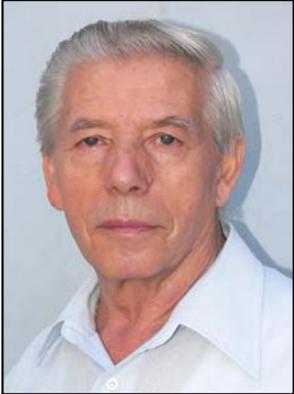


In the Father's House

«As we have been united
in the profession of the faith,
so let us keep ourselves united
in suffrage and intercession».
(Fr. Alberione)



At 1:40 AM (local time) today, Thursday, 24 February 2022, our confrere passed away in the infirmary of the San Paolo community in Rome due to a cardiac arrest

BROTHER FRANCESCO MARIO MECENERO *89 years, 75 of Pauline life, 69 of profession*

Brother Mario was born in Crespadoro (Vicenza) on 16 November 1932, one of the eleven children, 5 sisters and 5 brothers, from parents Regina Pellizzari and Giuseppe. He entered in the community of Sacile (Pordenone) on 30 August 1946. He began the Novitiate in Rome on 18 March 1951, made his first religious Profession on 19 March of the following year, assuming the name of Mario – for the sincere and great love he had towards the Madonna – and was definitively consecrated with the Perpetual Profession on 8 September 1957 in Rome.

Brother Mario began his apostolic experience in the Eternal City as mechanic, an activity that he will continue until, in 1962, he was transferred to Alba. In 1964, Fr Luigi Zanoni, then Vicar General, in agreement with the Primo Maestro, asked him to go on a mission to Korea. At first, wrote Brother Mario, he got «a blow to the heart», but then he saw nothing to the contrary, only the pain of leaving his elderly parents and his various “shortcomings”, but he concluded: «I am at his disposal!». Fr Zanoni in a note that he will send him in June 1964 draws a profile of what will later be his life for almost 50 years in Korea: «In our nascent home in Seoul they need a good Disciple who can do a little bit of everything: electrician, mechanic, machine operator, etc. They need one like you. You will have to be for that house the *factotum* that takes care a bit of everything... it is a house that was born, in a poor country, with all the sacrifices of the beginnings and with all the merits reserved for the pioneers».

Over the years, Brother Mario will maintain a continuous dialogue through correspondence with the Superiors General, especially with Fr Renato Perino, who encouraged him in everything: «I see that you have a lot to do with our bookstores and those of the Daughters of St. Paul. You are filling Korea with our diffusion points», acknowledging the great good he did: «I thank you for everything you do and for the cordiality and the spirit with which you give your collaboration. Receive my fraternal embrace with great affection and esteem». Fr Perino sometimes called him friendly «my dearest Micio», a diminutive with which he himself often signed his letters.

In a letter of his dated 15 January 1992, together with other things that he presented to Fr Perino, he concluded thus, manifesting the responsibility he felt of the whole Korean Pauline community: «Good news! Aspirants increase, two first professions coming next and a diaconate and the entry of a good number of novices. Less attractive, on the other hand, is to see a few

Professed at the Visit». Brother Mario was a man of prayer, especially by reciting the Rosary.

We can say that he was a blessing for the whole Pauline Family of Korea. Whatever needed fixing, repairing, building... he was always available to help and assist, with joy, feeling and making others feel part of the same Family. He was a perfect all-around person, creative and knew how to be industrious in everything. He gradually became the “grandfather” of the Korean Pauline Family. When he asked to return to Italy in 2011, joining the Vicenza community until 2017, he did so mainly because, having been hospitalized a few times and seeing that his health was beginning to fail, he did not want to be a burden. Besides, he had already done the task entrusted to him by Fr James Alberione and Fr Zanoni: to help the growth of the Korean Pauline Family, becoming a beautiful model of life, of prayer and of the apostolate.

From 2017 to today, Brother Mario has lived in the infirmary of the San Paolo community of Rome and in recent years, he has lived with a form of tumor.

May the Lord welcome our dear brother and reward him with his gifts. May Our Lady accompany this great devotee of hers to a full life with God. And we ask him to intercede for holy vocations for the Pauline Family in Korea.

Rome, 24 February 2022

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Friday, 25 February, at 3:00 PM, in the sub-crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles in Rome. The body will then be buried in Crespadoro (Vicenza), his place of origin.

The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities for the suffrages prescribed (Const. 65 and 65.1).