

Death of the fifth Superior General: February 3

Bishop Joseph Anthony DE PALMA (September 4, 1913 - February 3, 2005)

Biographical profile



Bishop Joseph Antony De Palma. Fifth Superior General (July 17, 1959 - June 6, 1967). He was born on September 4, 1913, in Walton (New York), USA. He made his first profession on October 1, 1939 and was ordained on May 20, 1944. He was elected fifth Superior General of our Congregation on July 15, 1959. Appointed Bishop of De Aar (South Africa) on April 13, 1967 by Paul VI and ordained on July 19, 1967. He died in Saint Petersburg (Florida) USA on February 3, 2005.

Joseph Anthony De Palma, Once again, Circular letter 9 (85, 86 and 95). Roma, Second Sunday after Easter, April 16, 1961.

We too in our lives are seeking the heights of sanctity. We wish to be perfect, to enjoy smooth journeying in Religion in union with Christ, our Beginning and our End. But here too if we wish to go far, if we wish to achieve success in our way of life, we have need of a fundamental, basic virtue, namely, HUMILITY. The Sacred Scriptures themselves reveal that God resists the proud and gives his necessary grace to the humble. If anyone expects to be exalted in the life to come, he must be humble here below. The fact that it is through love alone that we shall be united with God, does not minimize the importance and necessity of humility. For in order to arrive at this union, we need the foundation to love, and that is humility. The experts on the spiritual life, especially the great Saints, tell us that humility is the solid rock upon which we must build our spiritual life. We need humility, a great deal of it, the humility which empties our souls of pride, of disorderly love of self and exaggerated appraisal of personal worth, in order to put us in our proper place in relation to God and our fellow men.

Dear Confreres, it should be most evident to us that the virtue of humility was, as it were, the seal upon the whole life of Christ. Now certainly the servant must also wear the livery of his master. If humility is difficult for me I have the great example of Christ before me. Moreover, I can and should pray to Jesus in all earnestness for greater success in the practice of this virtue: "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine".

Intention for Lauds and Vespers

Welcome into your peace our brother Joseph Antony De Palma, Superior General, who entered into eternal rest believing and hoping in you.

- Make him a sharer in your blessedness together with Mary and all the saints

Prayer for the Congregation and its superiors (Adoration)

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
we ask you to guide our Congregation.
Help us,
who are dedicated to your heart,
to live as brothers united in chastity,
poverty, and obedience.

Bless our communities.
May all that we are and do
draw strength from the love
made visible in your pierced side.

Be with our brothers
who are given the service of authority.
May they work with courage and love
to build up our common life and ministry.
May we collaborate with them,
faithfully searching for God's will.
In this way,
may the whole Congregation participate
in your offering of love to the Father. Amen.