



DIREZIONE GENERALE OPERE DON
BOSCO
ROME, VIA DELLA PISANA, 1111

The Rector Major

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE RECTOR MAJOR TO PROVINCIALS

This afternoon 16th April, Easter Sunday, the Rector Major received news of the sudden death of the Councillor for the Africa-Madagascar Region, Fr Valentin De Pablo. He was beginning the Extraordinary Visitation to the Vice Province of French-Speaking West Africa, in the Touba community, Mali.

In recent days he had taken part in the extraordinary session of the General Council in Rome together with the Rector Major and the other General Councillors, looking at the choice of the theme for the next General Chapter 26. He was well, and had been working normally. On Holy Thursday he left Rome and arrived in Touba on Holy Saturday, where he felt ill because of the intense heat. He retired early in the evening before the Easter Vigil. He died that evening.

Fr Valentin De Pablo celebrated his Easter with the Lord Jesus. We are shocked by such a sudden death. This afternoon the General Councillors still at the General House gathered in prayer with the Rector Major. Members of the family and General Councillors have been contacted. All provincials, superiors and delegates from the Africa-Madagascar region have been contacted.

At the moment we are working out the place and day for the funeral, and where the body will be buried.

The death of Fr Valentin De Pablo has been a great loss for the Rector Major and the General Council. In particular the Africa-Madagascar region will feel this loss, along with the province of Spain – Bilbao which is his Province of origin, and of course his family.

The Lord Jesus will certainly be welcoming of Fr Valentin's sacrificing and ever available generosity and will join this to his own redeeming death for the fruitfulness of Don Bosco's charism in Africa and Madagascar, and for the good of the entire Congregation. Let us remain united in prayer.

Rome, 16 April 2006

Pascual Chávez V.
Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva
Rector Major