

# 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 6:30 AM (local time) on Monday 15 January 2024, he died in the emergency room of the San Giuseppe Hospital in Milan, following irregular cardiac fibrillations

## **FATHER EFREM SIRO MARZIANO GAMBA** **86 years, 75 of Pauline life, 68 of profession, 61 of priesthood**

Efrem was born in Verdello (Bergamo) on 6 July 1937 – 2 sisters and 5 brothers, one of whom is a Guanellian – to parents Alessandro and Michelina Zanoli. He entered the community of Alba on 2 September 1948, began his Novitiate on 8 September 1954, made his First Religious Profession on 8 September 1955, taking the name of Marziano. He was definitively consecrated with perpetual profession on 8 September 1959, and he was ordained a priest on 1 July 1962.

After a year of pastoral work in Rome, he began his apostolic activity in the community of Vicenza, where he remained until 1966, the year in which he moved to Argentina until 1973. Having returned to Italy, he carried out his service in Milan in the administrative sector of *Periodici San Paolo* and the community.

In recent weeks Fr Efrem said that his time had now come: “I am outside of the maximum time, seeing that my sister died at 82...” he repeated with conviction, also recalling that exactly 25 years earlier he had suffered the laryngo-oesophageal rupture that had brought him into grave danger of death. A few days earlier he had spoken with the Superior of the community, making him aware of personal and family papers that he would have to deal with upon his passing, and in doing so he was unable to retain a thread of emotion in the memory of his loved ones. After several tests to which he had been subjected, he would have had to undergo gastroscopy surgery. The Lord, as he had hoped several times, called him in his sleep.

Fr Gamba, in the various tasks and responsibilities he carried out in the financial sector, was truly an institution both for *Periodici San Paolo* and the other companies of the *San Paolo Group* and for our own community of Milan, for which he signed the economic reports year after year. Fr Gamba experienced every responsibility as a service, with professionalism, sincere generosity and attention to people.

We can truly say that Fr Efrem served the Church, the Congregation, the community until the end (his last payment mandate for invoices and upcoming deadlines dates back to last Friday) and with all of himself, with his skills and qualities. For those who knew him – in particular his confreres, male and female collaborators – it will be impossible to forget the memory of him, his

---

face and his shy smile that accompanied a response that was never predictable.

Fr Efrem was very reserved and shy, but if encouraged, he opened up and recounted his past. He was very knowledgeable about his job and kept himself constantly updated on the administrative aspect. He was faithful to the Breviary, respectful of people and close to his family.

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and give him the eternal reward, while we ask him to intercede for numerous and holy vocations in our Congregation and in the entire Pauline Family.

*Rome, 16 January 2024*

*Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp*

*The funeral will be celebrated on Wednesday 17 June at 11:00 AM in the parish of San Pietro in Sala. Immediately afterwards, the body will be buried in the Verdello cemetery (BG).*

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