 and was ordained a priest on 30 June 1967.

Returning to India, he began his Pauline ministry in the community of Mumbai as Master of aspirants, a service he carried out until his appointment as Superior of the same community in 1974. The following year, he gave life to the magazine dedicated to the family, *Home Life*, of which he was also Director until 1979, when he again left for Rome to obtain a licentiate in spiritual theology at the Gregorian University. On his return to India, he was appointed Superior of the Bangalore community, a position he held until 1986.

For about 17 years (1987-1998, 2003-2009), Fr Aloysius worked in the editorial office of St Pauls-BYB, both as Editorial Director (1988-1990, 1996-1998) and as Assistant Director, giving stability to the editorial work. He also served at the Indian Catholic Press Association as Secretary from 1976 to 1979 and subsequently continued to collaborate with the editorial board, evaluating manuscripts for our publications, until 2013.

Father Aloysius was not in good health and could not give the best of himself, as he would have liked, in the responsibilities entrusted to him, both in the apostolic sphere and in community animation. However, by accepting his infirmity with patience and love, he contributed in every possible way to the growth of the Province and his apostolate. Since 2013, he was in the Kochi community for the necessary treatment. On 12 April 2022, Fr Aloysius had to undergo the amputation of his right leg due to diabetes, at the Lisie Hospital in Ernakulam. A cardiac arrest took place yesterday morning, which was fatal.

Father Aloysius was a good man, committed to cultivating a deep spirituality, easy to build relationships and maintain friendships. The Superior

General, Fr Valdir José De Castro, quoting Blessed James Alberione, wrote to him for the 50th anniversary of his priesthood: «*The Pauline Priest in his love for God and for men, all that he is and has, wants to work for them: knowledge, health, prayer, strength and life itself*». That is what Father Aloysius did.

May Our Lady – the Mother of the Word, the Father’s beloved daughter and the temple of the Holy Spirit – welcome him into her arms.

May the Lord reward this confrere of ours abundantly and we ask him to intercede for numerous and holy vocations to God for the Province of India-Great Britain-Ireland, for our Congregation and for the whole Pauline Family.

Rome, 6 May 2022

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

He will be buried on Saturday, 7 May, at 2:00 PM. The funeral will be celebrated at the Church of the Infant Jesus in Elikulam (Kanjirappally - Kerala). Father Aloysius will be interred in the family tomb.

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