

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 2:00 PM (local time) on Saturday 6 January 2024, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, he died in Verduno hospital (Cuneo)

FATHER LUIGI (GINO) VALTORTA

79 years, 58 of Pauline life, 52 of profession, 48 of priesthood

Luigi was born in Cassano D'Adda (Milan) on 23 August 1944, to parents Carlo and Maria Carolina Arlati. He had only one sister and when he entered the Congregation, at the age of 21, he deprived the family of their only salary, as his father was retired and his mother was a housewife. He entered the community of Albano Laziale on 2 September 1965, in the group of adult vocations. He began the Novitiate on 7 September 1970, made his First Religious Profession on 8 September 1971. He was definitively consecrated on 23 February 1975 and was ordained priest on 29 June of the same year.

Father Gino remembered with great joy the three weekly visits that Don Alberione made to Albano Laziale, for meditation and spiritual direction of adult vocations as well as to follow the work of the house. The idea of opening a seminary for adult vocations, a novelty in the Italian Church, had by Don Alberione in 1960, was one of his last initiatives, which he followed carefully.

Having completed his theological studies with a Licentiate in Spirituality at the Angelicum, Father Gino was involved in the formation of adult Vocations and in Vocation Promotion which he carried out in Vicenza (1977-79), in Cinisello Balsamo (1979-87) and in Alba (1987-91). In 1987 he obtained the diploma from the three-year school for educators in Reggio Emilia, linked to the Faculty of Psychology of the Gregorian University.

After his three-year mandate as Superior of the Community of Florence, he was appointed Delegate of the Vatican Community. He will complement this task with that of General Postulator of the Pauline Family, which will be blessed with the beatification of Don Alberione on 27 April 2003. His appointment as Postulator in 1997 replaced Father Stefano Lamera after his sudden death. In a television interview with *Telepace* he recalled with immense pleasure his help to the chaplain of the Swiss Guards, both in the ordinary ministry and in the annual preaching of the Spiritual Exercises in Ariccia.

In 2005, having returned to the Italian Province, he asked to be able to carry out direct pastoral care. Transferred to Alba, he helped as much as possible in St Paul Church, continuing the vocational animation in the area, leading the Pauline Family courses of Spiritual Exercises, and dedicating a few years to the care of the Birthplace of Don Alberione.

In July 2023 he was diagnosed with pleural cancer, a rare and fatal disease, which caused his progressive deterioration.

Father Gino was a religious faithful to his duties, in prayer and in accompanying young people. There are countless courses of spiritual exercises he preached, as well as school camps, formation courses, even abroad, and biblical missions. His formative activity experienced moments of great fruitfulness: he sought every means to help young people discern their own vocation in prayer; he made use of formation activities in the use of the means of communication to make them understand the beauty of the Pauline vocation. He followed some groups of Pauline Cooperators on their journey of faith. Recently he spent more time in the confessional of St Paul Church in Alba, due to his health conditions.

To the intercession of Father Gino, we recommend the vocation ministry of our Congregation, to which the recent General Chapter drew our attention, and the biblical apostolate. In the aforementioned *Telepace* television interview, he reiterated that the priority commitment of our Congregation must be the dissemination of the Bible, of the Word, which must be removed from the shelves to be at the center of everyone's attention.

Rome, 6 January 2024

Brother Lorenzo Vezzani, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Tuesday 9 January at 9:30 AM in St Paul Church in Alba. The body will be buried in the city cemetery.

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