

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 8:30 AM yesterday, Thursday, 8 April 2021, our priest confrere from the community of Rome – San Paolo died of bilateral interstitial pneumonia due to the Covid-19 virus at a facility in the S. Eugenio hospital in Rome.

FATHER ANTONIO BERNARDO MASELLI

87 years, 75 of Pauline life, 69 of profession, 61 of priesthood

A simple and affable person, respectful, lover of our mission, attentive to people and the needs of the community. This is how we will always remember Father Antonio in his many years spent among us.

He was born on 20 June 1933 in Castelpagano (Benevento), in a family of humble origins, and the third child of Papa Virginio and Mama Carmela Javerone. On 25 August 1945, he entered the community of Rome. Five years later, he began his novitiate in Albano Laziale and, in the same community, on 8 September 1951, he made his first religious profession, taking the name of Bernardo. In Rome, he professed the religious vows in perpetuity on 8 September 1956. He was ordained a deacon on 3 May 1959 and, finally, a presbyter by the imposition of hands of Mons. Luigi Traglia on 5 July 1959.

As his first apostolic experience after ordination, we find him as Director of the subscription office in Rome (1959-1961). Subsequently, he was sent to the community of Milan, engaged in the dissemination of the Pauline Periodicals (1962-1963). He follows a long period dedicated to the apostolate of pastoral care for vocations and formation: first in Rome (1963-1980), then in Vicenza (1980-1982) and, finally, in Albano Laziale (1982-1992).

Having finished his commitment with the young, Father Antonio was transferred to the community of Bari as Superior for two terms. In 1999, Fr Pietro Campus, the then Superior General, called him to Ariccia as Delegate of the “Divin Maestro” Community until 2004. In that year he left for the community of Catania with the task of following the spiritual animation of the Pauline Cooperators, a commitment that he will continue with dedication and attention to people until 2018, when, for health reasons, he will return to Rome in the Timoteo Giaccardo community, seat of the infirmary.

A few weeks ago, he suffered the Coronavirus infection and, despite being hospitalized, he was unable to overcome the serious health complications that have arisen.

Father Antonio was noted for his human traits and depth of soul, for his sympathy, especially in recent years in which many small gestures

expressed his desire to be close to people, always reciprocated by the community. In recent days, there have been frequent daily telephone contacts with health professionals to find out about his state of health.

As a good Pauline, he loved to write. Among his works, the book *Being consumed by the love of a cowboy*, was written together with Father Eugenio Fornasari SSP. In it, he outlines the biographical profile of Father Salvatore Carolla, a Pauline and his countryman, who died at the age of 36 in the United States due to an accident. He was known for his many qualities, so much so that Fr Alberione himself was able to say, «*that the virtues of this brother, as cultured as he was “holy” and a true Pauline, were to be remembered and imitated*».

Let us now entrust Father Antonio to the Risen Christ, confident that the words of the Founder that we find in today's Pauline Agenda summarize his entire Pauline mission: «*To feel with Jesus Christ. It means having the heart of the Divine Master for men, as it manifests itself in “Venite ad me omnes”*».

Rome, 9 April 2021

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

Father Antonio's funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, 10 April at 11:00 AM, in the sub-crypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. The body will be buried in the cemetery of Castelpagano (Benevento), his native town.

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