

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)



Our brother priest

FATHER NICOLA GIOVANNI BARONI

81 years of age, 70 of Pauline life, 59 of profession, 52 of priesthood

died in Alba at about 4.00 pm (local time) on 28 April 2019, the second Sunday of Easter

Born in Teramo on 9 November 1937, his parents Giuseppe and Addolorata Felicioni decided to have him baptized on the following day by the chaplain of the civil hospital, as evidenced by a small note written by the chaplain himself. At the age of twelve (1949) he entered our community in Alba and here he began his formative journey as an aspirant. Precisely in Alba, as soon as he arrived in the Congregation, he received the sacrament of Confirmation.

In Albano Laziale (Rome), on 7 September 1958, Nicola entered the novitiate and the following year made his first religious profession, assuming the religious name of Giovanni, a commitment that he will renew in perpetuity on 8 September 1964. Having moved to Rome after the novitiate to begin his theological studies, our Brother showed himself to be a boy with a timid yet generous and cordial, obedient character, always ready to offer himself in the apostolate, his true passion that grew progressively over time and guided his entire Pauline life. It was one of his professors, Father Carlo M. Tommaso Dragone, to prophesy in 1965 that the young man «will give all he can». And so it was.

After the diaconal ordination (8 May 1966), and received a few weeks later the presbyteral ordination (30 June), Father Nicola lived two years of pastoral experience in Rome. However, Catania was the first community where, from 1968 to 1994, his enthusiasm and his apostolic commitment took shape concretely, with an interruption of two years at Cinisello Balsamo as professor of aspirants (1982-1985). In Catania he too participated in the birth of *Radio Sole*, the local Pauline broadcaster that he guided for several years as Director. His untiring commitment and help from other Brothers brought this radio of ours, not only to be known in the territory, but also to become a true modern Areopagus, with interventions, debates and programs on local and national themes appreciated by many listeners.

In 1994 he left Sicily and arrived in the community of Turin, where he remained there until 1st January 2019, when, following the closure of that community, he was transferred to Alba – Casa Madre. As soon as he arrived in Turin, became in charge of editing and from December 1999 he signed the liturgical paper *La Domenica* as the Director. Added to this, starting from 2002, he was the director of *Pagine Aperte*, the magazine of the *Diffusione San Paolo* (the distribution company), whose last issue he had just closed. Recently in Alba, a severe and advanced tumor form was discovered that had not given any previous symptomatic signs and that in a short time led to his death.

These simple traits of his life show his love for the apostolate and his dedication to evangelization, ready as Saint Paul to become everything to

everyone. And always without sparing, generous also in the priestly ministry, where there was need. For a long time he was a confessor at the Sisters Disciples of the Divine Master's community in Sanfrè (Cuneo, Italy). He was a man of few words but carried out his commitments concretely.

Let us now entrust Father Nicola to the goodness of the Divine Master at this time of Easter. All the good that he sowed shows the signs of life and love that are the fruit of those who followed the Risen Lord full time.

In this Vocational Year of the Pauline Family, Father Nicola showed the joy of spending himself for the Lord. May the Lord grant him Eternal Peace and be welcomed by Blessed James Alberione, Timothy Giaccardo and the whole Pauline Family in heaven.

Rome, 29 April 2019

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral will take place on Tuesday, April 30th at 3 pm in the Temple of San Paolo in Alba. He will be laid to rest in the city cemetery.

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).