



At about 11.00 PM on 16 August 2019 our brother priest died in Formicola (Caserta, Italy), due to a severe tumour metastasis

### **FATHER VINCENZO SANTARCANGELO**

**68 years, 38 of Pauline life, 35 of religious profession and 30 of priesthood**

Sick for a long time now, Father Santarcangelo has reached the eternal prize while in his native town, Formicola, where he lived continually from January 2018, while continuing his precious collaboration with the Saint Pauls Publishing Group.

Born on 25 June 1951 by his Papa Antonio and his mother Maria, to whom he was very close and died only recently, Vincenzo obtained his college degree before attending the Faculty of Medicine for a few years. On 13 October 1980, at the age of 29 and after in-depth vocational discernment, he decided to enter the Society of Saint Paul and crossed the threshold of the community of Albano Laziale (Rome), destined then to welcome adult vocations. He was confirmed in the chapel of that community on 10 June 1982, shortly before entering the novitiate, which concluded on 8 September 1983 in Rome with the first profession of the religious vows.

During his years of temporary profession in Rome, he attended for a year the Pauline International Society of Social Communication (SPICS), which directed him in his future apostolic life to the publishing world. He consecrated himself in perpetuity, always in Rome, on 7 September 1987, and still here, he received the presbyteral Ordination almost two years later, on 25 June 1989.

Father Vincenzo lived his formation with serenity and joy. Thus, he wrote in his request for admission to perpetual profession: *«I have an attitude of thanksgiving for faith, for life, for my parents, for friends, for those who have influenced and will influence my growth towards God»*. His formed conscience and the equilibrium he enjoyed, helped by the mature age of his vocational choice and a life of intense prayer, made him very convinced of the direction he was giving to his life.

After the end of the philosophical-theological curriculum, he obtained a license in moral theology at the Alphonsian Academy of Rome, specialized studies which, in addition to introducing him to direct knowledge of the ecclesial academic world, introduced him to a more direct apostolic commitment in the publishing field. In fact, from 1989 to 1999 he resided in Rome, working in the local editorial office, where he dedicated himself for the successive and demanding apostolic assignments. Then, in 1999, he was transferred to the community of Cinisello Balsamo, home of the St Pauls Publishing, and became General Manager. It is the beginning of a fruitful period of opening of this apostolic reality to the wider cultural world of the time. In a short time, in fact, thanks to his undeniable human and relational qualities and to his apostolic dynamism, he managed to establish relationships with important ecclesial

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realities, but also with authors of absolute quality, both inside and outside the Church. In those years, the St Pauls Publishing catalogue experienced a sharp rise in terms of quality and quantity. Among the most prestigious authors, we cannot forget Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, at the time Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who with Father Vincenzo has always been bound by sincere esteem and affection. The future Pope Benedict XVI, a true admirer of our charism, entrusted many of his titles to the St Pauls Publishing. Among the other authors, we also mention Father Piero Coda, a world-famous theologian and currently dean of the *Sophia University Institute*, an important academic institution of the Focolare Movement. With this Movement, moreover, Father Vincenzo always maintained particular bonds of friendship.

Another peculiar ability of his was to know how to enter competently into large ecclesial projects, offering the collaboration of our specific charism. These include, for example, in 2005, the publication of the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a major publishing operation that also involved other apostolic sectors of the Province. By 2007, the time was ripe for Italy to move decisively towards the creation of a single publisher. For this reason, the Italian Government entrusted him with the difficult task of editorial coordination of all the apostolic activities, a project which experienced some difficulties and which would have seen its full realization only in the posthumous era, but always thanks also to the seeds planted by him with patience and sacrifice.

Aware of having given all he could to the Mother Circumscription, in July 2012, he was transferred by the Superior General to the Great Britain-Ireland Region (now incorporated into the Indian Province) to reformulate and re-launch the local publishing project. Even here, however, he experienced difficulties and resistance, but he managed once again to weave significant ecclesial relations, which led to some good apostolic fruits.

In 2014, he began a period of synthesis of his life, which led him first to live for two years in a parish in London – though always collaborating with our local publishing sector –, and then, after a year back in Milan (2016), to ask for a period of exlaustration, which he was spending in his birthplace of Formicola.

The Congregation owes much to the broad vision of our mission that Father Vincenzo was able to bring in his long years of missionary commitment. We now entrust to his intercession with the Divine Master the demanding phase of reform in which the Congregation is committed.

Rome, 17 August 2019



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral took place today, 17 August 2019, at 5.30 PM in the parish church of Formicola. His body was buried in the local municipal cemetery.*

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