

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 13:45 of Sunday, 27 March 2016, on the day we have celebrated the Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, our bother priest has completed his earthly life at the "Timoteo Giaccardo" community of Rome

### **FR. GIUSEPPE ATTILIO DADOMO**

***93 years, 82 of Pauline life, 75 of religious profession and 68 of priesthood***

Originally from the Diocese of Piacenza (Italy), just like the other Paulines of the first hour, Giuseppe was born in *Settesorelle di Vernasca*, 50 kilometres from the capital of Emilia, on 7 September 1922 and was baptized the next day in the parish of St. Michael the Archangel. He entered the House in Alba on 25 October 1933, just at 11 years old, attracted by the apostolate of the press, which in those years was known for its frenetic time of growth, and by the warm welcome at the Mother House that the *Primo Maestro* and Blessed Timothy Giaccardo extended to him, whom he would always cherish as fathers. From both he would retain, as true relics, all the notes taken during the principal instructions that he had received from them in preparation for holy orders and in other circumstances.

He made his first vows in Alba on 8 September 1940, taking the profession name of Attilio, and just four years later, on 8 September 1944 – during those dramatic months following Italy's armistice with the Allied Forces (8 September 1943) – professed the perpetual vows in Rome. On 3 August 1947 he was ordained a priest by the laying on of hands of Mgr. Luigi Grassi.

Immediately after ordination Fr. Giuseppe divided his time for several months between the Pescara and Sacile communities as a teacher of young Paulines in formation. Already in February 1948, however, the first bell sounded for his missionary vocation that would follow him throughout his life, and was sent by the *Primo Maestro* to Sherbrooke, Canada, as linotypist. He would remain there, also holding the positions of Local Superior and Novice Master, until autumn 1961, when he was transferred to Congo. In an interview in 2007 he traced how his journey to Africa came about. He had participated in the retreat preached by the Founder in 1960 at Ariccia for the first Paulines. On that occasion he met Fr. Raffaele Ildefonso Tonni, a missionary in Congo and future Superior General of the Society of St. Paul, who made him interested in the African reality. But he had first to follow his dream, to return back to Canada. Transferred afterwards to Congo, he arrived there on 23 September 1961, first in Leopoldville (today's Kinshasa) and then in Katanga, at Elisabethville (now Lubumbashi), where he was present himself during the revolt of December of that year

in which Fr. Michelino Gagna died as martyr of the Eucharist. In Lubumbashi he was appointed Superior (1962-1964) and continued to handle the printing press.

In August 1968 he returned to Canada, in Sherbrooke, as vocation promoter and then back in 1971 to Lubumbashi, where he lived the rest of his Pauline life. According to the needs of the Archdiocese of Lubumbashi and for the confidence placed on him, alongside the specific apostolate of the editions, he would work, similar to what other confreres active in the mission would do, for the construction of some parishes: he founded first the parish of “St. Paul” and then the one dedicated to the “Queen of the Apostles”, followed by the construction of other chapels in the more peripheral areas of the city, which were always reached by bicycle.

Fr. Giuseppe has always remained affectively attached to his family, scattered in different continents, and its country of origin, of which he knew very well the places dedicated to the Marian devotion and to the saints. “Baba Joseph”, as he was affectionately called in Africa, was a living library, especially pleased to share with the younger people his reflections, particularly on Marian piety. A true missionary, he was able to learn to perfection, in addition to French and English, even Kiswahili, correcting accurately the publications prepared in our printing press. He was also a reference point for many of the faithful and religious who, until the last moment, had recourse to his advice and his charity. He lived the true Pauline poverty, making everything he had available for the community and for the most needy.

Last October, during the fraternal visit of the Superior General, his 75 years of consecrated life was celebrated. His was a Pauline life deeply loved, including, as witnessed in all its aspects: sanctity, study, apostolate, poverty. A lover of nature, until December last year, he has worked in the land in order to keep in order the wide space of the Lubumbashi community and to care for various plants, carefully picking the fruits.

Already in January, his physical forces have started to decline. With joy he was able to participate on 23 January at the first profession of a young confrere, exactly in “his” St. Paul parish. The community of Lubumbashi did everything to try to restore him to his health. Finally, after hearing his opinion, the decision was made to transfer him to Italy for more appropriate care. The long journey was spent calmly and the reception of the infirmary community of “Timoteo Giaccardo” filled him with joy and gratitude. The Risen Lord, however, had already prepared a place for him next to Mary, Mother and Queen of the Apostles, where he can enjoy the eternal reward that awaits every faithful disciple. The Pauline Family in Congo received the news of his death with a great sense of loss and in the coming days in Lubumbashi, where he was known by all, and in Kinshasa, celebrations in his suffrage will be held.

Let us now entrust to the intercession of our beloved brother all the realities of the Pauline Family in Africa, so that the Lord will grant the graces necessary to bring to peoples the message of salvation, which we have heard resound with joy on Easter Day.

*Rome, 28 March 2016*

*Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio*

*The funeral will be held on 29 March at 10:00 AM (local time) at the Sub crypt of the Queen of the Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. His mortal remains will be buried at the Flaminio Cemetery, in the Pauline Family Chapel.*

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