



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

(Fr. Alberione)

*Enter into the joy of your Lord!* it is the sweet invitation that the divine Master has addressed, *on the day of his Feastday*, to our brother Priest

**FR. GIULIANO GIOVANNI ZOPPI**  
**82 years of age, 70 of Pauline life, 54 of priesthood**

He has left us peacefully, filled with the comforts of religion, in the first hours of today (2.50 local time), in the hospital at Alba (Cuneo), due to renal failure added to his already precarious state of health weakened by pneumonia.

Fr. Giuliano was one of the three priests chosen by the Primo Maestro to establish the Society of Saint Paul in Africa. The year was 1957 and he began his more than forty years of stay as a missionary in the Congo, artisan and testifier of the presence and development of the Congregation in the continent of Africa, as well as of the socio-political unrest of the great and promising Congolese nation that exactly in those years was maturing its independence from Belgium.

He was born in Bonassola (La Spezia, Italy) on 18 February 1926. He matured his vocation to the priesthood from a young age, being aware of it in a circumstance that rings of the Gospel, as he himself narrates it: *"I was six or seven years old and was sitting on a small rock fishing (a hobby dear to him besides football, on account of which his aptitude in youth was not common). Upon seeing me, my grandmother said to me: "Today you are catching fish, but tomorrow they will be men". Words that will have a sequel when "Jesus willed that a sister of the Pious Society of Saint Paul suggested to my mother that in Alba there was a good place to make myself a priest. I happily accepted."* On 4 August 1938 he crossed the threshold of the Motherhouse.

The house of Alba was the seat of his Pauline formation until the end of his upper school and philosophical studies. It was there that he made his novitiate, which he concluded with the religious profession on 8 September 1945 and prepared himself for the technical and formative apostolate, always *"enthusiastic, strong and docile at the same time, generous as few are"*. Following in Rome were his theological studies and the significant stages of the perpetual profession on 8 September 1950 and presbyteral ordination on 24 January 1954 through the imposition of the hands of Mons. Ilario Roatta.

In the following years he remained in Rome, dedicating himself to the formation of the aspirants. Until, in 1957, the call to Africa came to him (together with Fr. Raffaele Tonni, deceased, and Fr. Giacomo Corrà, now in Albano Laziale). The establishment of the printing press began at Léopoldville (which then was named Kinshasa); later on followed the printing of *L'Antilope* (magazine for kids), of which Fr. Giuliano was director for more than a decade; then he was at Elisabethville (which in the meantime became Lubumbashi) as superior from 1965 to 1969. Except for the two years he passed in the house of formation at Kimwenza (1987-1989), from 1975 to 2001 he was again at Kinshasa, where he assumed several responsibilities that went from the service of authority (regional delegate and superior of the community) to the formation of the aspirants, to vocation promotion, to editorship, to redaction (some titles: *Jésus des jeunes*, 1974; *Les merveilles de la nature*, 1975; *Enciclopedia des jeunes*, 1987; *L'Evangile aux hommes d'aujourd'hui*, 1994). Reading his correspondence relative to this period, impressive is the fervor of his apostolic activity; his vigorous entrepreneurship and creativity; his anxiety to serve the Congolese Church through the Pauline apostolate; his maneuverings with perspicacity and shrewdness in the midst of the social, political and economic difficulties of the country; the bitterness of the recent times due to the appearance of breaking-up forces and the fading away of the Pauline spirit.

After entering again Italy in the autumn of 2001 for reasons of health, he had to abandon his resolve to return there. He stayed in the General House until his transfer to the infirmary of the Motherhouse in July of 2005, but keeping in his heart his "great love" and collaborating until he was able through works of translation.

Fr. Giuliano has intensely loved Africa and for her has spent his best energies with the passion of the apostle Paul: "I do all for the Gospel" (1Cor 9,23). May the Lord now give him the reward promised to the faithful servants. On our part, we entrust to his intercession the needs of our Congregation and the Pauline Family operating in the territory of the Congo and in Africa. May our fraternal suffrage accompany him.

Rome, 9 January 2009

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

*His funeral will take place tomorrow, Saturday 10 January, at 2:30 p.m., in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. His remains will be buried in the Chapel of the Pauline Family in the city cemetery.*

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