

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO  
secretary general



*“As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession.”.*

(Fr. Alberione)

On Sunday, 25 October 2009, at around 1:30 pm (local time), while the priests and brothers of the Makati Community were getting ready for a short travel to the provincial house of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master where a joint celebration of the Solemn Feast of Jesus Divine Mater had been scheduled, our brother silently took his final journey to celebrate with the Divine Master in our Father’s house.

**BRO. MARCELINO JOHN DEL ROSARIO PUNTO**  
**88 years old - 69 years of Pauline life - 63 years of Profession**

Born on 26 April, 1921 in Salogon, San Jose, Camarines Sur (Southern Luzon), Marcelino joined the pioneering community of Italian Pauline priests and brothers in Lipa, Batangas in 1940. He was brought to the community by his sister who entered the Daughters of St Paul as their first aspirant in the Philippines. In Lipa, Marcelino began living the life characteristic of Pauline pioneers: simple life, simple faith, and love for prayers and hard work. He took on various assignments of helping to keep the community house while also enthusiastically working with the second-hand printing machines used to produce novenas and the like. When the fledgling community was given permission to enter the Archdiocese of Manila and moved its house and printing machines on 10 August 1941 to what is now the site of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City, Marcelino transferred with the community. In Pasay, he made his entrance to the novitiate on 30 June 1943.

When the Second World War broke out in the Pacific and all the aspirants were sent home, Marcelino stayed with the Pauline fathers and brothers in Pasay. On 15 November 1945 he made his First Religious Profession and took on the religious name “John.” On 30 June 1950, even before the ordination of the first Filipino Pauline priests, Bro. John Punto made his Perpetual Profession as first Filipino Pauline brother and first Filipino Perpetually Professed Pauline.

Bro. John Punto placed his heart, his mind, his hands in whatever task he was given. He had, physically, the built of a robust worker! In 1962, Fr Alberione – having visited the Philippines twice – invited Bro. John to visit Italy, particularly Rome. Bro. John stayed in Italy for a year and a half.

Back in the Philippines, Bro. John became a living witness to the strides that the Paulines made as new houses were put up in Makati and a new novitiate house was opened in San Fernando, Pampanga (Central Luzon). In both compounds, Bro. John conscientiously worked as Property Administrator, and as head of maintenance works first in the Makati Community, and then in the Novitiate Community (1982-1991). On the lighter side, Bro. John was a joyful and willing storyteller of the many little events that shaped the beginnings of the Philippine foundation of the SSP. He also kept numerous albums of camera shots that he personally took on various community events. These he has left as a priceless legacy for the archives of the Philippine-Macau Province.

In his years of retirement, Bro. John was an image of a prayerful, and serene Pauline. He loved to pray the Rosary, and read meditation books on “The Last Things.” He left us with the serene look on this month of the Holy Rosary!

The members of the Province, and the Pauline Family in the Philippines who have fondly called him “Popeye” will surely miss his presence. But we know he has gone to the Father’s House to be the intercessor of the SSP Philippine-Macau Province which has started preparations to celebrate 75 years of community life and apostolate.

*Rome, 26 October 2009*

*Bro. Lorenzo Vezzani*

*The remains of Bro. John will be interned on 29 October 2009, at the Pauline Family Memorial lot at the Catholic Cemetery of Lipa, Batangas, after the Funeral Mass that will be offered at the Sanctuary of St Paul at 6:30 AM of that day.*

**The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities of the suffrages prescribed (Cost. 65 e 65.1)**