

TONY PHILPOT, in the peace of de Lord

Monsignor Anthony John Philpot (always known as 'Tony') died on July 16th 2016 aged 81 at the Little Sisters of the Poor Convent, North London. The funeral tribute spoke of his gifts as a parish priest and the many additional responsibilities he had held in the dioceses of Northampton and East Anglia. His brother priests in Jesus Caritas have particular cause to give thanks for the contribution he made to the Fraternity.

Elected as International Responsible at the Assembly of Santo Domingo in 1982 he gained a deep understanding of the Fraternity. He saw clearly that no single region has a complete grasp of Br Charles' charism but that each one emphasises a different aspect. Thus, no one has a monopoly but rather we all need one another to discover the unfolding richness of the gift God has given us in the life of this extraordinary man. Hence the need to come together, to communicate.

Tony was an amazing linguist who even in the last weeks of his life was seen studying Rumanian in an effort to converse in their own language with some of the workers in the convent. Not to display his own cleverness but as a way of meeting the other on their own ground and making them feel comfortable and valued. In this way he tried to be a 'universal brother'.

Almost all of his priestly life Tony was a parish priest but he was also a wise and generous pastor for his fellow clergy. His writings on priesthood were widely read. For five years he was spiritual director to seminarians in Rome. He was greatly in demand as a retreat giver and to us in the English Fraternity he never said 'no'. It was only his final illness that prevented him from leading our latest Month of Nazareth. The booklets he wrote on the Fraternity still retain their freshness thirty years later.

A fitting legacy to us in Jesus Caritas can be found in the final words of Tony's report as retiring general responsible where he urges each member to use the means that the Fraternity gives us (adoration, review of life, gospel sharing, desert, month of Nazareth...) **"In using all these means and remaining faithful, we are the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests, a precious resource for the universal Church."**