

# 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 7:00 AM (local time), Wednesday, 9 March 2022, our brother priest died in the “San Paolo” community in Rome, due to a heart attack,

## **FATHER VITO CARMELO SALANITRI**

**85 years, 71 of Pauline life, 63 of profession, 56 of priesthood**

Father Vito was born in Regalbuto (Enna) on 15 June 1936 (a date that coincides with his feast day), from the parents Carmelo and Giuseppa Sebastiana Putrino. He entered the community of Rome on 12 September 1950. He began his novitiate on 7 September 1957, made his first religious profession on 8 September of the following year, assuming the name of Carmelo, and was definitively consecrated with perpetual profession on 8 September 1963. He was ordained a priest on 30 June 1965 in Rome.

After a short period on a mission in Sherbrooke in Canada, as a typographer (1966-1968), he was transferred to the community of Vicenza with the position of Master of aspirants and teacher, an activity that he will continue to carry out even when in 1979, he joined the community of Catania for a period of three years, before returning to Vicenza where, in 1988, he was charged with full-time teaching. After a short break for updating and service at the secretariat of the Pauline Vocation Promotion in Rome (1994-1997), he returned to Vicenza to accompany the young aspirants. Having completed this formative task in 1997, Father Vito dedicated himself to the parish ministry at our Shrine *Regina degli Apostoli* in Rome. From 1999, he began to collaborate with *Edizioni San Paolo*. In 2007, Father Vito transferred in the community of Modena, engaged in pastoral care and spiritual animation, a service that he will continue in Rome the following year. He was still in Modena from 2011, before returning to the Eternal City the following year, engaged in the ministry and other services, such as teaching Italian to Paulines of other Nations.

Father Vito, since the period of his formation and preparation for the apostolate, has shown seriousness and commitment. After a brief apostolic experience as assistant to aspirants, the Superior wrote of him as follows: «He showed himself to be good in everything: very faithful to his practices of piety; serious assistant, he knows how to keep the discipline well; active in his field of apostolate and attached to the community; he doesn't get lost in distracting things; respectful and obedient and without demands. If he continues like this he will be a good element for our community».

He dedicated most of his Pauline life to the formation of young people and to teaching and he did it with passion, love and total dedication. He also spent a lot of time looking after the relationship with the families of the boys, with whom he was very welcoming and jovial. He also used many of his energies in the animation of the Pauline Institutes, especially the *Gabrielini* and the *Annunziatine*, which he followed with love, preparing himself with commitment in preaching, which was always very clear, simple and “audible”,

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given the beautiful timbre of voice he was gifted with. A person with a generous and joyful heart.

Until last Sunday, he continued his ministry regularly in the “San Timoteo” Chapel, always able to effectively emphasize some aspects of the Word of God by rereading them in the light of current events, not least the pandemic and, in recent days, the tragic situation of war in Ukraine.

Father Vito left us suddenly because of a lightning-like heart attack, even though he had been suffering from diabetes for many years.

We make ours the entrance antiphon to today’s Mass, which allows us to renew our faith in the love and mercy of the Lord. The words of Blessed Alberione that we find in the Pauline Agenda describe the apostolic commitment of Father Vito: «Pastoral work is the divine art of governing people’s souls. It is to shepherd them, that is, to guide them to the salutary pastures of the truth and to the sources of supernatural life by way of the straight path of Christian holiness... This is the great work of the priest, whether he preaches from the pulpit, or whether he preaches by means of... a book, a film or a microphone».

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours, give him the prize reserved for faithful servants, while we ask him to intercede with the Divine Master for young vocations in the Pauline Family.

*Rome 9 March 2022*

*Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp*

*The funeral will be celebrated tomorrow, Thursday, 10 March, at 3:30 PM, in the sub-crypt of the Regina degli Apostoli Sanctuary. The body will be buried in the Laurentino cemetery in Rome.*

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