



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

(Fr. Alberione)

This morning, at 6,30 a.m. in the community "Divina Provvidenza" of Alba, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BRO. ANGELO BRUNO BALDIN

83 years, 65 of Pauline life, 63 of religious profession

Bro. Bruno has passed away in Alba, where he had been transferred a short time before for treatments that had been rendered necessary due to the worsening of his state of health. Bro. Bruno, whose baptismal name was Angelo, was born on 21 December 1928 in Altivole (Treviso). After having stayed with the Salesians for some time, he crossed the threshold of the Congregation in Alba on 6 October 1946. After finishing his novitiate in Rome (1947-1948), he made his first profession on 19 March 1949, assuming on that circumstance the name of Bruno. Also in Rome he made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1954.

In that same year, he began to lend his apostolic service in Sampaolofilm, until the end of 1959. At the start of 1960 obedience called him to transfer to the Province of Mexico, a task that he accepted with generosity and joy, carrying in his heart that land even afterwards. A letter sent to Fr. Luigi Zanoni in February of 1960, a little after his arrival in Mexico, testifies to his nostalgia for what he had left behind but also to the fascination of the new country: «After 7 days + 7 hours more or less due to the time zone, I have reached the City of Mexico. Finally, I was in my house; and such was their heartfelt fraternal reception that in a few minutes I have forgotten my sad plane adventure. I have to tell you sincerely that I was overcome. Mexico has a captivating fascination and when the Mexicans say that I am *very likeable* I still say very little. Their veneration for the clergy has amazed me.» In the beginning the difficulties of adjusting were not wanting, to overcome which a true comfort was – as he himself writes – his correspondence with Fr. Zanoni, who fatherly encouraged him. In these difficult situations he found the occasion to exercise his faith, as a letter addressed to Fr. Zanoni also gives witness: «I tell you that never as in these days have I felt the need to cling to the Lord and I do it with all the thrust that my soul is capable... I have offered to the Divine Master, to the Heavenly Mother and to St. Paul my sacrifices so that they may bless my humble work. I have placed myself totally in their hands and now I am confidently waiting with all the best dispositions.»

In Mexico, the capital, he was the director of the bookstore for almost a decade (1960-1969), an apostolate because of which he was able to gain the esteem of the bishops and the clergy due to his competence and the modernization of his titles inspired by Vatican II Council. Even in this field his numerous letters give proof of his apostolic thrust, of his "holy industries" of which the Founder spoke about, and of his tireless tension toward the better, together with his humility and availability to learn everyday: «Unfortunately, I am not much of a book businessman, but I hope to be one little by little with divine help.» He followed with passion the updating of the religious life promoted by the documents of Vatican II Council, a motive that made him attentive to the internal ferments in our Congregation in preparation for the General Chapter of 1969.

An unexpected “jump” awaited him through his election as General Councilor (1969-1975). His dedication, interest and even sense of humor – notwithstanding the unavoidable difficulties connected with the experience of government – are witnessed by a series of letters addressed to Fr. Renato Perino, at that time the Vicar General. At the end of his mandate Bro. Bruno returned to Sampaolofilm, first as director of the agency in Milan (1975-1983), while residing in the community of Cinisello Balsamo, and subsequently committed in the accounting office of the agency in Rome (1983-1986). The apostolate in Sampaolofilm cost him not little pain, affecting even his health: «our agency is a small enterprise, and today to direct it people up to the level are required, capable, responsible, with preparation in fiscal, labor, managerial and economic matters; people who are level-headed and sure of themselves. I do not have any of these qualifications, or barely the sketch of some. I can't make it anymore, believe me» (letter to Fr. Tonni, 8 December 1979). They are words that clearly attest how he felt the challenges placed by our apostolic mission, a true “thorn in the flesh” for every Pauline generation.

In 1986 he finally returned to the community of Cinisello Balsamo, in which he would have stayed for over 25 years, committed this time in the bookstore of Milan at Piazza Duomo until his energies have allowed him. Failing in his active commitment in the apostolate, however, has not meant for Bro. Bruno failing in his passion as a Pauline: besides collaborating with the Editorial Office by evaluating the manuscripts before their publication, he followed with fraternal participation the initiatives tending to revive our charism and he was pleased when he found animators capable of infusing new stimuli and hope for the future of the Congregation. Notwithstanding his age, he had maintained his letter-writing habit updated through the use of e-mail and he made use of it often, even to communicate his impressions and observations regarding the publications of the... General Secretaries.

In March 2012 he had been transferred to the community “Divina Provvidenza” in Alba, for the treatments needed for the deterioration of his health already compromised for some time by a tumor.

His life is an eloquent confirmation of the evaluation expressed in 1950 by his formator, Fr. Luigi Zanoni, for the admission to the perpetual profession: "He is intelligent and capable. Of good character and generous, skillful, active. He works well in his inner life."

We now entrust him to the kind face of the Divine Master, who waits for his faithful servants “so that they may be always with him” (cf 1Thes 4,17) and introduce them “there where he is”, in the communion of the Trinity, to “contemplate his glory” (cf Jn 17,24).

Rome, 14 May 2012

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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