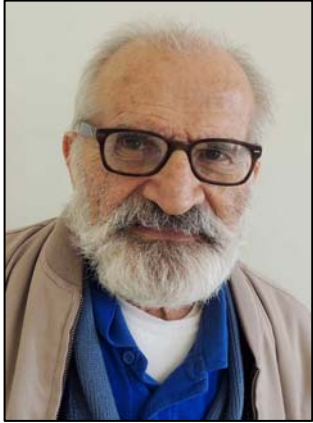


# In the Father's House

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

At 3:00 p.m. yesterday, July 18, our confrere died in the community of Caracas, due to lung cancer



## FATHER ACHILLE ANGELO VAGNONI

**92 years of age, 77 of Pauline life, 70 of profession, 63 of priesthood**

Achille was born on June 30, 1928, in Castignano, a small village a few kilometers from Ascoli Piceno to his father Giovanni and mother Angela Amadio, the last of eight children. A "good and religious" peasant family, he also had to suffer the loss of his father when Achille was ten years old. To his mother Angela, everyone called her "China", she dedicated a delightful badge for 90 years of her life, where she quickly recalled the most important events of the whole family.

On September 9, 1942, in the middle of the Second World War, he left his birthplace and began his Pauline life. On September 8, 1948, he entered the novitiate in Albano Laziale, on September 8, of the following year, he made his first religious profession by accepting the name of Angelo from Fr Alberione: from that day on it became the name known to all. On September 8, 1953, he made his religious vows in perpetuity. On June 15, 1957, he was ordained a deacon and a few weeks later, on July 7, he received the presbyteral order by the imposition of the hands of Bishop Ettore Cunial.

For a year Fr Angelo was engaged in the photographic archive of Rome, before leaving for the mission. In fact, what characterizes his Pauline life are the many years he spent in Venezuela, almost 60 years, full of apostolic vigour, of initiatives that allowed him to give himself with enthusiasm and with all his energy, learning to love this region and holding the young generations in his heart.

He was supposed to leave for India. But other requirements, however, motivated Father Alberione to send Father Angelo to Cuba. He remained there for four years (1958-1962) devoted to St Paul films and bookshops. Because of the revolution and Fidel Castro's new regime, he had to leave the island; in 1962 he was appointed to help his confreres in Venezuela.

The first years (1962-1969) were of total dedication to the Apostolate, where there was no lack of great dreams for the Pauline mission in Venezuela. He supported the Venezuelan Church in liturgical reform with many publications in Spanish. In 1966 he began printing "The Sunday" and in 1981 became its director. In 1986 he was also appointed the director of editions of St Paul's, a position that he held till the end of 2005. Among his editorial productions, over a period of twenty years, we can mention two series with an international reputation: "Vitamins for the Heart" and "School Religious Education". Before leaving the publishing house he designed "My Bible", a book, especially for children. In 1992 he started the monthly missal "Daily Bread of the Word" and launched two magazines: the children's version of "The Sunday", entitled "My little page on Sunday", and "Pray with the Church".

---

It should also be remembered that Father Angelo's first appointment in Venezuela was a formator because he was the master of the "young Paulines", as he liked to call them. This responsibility gave rise in him the desire to update his pedagogy and with this motivation, he returned to Rome for a year of study at the Pontifical Salesian Athenaeum (1969-1970). In Caracas, in 1972, he coordinated the Pauline editorial staff, also comprising the Daughters of St. Paul, and created a very daring magazine targeted at young people, entitled "Protesta". In 1981 he promoted the publication of "Familia Cristiana".

Among his responsibilities are also the superior of the communities of El Hatillo (1974-1977) and Caracas (1989-1992), and the post of regional superior for two terms (1998-2004).

As a Pauline, Fr Vagnoni contributed to the maintenance of the historical and charismatic memory of the Congregation with several publications. He loved to remind young people of the beginnings of the Pauline Family in Venezuela, "so that, knowing our origins, they may live better in the present and reach out into the future," he wrote in the commemorative book of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of St Paul in Venezuela. Being concerned about the need to update the Pauline charism, he dedicated himself to publications on the Apostle Paul and the Primo Maestro.

Father Angelo was sensitive to ecclesial problems, seen in the historical, social, and political context of the Latin American countries. He was an assiduous reader of the documents of the Congregation, promoting them according to the interpretative key of Inculturation.

He was a person who loved the Pauline mission and for this very reason was in continuous dialogue with the Superiors General, to address problems, offer ideas, ask questions...

Now the Lord has called him to himself, united him with Blesseds James and Timothy, to the "multitude of witnesses" (Heb 12:1) of the Pauline Family in Paradise. To this our confrere we entrust the Region of Venezuela and the not easy socio-political situation that the country is going through. May the new Pauline generations of this region "live and give to the world Jesus Master the Way, the Truth and the Life" with the intensity of life witnessed by Father Angelo.

*Rome, July 19, 2020*

*Father Domenico Soliman, ssp*

*The funeral mass was celebrated this morning. Father Angelo's body will be laid to rest in the Cemetery of Este en la Guairita in Caracas.*

**Circumscription Superiors should inform their communities of the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).**