IN MEMORIAM

The last session of the II International Congress of Sindonology, held in Turin in 1978, opened with a talk by Don José-Luis Carreño Etxeandia, S.D.B. It could not be called a "speech"; after the sober presentations of scientists, the solemn exegeses of theologians and the earnest expositions of historians, Don Carreño came to the podium with a profound spiritual message clothed in spontaneous humor and irresistible persuasiveness. Amazing how the ebullient Spaniard could shake together science, politics, theology, exhortation, funny anecdotes and a plan for world peace, all in relation to the inestimable gift of the Holy Shroud.

His books were like that: a running conversation with the reader, the "man in the street" to whom they were addressed. In Spectrum #9 (December 1983), Don Luigi Fossati, S.D.B., reviewed Don Carreño's "summa sindonologica", La Serial—Liber Signorum, and gave the titles of other books, composed in Spain after Don Carreño had served for more than a quarter of a century as missionary and Provincial of the Salesian Order in India. His first little booklet, Christ's Portrait, written in English while he was in Goa, has been distributed worldwide by the thousands, translated into many languages.

The wellspring of his whole being was love for God: "For me," he wrote, "a flower is all I need to fall in love with my Creator." In Don Carreño, love showed its power; in his words, his songs, his personality, his mission, his charm, which attracted people around him all eager to partake of his joy.

His poems are of a deep and simple beauty. One he left to be published after his death:

¿Cómo quieres que no quiera
irme ya con el Señor?
Ho dicho al Amor: ¡Espera!
durante una vida entera:
¿Quieres que "me raje" ahora?
Por favor.
Para mí la Gran Frontera
se llama de esta manera:
"La cita con el Amor".

(How is it that you do not want me to go away yet with the Lord?/ I said to Love, "Wait!" during an entire lifetime./ Do you want me to hold back now?/ Please!! For me the Great Frontier is named this way:/ "An Appointment with Love".

Don Carreño, born near Bilbao some 80 years ago, kept his "Appointment" on 29 May 1986.