

SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
The Secretary General



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 3:30 of Saturday, 19 September, at the Divine Providence Community of Alba, returned to the house of the Father our brother priest

FR. FERNANDO GIORGIO BELLETTI

87 years: 71 of Pauline life, 67 of religious profession and 58 of priesthood.

Fernando was born to the couple Ferruccio and Louise in Serravalle of Berra (Ferrara), on the banks of the River Po, on 17 January 1928. The fourth child of five siblings, he moved to Turin at 10 years with his family because of his father's work, a labourer. In the Savoy capital the bud of priestly vocation ripened early and he started attending the middle school and high school in the «family of the Thomasians», the seminary where priests were preparing for the Little House of the Divine Providence, commonly known as Cottolengo. In July 1943 the English air bombings heavily damaged his seminary and had to be closed. Fernando then asked to enter “among the sons of St. Paul” and walked through the gates of the Mother House on 28 December of that year. He pronounced for the first time the formula of profession on 8 September 1948, taking the name of Giorgio. During the novitiate an accident at the paper cutter resulted to the amputation of the first joint and the second part of the middle finger, the ring and little fingers. Although not excelling in his studies and with a «little difficult character» in his relations with his formators, the young cleric however distinguished himself for his tenacity in carrying out his religious and apostolic duties, which earned him the esteem of his companions. In Rome, where he moved in the meantime, he confirmed for ever his consecration to the Divine Master on 8 September 1953. He was ordained deacon on 28 October 1956 and as a priest on 25 January 1957, before being sent to Vicenza, where for a year he was the master of the boys, and then in the community of Bari. In the early months of 1963, after consultation with Primo Maestro, he got the nod to leave as a missionary in Korea, where he joined Fr. Paolo Marcellino. The Korean experience, however, only lasted for a few months. Back in Italy we saw him first in Cinisello Balsamo, where from 1978 to 1982 he was also director of the establishment, and from 1983 in Milan, where he exercised his ministry in the graphics office and then as a proof reader of the Pauline periodicals until when, in December 2014, he had a heavy cerebral ischemia, followed by frequent crises, which gradually led to paralysis and, ultimately, to his death.

An extremely reserved person, Fr. Belletti for many years was a well appreciated collaborator of the Milan parish of St. Peter in Sala. A beautiful testimony was given by Mrs. Anna, a friend of the community of Milan, a nurse in the hospital where he was admitted last January and who often visited him in Alba where he stayed in the last few months: «What impressed me most about him is his silence and his humanity. The fact that he spoke little did not mean that he did not want to communicate. He expressed appreciation, understanding, gratitude, pain, endurance, tenacity and, sometimes, even a bit of disappointment».

Now that the Pauline Family in heaven is enriched also of this faithful and tenacious apostle, in entrusting him to the Lord, «the first fruits of those who have died» (1 Cor 15:20), we ask Fr. Fernando his precious intercession, especially for today's needs of the Circumscription of Italy.

Rome, 20 September 2015

Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on Monday, 21 September at 15:00 in the Church of St. Paul in Alba, after which the remains will be buried in the cemetery of the City.

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