



### **Fr. Jesús Arteaga Romero**

**(May 26, 1941 – November 24, 2021)**

Jesús Arteaga, son of Segundo and Leona, was born on May 26, 1941 at Ázqueta in the diocese of Pamplona (Spain). He entered the Camillian Religious Order in Navarrete (La Rioja) on September 28, 1951, at the age of 10.

He began his novitiate on September 7, 1956, in the Camillian community of Vic (Barcelona), and there he made his temporary profession on December 8, 1957. After completing his formative and academic studies, he made his solemn profession on December 8, 1962. He was ordained a priest on June 1, 1965 in Vic (Barcelona).

After his priestly ordination, he was sent to the community at Navarrete as a music master and teacher. Two years later, in 1967, he was appointed 'prefect' of studies and confessor of postulants.

In 1969, he was appointed director of the *Fraternidad Católica de Enfermos* of the diocese. He held this position for 19 years. In May 1974, he became the superior of the community at Navarrete. Later, in July 1977, he was re-appointed superior of the same community, and was appointed provincial councillor, head of the Formation department, and bursar of the house; these positions he held until 1988.

At the end of 1980, he was appointed diocesan secretary for the pastoral healthcare, until he resigned after six years. In 1988, the Navarrete house was closed and on September 16, Fr. Jesús moved to the community of *Sant Pere de Ribes* (Barcelona), where he served as master of novices and chaplain of the adjoining health facility.

In 1989, he was appointed superior of the community of *Sant Pere de Ribes* and continued as master of novices. He was a member of the hospital's board of directors, where he served as secretary. In 1995, Fr. Jesús was appointed superior and director of the community and residence for the elderly in Zaragoza. He also served as bursar of both the community and the residence. On February 3, 1999, he was granted absolute disability due to an acute myocardial infarction. This disability forced him to resign from his position as director of the facility.

On August 1, 2000, he moved with the whole community from Zaragoza to the new residence *Santa María de Cabañas* at *La Almunia de Doña Godina* as the superior and the in-charge for vocational animation.

On July 8, 2004, after the closing of the community at *La Almunia de Doña Godina*, he was transferred to the house of Tres Cantos (Madrid) as the superior of the community. He was appointed secretary and bursar of the provincial curia and member of the economic commission; all these positions were combined with the ministry of chaplain in the community of the Mercedarian Sisters.

In June 2010, he was appointed superior of the community of *Sant Pere Ribes*, a position he held until 2014.

In 2016, after several diagnostic tests, he was diagnosed with liver cancer, for which he underwent a surgery. However, over the years the disease continued its course, and despite the different therapies and procedures performed, it was not possible to remove the cancer.

Fr. Jesús lived his consecrated religious life with humility, simplicity and a sense of gratitude. A man of prayer and a devotee of the Mother of God, he touched many hearts with his humane and kind character. In recent years, despite his illness and various treatments, on every Sunday or on special feasts, he used to send his commentary on the Gospel to all his contacts, via WhatsApp. He was a great lover of music and very adept at putting the festive liturgy into verse.

In the last days of his life, he celebrated the Eucharist in his room; he received visits and phone calls from people who wished to greet him; and he showed exemplary trust in God in his acceptance of death, openly thanking the ‘angels’ who had taken care of him: his Camillian confreres Bro. Manuel Martín and Fr. Francisco Berola.

The Spanish Camillian province is grateful to him for his testimony of life and fidelity. His mortal remains will rest in the cemetery of *Sant Pere de Ribes*.

“May the Lord open to him the gates of Paradise so that he may return to his homeland, where there is no death but joy without end.”

Rest in peace, dear Fr. Jesús!