

In the Father's House

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



On Thursday, the 1st day of February 2018, at 2:10 in the afternoon at the community of "Timoteo Giaccardo" in Rome, has returned to the Father, due to a strong-flu like virus that led to an irreversible coma and then to the death of our brother priest,

FATHER GIUSEPPE MAURO FERRERO

93 years of age, 64 of Pauline life, 74 of profession, and 67 of priesthood

Giuseppe, the baptismal name of Father Mauro, was born in Chiusa di Pesio (Province of Cuneo), a small village near the Alps, from a deeply religious family, consisting of father Vincenzo, mother Giovanna Ellena and eight siblings. Four of them joined the Pauline Family: Sr. Cesira and Sr. Vincenza, of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master and our confrere Father Andrea (missionary in Brazil and was buried there) and Father Mauro.

He left his native place for the Mother House in Alba on 15 September 1936 to follow the footsteps of his brother, Andrea. Here, he savoured the vitality of the early days, commencing his novitiate on 7 September 1942 and pronounced his first vows on 8 September 1943 at the height of the World War II. Exactly four years later, at the Mother House, he professed the perpetual religious vows, moved to Rome for his theological studies, and eventually ordained a priest on 8 July 1950.

The breakthrough of his Pauline life adventure happened only a year later when, in November 1951, he arrived in Bombay (now Mumbai, India). He started as a missionary to help the first confreres who, a few months before (July 1951), had opened a new community in this promising land.

But it will be in Allahabad (upon which he arrived in December 1953 and stayed there until 1977) that Father Mauro will be given the precise direction of his Pauline mission, a real, "editorial miracle" represented by the birth of *St Paul Publications*, the publishing house of the Province, which expanded considerably during the 1960s. In May 1955, Father Alberione made a trip to India for the second time. Father Mauro was dedicatedly working in the printing press, in the bookshops and pastoral animation apostolate. During this visit, Father Mauro expressed a reservation: "The apostolate goes well, the young aspirants are numerous and hardworking, our future is assured but we have no manuscripts to print". "Do it yourself!", replied the Founder. And he continued: "Do not wait for Providence from the outside, when the Lord gives a vocation he also gives the state of grace, that is, the necessary help to achieve it. You'll do it very well". This testimony which was gathered by Father Rosario Esposito for *Il Cooperatore Paolino*, depicts the reason why Father Mauro is the most-read Pauline writer in the world. He did not aspire to create masterpieces or to leave a good impression. For him, it is enough to be considered an "artigiano della penna" ("artisan of the pen"). In fact, over the years, he has published more than 130 titles, from which some have become real bestseller. Like his first work, *Just a moment please*, edited in 1958, which in a short period of time exceeded 300,000 copies and has been translated into a dozen languages including Chinese.

His presence in India, after having been for the second time in the community of Mumbai (1977-1985), and also in some houses as a Superior of the community (1961-1970 and 1977-1981), ended with his departure for Slough (England). He arrived in January 1985, following the request of the Superior General, Fr Renato Perino, a change that truly affected him. In this community, he remained only for less than a year since, in the month of December, he was transferred to Albano Laziale to be the chaplain of the Queen of the Apostles Hospital (1985-2009). Having finished his ministry to the sick and to the community of the Daughters of St. Paul, he arrived in Ariccia “Casa Divin Maestro” to help the community in the animation of the Pauline Family. He remained there until 2014, then for health reasons he moved to the Community of “Timoteo Giaccardo” in Rome.

He spent his life in simplicity, as simple as his way of writing his books, written more like a handbook than real treaties. With the same style, he gave life to a series, *Better Yourself Books*, with psychological and sociological perspectives and the two magazines: *The Teenager* and *Inspirational Quote*. Without wasting the chance in making known the figure of Blessed James Alberione, he published a dozen titles that illustrated the life and the charismatic legacy of the Founder.

Thanks to all his publishing activity, he was named “2013 Man of the Year” by the *American Biographical Institute*, a prestigious award that recognizes those of “prominent personalities in the international public opinion”.

He is called by our confreres in India as “Chotta Ferrero”, which means “small” in the Hindi language, as a direct reference to “great” Father Alfonso Ferrero, one of the founding fathers of the Pauline communities in India. He always signed his works with the pseudonym “J. Maurus” and that is how his readers know him. In this simple memories, we have a glimpse of the ability of Father Mauro to fit into the cultural context of great India, a Pauline ready to do all things for all men, like the Apostle Paul. And it is with this spirit and great affection that on 26 November 2008, our Pauline confreres invited him to India to celebrate his 100th book.

As we move closer to the Interchapter in Aparecida (Brazil), we now entrust Father Mauro to the mercy of the Divine Master, knowing that goodness remains, that every page written with love bears fruit in every culture because it reflects new life in the Risen Christ.

Rome, 2 February 2018

Don Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral have been held on Saturday, 3 February at 10:30 AM at the Under-Crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of the Apostles in Rome. The remains have been buried at the Laurentino Cemetery in Rome. All Pauline communities in Mumbai have celebrated a Mass of suffrage, followed by those communities present in other cities of India.

The Circumscription superiors may kindly inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages for the deceased (Cost. 65 e 65.1).