



**TERTIUS ORDO REGULARIS SANCTI FRANCISCI**  
**SECRETARIUS GENERALIS**

May 29, 2014

Prot. N° 44/2014

**Subject: Death notice of Fr. Giuseppe Catini, TOR**  
**Province of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy**



**FR. GIUSEPPE CATINI, TOR**

Father Giuseppe Catini, friar, priest, missionary and ex Provincial Minister of Francesco D'Assisi Province of the Third Order Regular died on 12th March 2014. He died at the Villa Immacolata rest home in S. Angelo in Pontano, where he was admitted for some medical treatments because of a lymphoma that had been affecting him for 10 years, malignant and uncontrollable in the last months.

Father Giuseppe was born on 13th July 1928 in Montegrano (Ascoli Piceno), Diocese of Fermo. He was the son of Luigi and Sgariglia Teresa and was the third of five male children. Two of his brothers, Marino and Ivo, are still alive.

He entered the convent on 16th October 1939, when he was 11 years old. He studied in Francavilla, Assisi, Rome, attending liberal art courses, philosophical and theological



studies useful for his religious and priestly education. He got the Bachelor of Sacred Theology at the Pontificia Università S. Tommaso in Rome.

He was still attending his theological studies when he left for India with an Italian group of missionaries, to found a new mission of the order. Here he was ordained to the priesthood on 4th October 1951, in Mirzachowski (Bihar): his first activities as a priest were the teaching at the local seminary in Gokla and the apostolate in the Santal tribe.

When he came back to Italy, at the end of 1952, he was sent to the Seminary of Francavilla d'Ete and he served as educator and in pastoral activities in different parishes in Fermano area.

He went to Rome to accomplish his studies and, after a few years he candidate himself for a mission in Paraguay, in its first years of foundation. He stayed there up to 1969, when he was elected Provincial Minister of Assisi Province.

Here he carried out two mandates, from 1969 to 1975. During those years, characterized by theological and vocational vivacity and tumultuousness, father Giuseppe tried to conform the Province to the principles of Vatican Council II. To promote a wide involvement the plenary Provincial Council was established. About those years we remember father Giuseppe for the effort he made to promote the dialogue among the friars, for his paternal love for Paraguay, his attention to the vocations, his attention to arrange refresher courses and permanent training for the friars in fraternity meetings and spiritual exercises; the specific meetings for the superiors, the parish priests, the bursars and seminarists.

From 1972 to 1975 Father Giuseppe followed the total restoration of S. Antonio d'Assisi Convent. He also followed the restorations of other convents.

While he was Provincial Minister the Achille Parish church in Rome was completed, the dialogue and cooperation with the sister province of SS. Gioacchino and Anna in Sicily and with all the Italian Franciscan family deepened. We took part to the opening of the Ecumenical Centre of Assisi. The Provincial Ministers of the four Italian Franciscan families started meeting. It was a lively period, in which lots of decisions were made to meet and know each other, pray and work together in all the areas concerned in particular with the life and the Franciscan spirituality. There were new activities and many of them are still occurring. He gave birth to a lot of other activities but they remained incomplete because of the difficulties due to times. They are a proof of his diligence.

After the experience to serve as Provincial Minister, Father Giuseppe went back to the mission in Paraguay as Provincial Commissioner, a title that is not honorary but demanding and full of risks. He worked hard to get the kindergarten, the Seminary and the infrastructures of the growing mission built. By his work he contributed considerably to found the independent Province of Paraguay of S. Antonio. People remember his satisfaction when, in his 25th anniversary of priesthood, he relished the first Paraguayan friar TOR's priestly ordination. For years he had been master of novices and friars.



In Paraguay father Giuseppe spent his best energies and in 2003, when he was 75 and in poor health, he asked to come back to Italy. He has lived with us up to now.

We thank to God because He gave us father Giuseppe and we don't complain as if He took him away. In his written message left by himself and read widely during the Mass, he wrote: *"As on my birthday we celebrated my passage from the darkness of the maternal womb to the brightness of the sun of this world, in the same way on the day called of my death, you'll celebrate my passage from the sorrows of this life to the eternal joy of the brightness of the life in God"*.

The funeral service was celebrated in S. Pietro Apostolo parish Church, in Francavilla d'Ete. It was participated by the whole population of the town and by a number of people coming from his home town. His numerous relatives, lots of brothers of the religious province, coming from all over Italy were present too. His body lies in the Sepulcher of the friars in Francavilla D'Ete Cemetery.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Please offer the suffrages for the repose of his soul according to articles 61-67 of the *General Statutes*.

Fraternally,



*fra Danijel Gornik*

Fr. Danijel Gornik, TOR  
Secretary General