

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 8:25 AM (local time) on Saturday, 15 January 2022, our confrere died in Guadalajara (Mexico) due to respiratory arrest

BROTHER MANUEL ESTEBAN PÉREZ GUILLÉN

80 years, 59 of Pauline life, 56 of profession

Brother Meño, as he was affectionately called, was born in Villa Morelos (Michoacán) on 22 December 1941, the first of eight children (three brothers and five sisters), to parents Magdaleno and Maria Jesus Guillén. He entered the community of Taxqueña on 3 February 1962. He began his novitiate on 29 December 1963, made his first religious profession on 25 December 1965, assuming the name of Esteban, and was definitively consecrated with perpetual profession on 25 December 1970.

Brother Manuel was a simple man who loved the Pauline apostolate. He did everything carefully and wasted nothing, ready to collect even a simple discarded sheet of the Bible, because «it is not a sheet that is thrown away, it is a Bible that no longer goes to the bookstore». A person recollected in his thoughts about the apostolate, punctually in the chapel and, at the right time, ready to wear his religious habit as a Disciple.

Thanks to his humility, he was in everyone's heart. When he went on vacation to his town, many greeted him and welcomed him with joy, because they found in him a true religious. Anyone who has known Brother Meño can testify to his holiness of life. For the Mexico-Cuba Province, he was a true model of the Disciple of the Divine Master, configured to Saint Joseph: he loved and worked in silence, alongside the priest.

He brought with him a natural goodness, a delicate, simple and prudent trait, always careful to provide for the needs of his brothers. Aside from being silent was added a brilliant intelligence, a love for carpentry, craftsmanship, music and reading.

More than for the activities he carried out, he should be remembered as an artisan of community life, of fraternal, profound and respectful relationships. There was no one who came close to him who was not enriched. The silence that characterized him, interrupted only by his classic and frequent "hello", did not mean solitude or distance from his brothers, rather he tried to avoid noisy places and extravagant or unnecessary situations.

Characteristic were his advice and his conversational phrases, which, in a joke, gave a rich and profound message: «Don't worry too much about the road, keep walking and follow the signs». «May God bless you in a big way».

His life has not been free from difficult moments and this is because of the suffering he has faced for a long time. However, these phases did not affect his peaceful and confident soul, his joyful serenity that he radiated around him.

In recent years, Brother Manuel has had to deal with various ailments: several cerebral hemorrhages starting from 2014. For this reason, in 2019, he was transferred to the infirmary of Santa María de Guadalupe in Guadalajara, a move that he accepted with docility and obedience.

Starting from last July, the bleeding multiplied, leading to language alterations as a consequence, difficulties in the coordination of movements and, subsequently, bringing it to total immobility, up to the definitive respiratory arrest that caused his death.

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and reward him with his grace, while we ask him to intercede with the Lord for numerous and holy vocations as brother Disciples in our Congregation.

Rome, January 17, 2022

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral was celebrated on Sunday, 16 January, in the Queen of the Apostles Chapel of the community of Guadalajara. The body was interred in the Parque Funeral Colonias pantheon in Zapopan Jalisco.

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