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Augustinian poet Centina passes away



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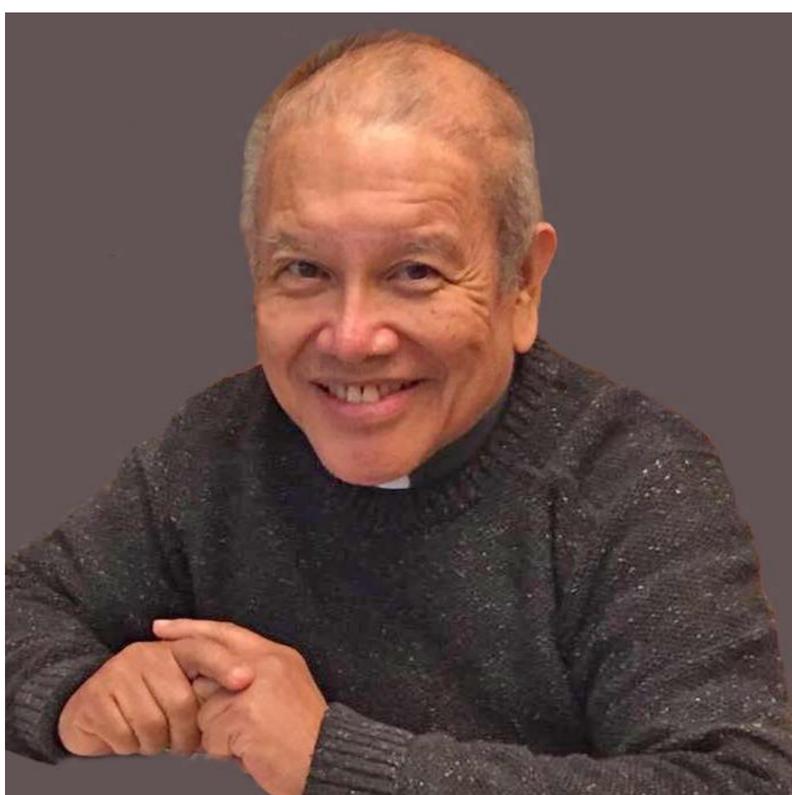


Photo credit: facebook Gilbert Luis R. Centina III

Augustinian poet Gilbert Luis R. Centina III has died in Spain due to complications from Covid-19, according to a worldwide bulletin released by the Order of Saint Augustine in Madrid, Spain.

He died at dawn Friday, 18 days shy of his 73rd birthday. His large body of work assures him a solid place in Philippine literature in both English and Spanish as well as in the rarefied field of Catholic poetry.

He has written a number of books and won numerous recognitions and awards for his poetry.

The last seven years of his life saw an explosion of frenetic creativity resulting in the publication of six poetry books, a novel and a literary criticism.

He rediscovered his Spanish roots in Spain where he began producing bilingual poetry collections and where he found a welcoming and expanding audience.

His final soon-to-be published work, Recovecos/Crevices, is a bilingual book — his third — consisting of 350 poems in both Spanish and English. It will be released in the United States in hard cover and paperback editions.

In his preface in this book, which turned out to be a prescient, if ironic, foreboding of his own mortality, he wrote: "The novel coronavirus has rewritten the rules of daily life, and even our most sophisticated technologies seem impotent to stop it as we descend into a dystopian world where no one is quite sure how all this will end," adding that "this poetry collection is my gift to those who survived the pandemic and my tribute to those who put up a good fight and yet perished."

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