

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
il segretario generale



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 2,30 p.m. (local time) on Saturday, 26 February 2011, in the infirmary of the Motherhouse (Alba), our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BR. OBERDAN GABRIELE PICCIOTTI
85 years, 54 of Pauline life, 48 of religious profession

Brother Oberdan was born on 19 June 1925 in Treviglio (Bergamo). Before entering the Society of Saint Paul, brother Oberdan had already been a member of a Congregation of diocesan right, the Lay Oblates of Sts. Ambrogio and Carlo: he had joined them on 21 April 1941, making his first vows on 21 July 1944 and the perpetual ones on 1 October 1950. Following the dissolution of the Oblates, after having obtained the dispensation from his perpetual vows from Card. Montini, then Archbishop of Milan, Oberdan crosses the threshold of the Society of Saint Paul on 13 February 1957 in Cinisello Balsamo, quite an adult already for those times (at age 32) and full of religious experiences. His formators describe him as endowed with “solid piety,” with “clear ideas about religious life” and, as for the apostolate, they emphasize “his application to it even with the spirit of sacrifice,” besides his special love for sacred chant which he teaches at varied times to the youngest boys, and for liturgy.

The journey of brother Oberdan in the Congregation continues with two years of novitiate in Ostia Lido (1960-1962), at the end of which he makes his first religious profession on 8 September 1962. During the following years of formation we see him in Rome, committed in various sectors: paperback binding and book binding, shipping department, subscription department, until 1967, year when he makes his perpetual profession (8 September).

From 1967 we find brother Oberdan committed in the bookstore, which will be the apostolate to which he will give his time for almost thirty years, until 1994: in Bari (1967-1970 and again in 1973-1975), in Francavilla al Mare (1970-1973 and 1975-1976), in Cinisello Balsamo (1976-1987, in the bookstore at the plaza of Duomo di Milano), in Pescara (1987-1988), in Rome (1988-1994, in the bookstore at via Conciliazione). In 1995-1996 he is committed temporarily in various assignments, between Rome, Albano and Catania, before returning again to Cinisello Balsamo in 1996, where he will stay until 2010. In this community he still helps in various occupations, including the bookstore and in editorial work until his strength allows him. In May of 2010 his poor health makes necessary his transfer to the infirmary of the Motherhouse in Alba, where he spent his last days, before expiring due to natural causes in the afternoon of Saturday 26 February 2011.

Of serene and amiable character, sociable and somewhat reserved at the same time, brother Oberdan, after “having ended his course” (2Tim 4,7), comes to the already numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven, ready for “the reward that God calls us to receive there on high, in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3,14). Let us accompany this our dear brother with our prayers and entrust to him a special intercession close to the Divine Master for the needs of the Congregation.

Rome, 26 February 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

His funeral will take place on Monday, 28 February 2011, at 2,30 p.m. in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. His body will be buried in the Chapel of the Pauline Family in the city cemetery.

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