

# HISTORY

## Foundation of the Congregation in Habana-Cuba

*"Havana lacks a History (...)  
the oldest ones invent another story,  
a lie, as it should be (...)  
between Havana-that-does-not-exist  
and Havana-a-paradise-lost."*

Abilio Estévez

In about the year 1950 the Province of St Peter of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament wanted to have a house in Spanish America. A first attempt at making a foundation in Venezuela, after having the authorization of the Archbishop of Caracas and the approval the Superiors of the Congregation, was completely frustrated by the attitude of the government of Democratic Action (Venezuela), which refused religious of Spanish origin permission to enter the country.

As the proposition about making a foundation in America was irreversible, a religious from the Province of St Peter (Fr Luis Martínez) arrived in Colombia on 18 January 1950, ready to attempt the foundation. It was the Archbishop, Mons. Diego María Gómez, who opened the doors of the city and made the foundation possible. The Archbishop offered us "ad nutum Sanctae Sedis" the Sanctuary of Bethlehem with the entire hill

that surrounds it. The Superior General of the time, Fr Godefroy Spiekman, while visiting America, arrived in Popayán and personally studied the proposal of the Archbishop.

The Decree of founding the new house is dated 6 January 1951 in Rome. The first expedition left Lisbon by air. And it comprised the following religious: Fr Juan Arratibel, Provincial of the Province of St Peter, Fr Román Esquisabel, Fr Esteban Mariezcurrena, Br Vicente Urquíá and Br Macario Andraiz. Fr Luis Martínez, who was named the first Superior of the community, was already in Popayán. All of them received a great reception in Popayán on 15 February 1951. Joining them, on 25 September of the same year, Fr Gregorio Urquiola was assigned to the new foundation, since Fr Provincial had to return to Spain.

The foundation in Havana took place on April 8, 1953, date of its canonical erection. In the house diary of Popayán the following record appears: "June 09-53. Brother Vicente Urquíá leaves this house to go to Havana. He is the founder of our first house in Cuba. And he is the first religious, having come to Colombia, who receives orders to leave Popayán."

There is also another item noted: "1954 January. This month we received the news of the transfer of Fr Esteban Mariezcurrena, treasurer of the community, to the foundation of Cuba. Date of departure: 18 February. Arrival, 28 February."

*To be continued...*

**FATHER GREGORIO URQUIOLA, SSS**

*Bogotá, Colombia, NOTIBIP 71 - July 2021*



## News from Mozambique

On 1 August 2021 at 4 p.m., a chapel called the "Chapel of Saint Peter-Julian Eymard" of the Blessed Sacrament priests was inaugurated in the Km15 Matola Gare district (Nkhobe). This chapel is situated in the premises of the future SSS community in Mozambique.

Present at this ceremony was Mgr Francisco Chimoio, the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Maputo, who presided, and all the Blessed Sacrament religious of Maputo. Among the Blessed Sacrament religious present were: Father Agostinho Maholele, General Consultor, Father Geraldo Uaiare, Superior of the Blessed Sacrament religious in Mozambique, and other SSS Fathers. Blessed Sacrament seminarians from the Saint Peter-Julian Eymard foyer also participated in the ceremony. On this day it was a very beautiful and gratifying to see the founding of another Blessed Sacrament chapel where the Lord present in the Most Blessed Sacrament is praised. We point out that the choice of this day was fitting, because the 1<sup>st</sup> of August is the date of our Holy Founder Saint Pierre-Julien Eymard's death and the chapel has a relic of him.

**FATHER FÉLIX FLORINDO TUPASSO, SSS**

*Extract from SSS-Contact, Sept-Oct. 2021*