

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 7:00 AM (local time) of Monday 16 December 2024, he died in the community of Vijayawada (India)

BROTHER VARGHESE LEO KOCHEELATH *79 years, 60 of Pauline life, 55 of profession*

Varghese was born in Elemgdi, Changanacherry (India) on 26 October 1945, the seventh of ten children, to parents Ephrem Abraham and Aley Elisabeth. He entered the community of Bombay on 21 May 1964, began the Novitiate on 16 July 1967, made his First Religious Profession on 16 July 1969, taking the name of Leo. He was definitively consecrated with Perpetual Profession on 20 August 1974.

Brother Leo's journey in religious life was marked by a deep commitment and generous service. A person of immense availability, he accepted any task entrusted to him by his superiors, committing himself to carrying it out in the best possible way. Immediately after his Perpetual Profession he was appointed Director of the Press in Allahabad, a position he carried out efficiently for two years. When a new Book Center was opened in Chennai, Brother Leo was transferred to this bookshop where he served for two years. Later he wholeheartedly agreed to go to the community in Bangalore to take care of the vast 33-acre field (including two acres of vineyard), where he worked hard for four years, from 1978 to 1982.

In 1982 he was transferred to Mumbai as the house bursar. During this period he spent much of his time distributing the magazine Home Life all over Mumbai. He was then transferred to Calicut where he worked hard to build the house and open a bookshop at St. Joseph's Church. He stayed there from 1984 to 1991.

In 1991 he returned to Mumbai again to take charge of the St. Paul Book Centre in Bandra. Later he was appointed as the head of the new apostolic activity with the "Mobile Unit" in Andhra Pradesh. This enabled him to visit hundreds of schools and parishes with great enthusiasm. During this period he also devoted his time to supervising the construction of our community building in Vijayawada.

Brother Leo then served the communities of Bangalore, Allahabad, Ranchi, Pune, Jalandhar and New Delhi in various capacities: as a skilled supplier, delegate and supervisor of construction in various places, with the staff of the bookshop. In all he always gave himself completely and carried out his responsibility with great commitment and dedication. His last important assignment was to supervise the construction work of the Formation House in Bangalore which was completed in 2020. In June 2023, at the age of 78, he volunteered to go to Jalandhar as a missionary, but as his health was deteriorating, a few months ago he was transferred to the community of Vijayawada

where, despite his age and his health problems, he dedicated himself totally to the care of the land.

Healthy and strong, Brother Leo spent all his energies for the mission of the Congregation, to which he dedicated himself with passion and commitment. In addition to being a tireless worker, he was deeply fond of prayer. A well-disciplined person as he was, he always found time for the Lord. Every day he would get up at 5:00 and be in the chapel before 6:00. His punctuality was a great inspiration to all, especially the young people in formation. His friendly and humble nature was always reciprocated with deep respect and admiration. He will continue to inspire all who knew him.

May the Lord welcome our brother into his luminous kingdom and give him the immense joy of participating in his life, while we ask him to intercede for the numerous and holy vocations in the Pauline Family.

Rome, 17 December 2024

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral was celebrated on Tuesday, 17 December at 2:30 PM at the Community Chapel of the Society of St. Paul, Bangalore, followed by burial in the community cemetery.

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