

Fr. JOSÉ RAUL MATTE
(July 5, 1934 – May 8, 2021)



Fr. José Raul Matte, son of José Osvaldo Matte and Maria Clara Torres Martins, was born in Curitiba in Brazil, on July 5, 1934. He was baptized on October 3, 1934, and he received the sacrament of Confirmation on December 19, 1943.

He graduated in medicine, with specialization in paediatrics, in 1959. After a long path of vocational discernment to consecrated life, he entered the seminary São Camilo de Vila Pompéia (São Paulo, Brazil) on September 4, 1960: he was welcomed by the then superior of the community, Fr. Carlos Alberto Pigatto.

In 1962, he completed his philosophical studies and began his novitiate on January 5, 1963. He made his first religious profession on January 6, 1964. In 1966, he completed his theological studies. He made his solemn religious profession on December 8, 1966. He was ordained a deacon on December 19, 1966, and a priest on July 1, 1967, in the parish of Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe in Curitiba by Bishop Manuel da Silveira D'Elboux.

From 1967 to 1968 he served as chaplain of the *Santa Casa* in São Paulo, where he also worked as a paediatrician. From 1968 to 1969, he was a professor in paediatrics course at the *Faculdade de Ciências Médicas* in São Paulo. From 1969 to 1971, he took up the coordination of paediatrics and accompanied the specializing students at the São Luiz Hospital in Jaçanã. During this period, he was also chaplain of *Asilo Dom Pedro II*, in Jaçanã in São Paulo.

On March 26, 1972, he was transferred to Macapá to assume the position of doctor at the São Luiz Hospital, at the request of Dr. Marcello Candia. On that occasion, Fr. Lidio Milani as a nurse and Fr. Angelo Pasqual as an administrator were sent to the new Camillian mission. For more than forty years, Fr. Raul was a missionary in the Amazon region, working in hospitals and visiting communities along the Amazon River.

In mid-1989, the *Missões Camilianas na Foz do Rio Amazonas* project was born. Using a boat, Fr. Raul and Sr. Maria do Socorro Sales Moura brought medical and nursing care along with offering training about prevention and health care to numerous communities in the Amazon region of Amapá and northern Pará. During the day, he assisted and cared for the sick, and in the evening, Fr. Raul, the medical priest, celebrated Holy Mass, offering spiritual comfort of the sacraments. From 1989 to 2016, he sent to his major superiors, monthly reports of his trips to the mouth of the Amazon River, a total of 430 reports, in which he described in detail the healthcare activities offered in the various realities he encountered. For this tireless work, he received great recognition locally, nationally and internationally. Among the recognitions, stands out the *Van Thuân* Prize, awarded to him in 2008 in Rome.

Gradually, Fr. Raul began to feel his frailty of health, in the face of a life given to the poorest and the sick. In 2016, after a fall in which he fractured his arm, and with the onset of Alzheimer's, he was forced to stop this noble ministry.

In 2018, due to his increasingly poor health, he was transferred to the São Pio X community of Granja Viana, with residence at Recanto São Camilo. From 2019 onwards, his health weakened further.

In this last month, due to the need for more accurate medical care, he was transferred to the São Camilo Hospital in Pompeia, where he died on May 8, 2021, around 5:00 am.

After a short vigil, the funeral Mass will be celebrated in the parish of *Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Vila Pompeia*.

Fr. Raul will be laid to rest in the tomb of Camillians at the Cemetery of the Blessed Sacrament in São Paulo.