

Fra Ignacio M. (Rafael) CALABUIG ADAN

Fra Ignacio died on the night of 6 February 2005 at “San Camillo hospital in Rome, where he had been in the Intensive Care Unit for several weeks. He was a friar and priest of the Spanish Province, a member of the Marianum Study Community in Rome.

Fra Ignacio was born in Denia (Alicante, Spain) on 4 March 1931. After his elementary and high school education in Valencia, he obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Scientific and Literary Studies, and, having completed a two-year course in Philosophy at the University of Valencia, he entered the Order of the Servants of Mary at the age of 20. He began novitiate in Saluzzo priory on 22 October 1950 and made his simple profession on 23 October 1951. He was then assigned to St. Alexis Falconieri international College in Rome for his courses in Theology. On 24 October 1964, he made solemn profession, and on 9



April 1955, he was ordained to the priesthood. That same year, he was awarded his License in Theology at the Marianum Faculty and then, for two years (1957- 1959), he did a course of Specialization in Patristic Studies at the University of Freiburg (Switzerland), after which he specialized in Liturgy at the Anselmianum in Roma. He obtained his doctorate in Theology at the Marianum in 1964.

From 1958 until his death, Fra Ignacio taught at the Marianum, first (1958-1965) as teacher, then appointed lecturer (1965-1971), then extraordinary professor (1971-1979) and ultimately professor (1979).

Within the Order, Fra Ignacio held various posts: President of CLIOS (International Servite Liturgical Commission) from 1966 to 1995, “peritus” to the Special General Chapter of Majadahonda in 1968, Vice President of the “Marianum Faculty” in 1977 and Deputy Director of the “Marianum” Review, and, from 1990 to 2001, President of the Marianum.

At the Holy See, Fra Ignacio held the following appointments: Consultor of the “Consilium ad exsequendam Constitutionem de Sacra Liturgia” (1966), Consultor of the Congregation for Divine Worship (1970), to which he was later re-appointed, and (1990) Consultor for the Papal Liturgies.

His publications number over 500 works, and he performed equally extensive work in his collaboration in the compilation of documents for the Holy Father and the Roman Congregations.

On the occasion of his death, the Prior General, Fra Angel M. Garnica Ruiz, wrote as follows: ‘The death of Fra Ignacio M. Calabuig has deprived the Order of one of its most significant figures. He bequeaths to all of us, especially the younger friars, an example that it would be wise to imitate. We shall not forget Fra Ignacio as a religious of assiduous prayer, tender devotion to Mary, love for the Order and the Servite Family, devoted to theological research and teaching. He leaves us a heritage of real intellectual humility, so deep as to become his unmistakable outward appearance. Fra Ignacio was a great gift of God to the Order in our own time, a gift to be preserved with love and passed on with sincere and affectionate pride.’

The funeral liturgy for Fra Ignacio M. Calabuig took place in the church of San Marcello on 8 February. Fra Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica, the Prior General, assisted by Fra Antonio M. Moreno, the Prior Provincial of the Spanish Province and the prior of the Marianum Study Community, Fra Bernardo M. Antonini. Over 100 priests concelebrated. Others present included Mgr. Domenico M. Sorentino, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Mgr. Angelo Amato, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Archbishop Piero

Marini, Master of Ceremonies of the Holy Father, together with all the members of his department, Mgr. Aldo M. Lazzarin, bishop emeritus of the diocese of Àysen, Mgr. Louis M. Ndlovu, bishop of the diocese of Manzini (Swaziland), the President of the international Pontifical Marian Academy (PAMI), the President of the Italian Marian Association (AMI), various Presidents from the Theological Faculties of Rome, the President of the Italian Society for Theological Research (SIRT), the President of the Coordination for Italian Feminine Theologians and the Representative of the Diocese of Rome for Religious. At the end of the liturgy, Mgr. Marini spoke, publicly thanking Fra Ignacio M. Calabuig for his valuable collaboration with the Holy Father and the Holy See. A large gathering participated in the moving rites, including Fra Ignacio's brother and many other relatives who had come from Spain.

The mortal remains of Fra Ignacio were laid to rest in the Servite chapel in the Monumental Cemetery of Verano in Rome.

As our Constitutions (Chap. 3, art. 32) prescribe, let us show our love for our departed brother by imploring for him the mercy of the Lord.

Rome, from our priory of San Marcello, 16 November 2005, Memorial of All Saints of the Order.