

Our brother, fr. **Marcelo Antonio Cisneros OFM**, parish priest of the Church of *Mater Dolorosa Katolik Kilisesi* in Samsun (Turkey), died on morning of 14th of December 2022 due to broken abdominal aortic aneurysm, at age 64.

Fra Marcelo Cisneros, was born in June 10, 1957 Billingham – Buenos Aires/Argentina. He entered the Order of Friars Minors in Argentina in the “San Francisco Solano” Province in 1978. He made his first profession on February 23, 1979 and his solemn profession on May 8, 1983 in Ciudadela (Buenos Aires).

He was master of the temporally professed in Ciudadela from 1986 to 1988. Later in Rome he completed his studies in biblical theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. After returned to Argentina, Fra Marcelo was entrusted various in his province as guardian, treasurer, provincial Definitor, parish vicar, rector of Theological Institute Franciscan.

He arrived in Turkey in 2021 as a member of the International Fraternity of Istanbul Santa Maria Draperis Church. He remained there until 2016. In 2017 a new project launched and he went to Samsun, a city in northern Turkey, as a parish priest.

Fra Marcelo dedicated himself with passion to his mission in this city. Giving all his life as a minor brother and parish priest, he served to local community and his beloved Iraqi catholic refugees’ community. Together with them, he built up an open and welcoming place also that is a place for meeting and celebrating the faith.

Today his parish mourns along with the whole Church in Turkey for the sudden death of their pastor and father.

We entrust Fra Marcelo to the Merciful Father, with gratitude for all the love and service in the mission that entrusted him.

His body will repatriated in accordance of the demand of his family in Argentina, after the bureaucratic procedures are completed.

The friars Minors community in Turkey invites the brothers and sisters and the entire Christian community to honor the memory of their brother in Christ, Friar Marcelo Cisneros who now rests in the peace of the Lord.

The Holy Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday, 20th of December 2022 at 18.00 in the Church of Santa Maria Draperis in Istanbul.