

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 17:45 of Sunday, 3 April 2016, Second Sunday of Easter, our brother disciple in the Timoteo Giaccardo community of Rome has gone to his eternal rest

**BROTHER VITTORIO STEFANO CRISTOFORI**  
*85 years, 67 of Pauline life and 63 of religious profession*

Vittorio was born in Casina, in the province of Reggio Emilia (Italy) on 11 January 1931. He was from a very religious family and the rolling hills of the Emilian Appennine served as his cradle. He was baptized three days after birth in the Church of Ceredolo di Coppi, dedicated to St. Peregrine. He was confirmed in the same Church on 24 May 1943. He spent his early adolescence in the dark days of the Resistance, particularly violent in that area of Italy. After the war, a few months after the fledgling Italian Republic had seen the light, the seventeen year old Vittorio entered the Congregation in Alba, accompanied by the letter of the parish priest addressed to the local Superior, who «recommended to his care the young man Vittorio, really of good nature, though somewhat shy», and «of good will and blameless in morals». That was 8 September 1948. At the Mother House he immediately inserted himself in the intense rhythm of Pauline life. The masters of those early days confirmed the good judgment on the boy, who, though suffering a bit in health, was “humble”, “simple”, “obedient”, “open”, “industrious”, “devoted to the Congregation”. All these qualities he would demonstrate over the years and until the end, as many of our brothers today can testify.

Vittorio pronounced his first vows in Rome on 19 March 1953, taking as his profession name Stefano, and made his definitive commitment on 8 September 1958, again in Rome. During the years of temporary profession he carried out his mission first in the warehouse in Alba (1953-1956) and then in the bookstore and in the rotogravure in Rome. Since 1958, without interruption until 2012, we found him in the bookstore of St. Pius X, located near St. Peter's Square, and then moved to the nearby and current headquarters of Via della Conciliazione. Here he offered for long years his humble and silent service, helping the confreres and lay personnel in the various services that this challenging apostolate demands. In March 2012, due to heart problem, he was transferred to the Timoteo Giaccardo community, equipped as an infirmary. A few years ago he was diagnosed with cancer in the breast, which then progressed in recent months. Finally, yesterday an unexpected cardiac arrest led to his death.

To Brother Vittorio, who has now reached the Father's house on the day dedicated by St. John Paul II on Divine Mercy, we want to entrust to him in a special way the vocation of the brother Disciples in the entire world.

*Rome, 4 April 2016*

*Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio*

*The funeral will be held on Tuesday, 5 April at 9:00 AM (local time) at the Subcrypt of the Queen of the Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. The body will be buried at the Laurentino Cemetery in Rome.*

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