

Fr. MARTÍN PUERTO MOLINA

1928-2018

Fr. Martín Puerto Molina was born in Mosqueruela (Teruel) on 19 October 1928. He entered the Order of Camillians in Vic (Barcelona) on 28 September 1940. He made his perpetual profession also in Vic (Barcelona) on 1 November 1950. He was ordained a priest in Barcelona (on the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress) on 31 May 1952.

Fr. Martín was vice-teacher of aspirants in the minor seminary of Navarrete which he joined in 1953 and to which he would return as director in 1965.

In 1968 he joined the Camillian Delegation in Argentina as the Superior of the house of Buenos Aires where he was also subsequently appointed parish priest of the Parish of St. Agnes. He was the Superior Delegate of Argentina on a number of occasions, as well as chaplain of the Duran Hospital of Buenos Aires, director of the college of Vagues, and teacher of novices of the Delegation. He was also a member of the Pallium team for palliative care.

He died in *San Antonio de Areco* at three in the afternoon on 1 May 2018, the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker. His ashes will rest in the Parish of St. Patrick of that city.

Fr. Martín was a *church* religious. He attended to personalised pastoral accompanying with passion (he often repeated the idea of the ‘value of presence’), corporal service, renewed thought about the theology of pastoral care...

The Second Vatican Council and the Conference of Puebla were challenges that marked his life. We remember him as an open person in the world of health and health care: he was always a *Good Samaritan* and never a *judge*. For him, the acceptance of responsibility meant suffering, because of the respect that he nurtured towards his *brother*.

He prepared himself knowingly for his departure, with his family and his religious, during his last visit to Spain. “I have said farewell to those whom I love; I am going to be with those who have given a meaning to my life” (people with disabilities). Without any specific responsibility or task he returned Vagues to complete his vocational authenticity as a Camillian: a world with which he was involved and which he loved; a frail world in which he felt loved. Vagues was the place that he chose for the end of his life, enjoying being a Camillian. And as Martín said to his Superior: “Death is the last place and we have to traverse it in silence”.

May he rest in peace!