PROFESSOR FREDERIC NTEDIKA MVUMBI, O.P. GOES HOME

With absolute faith and resolute trust in the divine will and the power of the Lord Jesus to save, we announce the transition to glory of our brother, Professor Frederic Ntedika Mvumbi, O.P., popularly called Mobutu. Bro. Frederic, who was a member of the Vice Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, (D.R.C.), departed this world on Saturday night, March 2, 2019, at the age of 54. He died of aneurysm, blood pressure related issues that led to a clot in the brain.

Brother Frederic was born on May 2, 1964 in the western part of D.R.C. He was initially diocesan seminarian from 1989 – 1994. After he obtained his bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and theology, he joined the General Vicariate of Congo in 1994 and made his simple vows on November 20, 1995. He was ordained to the priesthood on November 14, 2000.

Bro. Frederic had his complimentary studies in Comparative Religions, and Islam, at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, from 1996 – 2001. His great mentor in Islamic studies was Brother Joseph Kenny, O.P, of blessed memory. During the period, he resided at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory, Ibadan. He taught at the Dominican Institute as well as the University of Ibadan between 1998 and 2004.

Until his death, Bro. Frederic was a Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). He held a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and a Baccalaureate in Theology, a Master’s in Religious Studies, a diploma in Arabic and Qur’anic Exegesis and a doctorate in Islamic Studies. He taught Religion and Culture, supervised and mentored students across Africa. He published many articles in scientific journals in the fields of Religion, Culture, Philosophy and Ethics; he was the author of six academic books. In 2011, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa designated Bro. Mvumbi as a Distinguished Scholar of the year. He was, until his death, a Resource Person of the Commission of University Education, Kenya, in Religious and Islamic Studies.

Bro. Mvumbi was a happy and committed Dominican. He always left a lasting impression in the minds of all who encountered him. People often described him as a joyful and friendly friar. He maintained such a busy schedule that it was often difficult to get hold of him. That showed how much he loved his academic life and studies and commitment to the Church.

Our condolences go to his biological family, his religious family the Vice Province of St. Pius V, Congo, the Dominican brothers in the Vicariate of Kenya and to the academic community of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He will be laid to rest on Friday March 15 at Kisumu, Kenya.

May the soul of Brother Frederic Ntedika Mvumbi and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

fr. Charles UKWE, op