

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
Il Segretario generale



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 5:30 p.m. (local time) yesterday, 31 July, in the community Timoteo Giaccardo of Rome, our brother Priest has returned to the Father.

FR. SETTIMIO ROMANO RUGGERI

100 years, 85 of Pauline life, 78 of religious profession, 70 of priesthood

Fr. Settimio was born on 22 May 1914 in Rome, one of the few Paulines coming from Rome. He crossed the threshold of the Society of Saint Paul on 16 October 1928, in the Pauline community of Rome just newly established. After finishing his novitiate in Alba, he made there his first religious profession on 22 October 1935. Also in Alba he made his perpetual profession on 22 October 1938 and received the presbyteral ordination on 29 June 1943 by the hands of Mons. Luigi Maria Grassi.

In the course of his very long life – a little more than two months ago he had crossed the enviable arrival point of 100 years, the first Pauline to hold this primacy – Fr. Settimio has carried out various apostolates, in a tenacious and active readiness to service: after having been assigned as a boy to the flat bed press and was busy for long years as a porter in Alba (1934-1943), soon after ordination he has been assigned to do secretarial work for the Founder (1943-1959), carrying out also the work of formator of the temporary disciples (1951-1956). In 1959 he leaves for the community of Turin, where he is assigned to the accounting office (1959-1970), to then fill the office of superior of the community of Florence (1970-1975). Subsequently he passes to the community of Cinisello Balsamo, where he works in accounting and administration for the San Paolo Periodicals (1975-1982). In 1984 he lands in the Pauline community of Florence, where he will stay for more than twenty years, until 2008: here he is still busy with accounting in the center of diffusion of the Periodicals (until 1994) and, as his age approaches, he dedicates himself to the service of porter, with the unmistakable trait of cordiality and likeability that we recognize in him. In 2008, so he can receive more adequate assistance, he is transferred to the community of Timoteo Giaccardo in Rome, where last May 22 he has celebrated his 100 years.

As a simple and down to earth person, known for his affable demeanor and sense of humor which immediately wins appeal, Fr. Settimio has lived in generous fidelity and simplicity his life as a Pauline. He loved moments of fraternity and conviviality which he knew how to season with some discrete witty reply. Still very lucid until his last days, he has lived the “infancy” of our Congregation and also kept various vivid remembrances of the Founder.

We now entrust this our confrere to the mercy of the Divine Master, so that after having made him similar to himself in death and in burial, he may associate him with himself in the glory of the resurrection and make him live in eternal blessedness, together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We ask him, in this year of the Centenary, to intercede for the needs of the Congregation and in particular for those of the Province of Italy, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God.

Rome, 1 August 2014

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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