

# 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 5:30 AM (local time) on 4 February 2021, our brother from the community of Apelação died at the “Centro Hospitalar Entre Douro e Vouga” in Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), due to serious complications resulting from Covid-19

## **BROTHER JOSÉ TIAGO HENRIQUES GONÇALVES**

*80 years, 62 of Pauline life, 57 of profession*

A simple and essential person, of few words but of great generosity and dedication to do good, prodigal of love for the Pauline apostolate who lived with punctuality and constancy.

He was born on the island of Madeira on 26 April 1940, the third of nine children. Parents Matilde and Antonio were poor, an experience that teaches Brother José to live with little and to value every gift.

He entered the community in Lumiar (Lisbon) on 16 December 1958, after a short period at the Order of the De La Salle Brothers. The Superior Father Giacomo Girauda welcomes him together with about thirty companions and the Master, Father Francesco Caponi. Right from the start, he was struck by the reality of typography, by being able to do good through printing. As he himself said, «*there was an atmosphere of fraternity that made me feel at home*».

On 8 September 1961, he began his two years of novitiate, the first in Madrid and the second in the new community of Apelação. It is in this house that he has the gift of personally meeting Don Alberione, who came specifically to inaugurate and bless it.

He made his first religious vows on 8 September 1963 in Apelação and took the name of Tiago. In 1968, he left for a short period in Rome on the occasion of the spiritual exercises in preparation for perpetual profession, which he professed at the crypt of the Shrine of Mary Queen of the Apostles. Here he met the Primo Maestro for the second time, an appointment he will never forget, even if not understanding Italian well, he just smiled and asked him for a blessing.

His first apostolic commitment as a professed is the bookshop in Lisbon. He stayed there for many years, from 1968 to 1990, after which he was transferred to the community of Fatima to help open the local bookstore. After two years, he returned to Apelação to take care of the warehouse, an apostolate that he would carry out until the last days of his life.

Brother José loved the contact with the people who passed by in the bookstore and every occasion was an opportunity to take care of whom he met. Precisely for this attitude, he also exercised the service of

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extraordinary minister of the Eucharist in a parish close to the community, a commitment that he carried out every Sunday and that filled him with joy.

He had a great devotion to Saint Joseph, whose name he bore, a love made even stronger because he was the model of every Disciple of the Divine Master. It is significant that his death comes precisely in this year dedicated by Pope Francis to the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus.

The words of best wishes of the late Father Silvio Sassi on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of profession are significant: *«I am grateful to you, in the name of the Congregation, for your fidelity to your vocation as a Disciple of the Divine Master. [...] Your long apostolic service has been constant and intense. May the Lord reward you, as he alone knows how to do. “Fifty years of well-lived Pauline apostolate are a chain of very precious merits and are a guarantee of salvation”, repeated our Blessed Founder on similar occasions».*

Now may the Lord welcome our brother Disciple into Paradise, together with our Blessed and Venerables, together with the Pauline Family who spent their lives *«so that the Word of the Lord may speed forward»* (2 Thess 3:1).

Rome, 5 February 2021

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

*The funeral will be celebrated on 6 February at 11:00 AM at the Apelação Cemetery. Brother José's body will be buried in the same cemetery, according to local restrictions due to the pandemic.*

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