

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 around 4:00 a.m. (local time) on Thursday, January 9, 2025, Fr. Deogratias passed away in Lubumbashi, Congo, at the home of his family members.

FR. DEOGRATIAS TUTA MUKALAY

43 years of age, 22 of Pauline life, 17 of Profession and 9 of Priesthood

Fr. Deogratias was born in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo on September 30, 1981. He is the eighth child – he has seven brothers and two sisters – of Tuta Umba and Mbutu Wa Banza. He entered the Congregation in the community of Kinshasa on October 25, 2002 for the preparatory year. From 2003 to 2006, he studied philosophy at Saint Augustine University in Kinshasa. He began his novitiate on September 8, 2006 in Lubumbashi and made his first religious profession on September 8, 2007. From 2007 to 2011 he completed his studies in theology and in 2008 he received the ministries of lectorate and acolyte.

After finishing his baccalaureate in theology in 2011, he devoted himself to an apostolic experience in the audio-visual sector. For a year, he animated the program “A livre ouvert,” where he presented the books published by our publishing house on television. From 2012 to 2013, he obtained a master’s degree in dogmatic theology from the Catholic University of Congo in Kinshasa.

After his studies, he devoted himself full-time to the apostolate in Kasapa’s bookstore in Lubumbashi. He also prepared for his perpetual profession, which he made on August 24, 2014, in Kinshasa, in the centenary year of the Congregation’s foundation. He was ordained a deacon in Kipushi on January 24, 2015, and a priest on July 18, 2015, in Lubumbashi.

After his ordination to the priesthood, he became the master of the young aspirants in Lubumbashi. This was followed by his appointment as superior of the Michele Gagna community in Lumbubashi. He was later elected regional Councilor and in charge of the Diffusion sector.

After a few years of mission in the then Portugal-Angola Region (2018-2020) – where he accompanied some young Angolans and carried out the apostolate in the Benguela bookshop – due to health problems in October 2022, he returned to the Congo Region and stayed in the community of Lubumbashi. From 12 to 17 November of the same year, he participated in the XIII Regional Assembly. He later worked in the administration in Lubumbashi until his death. In fact, due to the serious glycemetic problems, he slowly weakened both physically and psychologically.

In his final days, he returned to his family to take a break for the Christmas season. There, at 43 years old, during this Holy Year, when we are all called to be “pilgrims of hope,” the Lord called him home.

Fr. Deogratias was a joyful priest who loved his Pauline vocation. For this reason, many remember him with joy.

In the hope of the resurrection, we are sure that our confrere has found peace with the Divine Master. We ask him to pray for the Pauline mission in Congo and around the world.

Rome, January 11, 2025

Fr. Vito Spagnolo, SSP

The place and date of the funeral have yet to be determined.

Circumscription Superiors inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).