



At 7:20 AM (local time) of 28 June 2018, the vigil of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, our brother priest died at the *Clinica Colombia* of Bogotá (Colombia)

### **FATHER TOMMASO ARMANDO BRUNO**

**84 years, 74 of Pauline life, 67 of profession and 59 of priesthood**

Tommaso was born on 11 July 1933 in the diocese of Alba, in Narzole (Italy), the same country that gave birth to Blessed Timothy Giaccardo and to Fr. Michelino Gagna, a Pauline priest who died in December 1961 during the bombing in Lubumbashi (Congo) in an attempt to save the Eucharistic species.

The family consists of father Giovanni, a farmer, of mother Margherita Alessandria, a housewife, and of the six children born from their union, two boys and four girls. Tommaso was baptized on 16 July 1933 in the parish of Narzole, named after Saint Bernard and, after completing the first Christian formation, in the same church on 18 October 1940, received the sacrament of Confirmation.

At only 10 years and in the middle of the war – we are in August 1943 –, the boy entered the Mother House in Alba, where in the succeeding years he attended the various scholastic grade levels with good results, until the completion of high school. On 7 September 1949, he entered the novitiate at Albano where, on 8 September of the following year, he pronounced his first vows, assuming the religious name of Armando. Then followed the philosophical studies in Alba (1951-1954) and theological studies in Rome, at the International Theological College (1954-1958).

During these first years of his Pauline life, Thomas showed a very delicate health, which made his apostolic and community life difficult at times. However, the commitment and a good religious spirit allowed him to overcome the difficulties and to face, at the end of the initial formation, the open sea of the Pauline mission. He was, therefore, first admitted, with the autograph signature of Fr. Alberione, to the perpetual profession (Rome, 8 September 1955) and, at the end of his studies, to the priesthood (Rome, 6 July 1958). He was admitted to the Holy Order by the imposition of the hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial, along with 7 other companions, some of whom will be like him long-time missionaries: among these Father Fedele Brondino, Father Paolo Marzilli and Father Domenico Molino.

Passionate about some subjects such as chemistry, history and philosophy, in the first years of priesthood, he will be destined to teach in our high school in Alba, where he stayed until 1963, until obedience called him to the Genoese agency of Saint Paul Film. There he would remain for a short time, because Colombia needed fresh and qualified energy. On 28 October 1964, Fr. Alberione

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sent him to Bogotá, where he continued his teaching ministry, also devoting himself to advertising for the *Familia* magazine. From 1968 to 1971, he left the South American country to move first to Genoa (1968-1970), still in the agency of Saint Paul Film and, then for a year, in Remscheid (Germany) as a pastor in the local Catholic Mission serving the Italian residents there.

In 1971, requested by Father Luigi Zanoni, he returned to Bogotá. Here, until 1974, he devoted himself to the same ministries of his first Colombian experience. In January 1975, he moved to Medellín, where he spent three years organizing the local bookshop. He remained there until 1978, when Father Tonni granted him to stay for some time in Rome – in the end it will be five years – to contribute once again to the mission of the Saint Paul Film. On 9 September 1983 – only for six months, between 2000 and 2001, where he resided in the “Divin Maestro” House of Ariccia – he returned definitively to Bogotá where, until February 2016, he uninterruptedly carried out his apostolate in the Publishing Office with various tasks. After his withdrawal from the active apostolic life, Father Tommaso dedicated himself to the pastoral ministry in the *Parroquia de Cristo Resucitado* of the Esmeraldas district of Bogotá, as long as he was allowed to do so.

For the last few months there has been a gradual decline in his health, which made it necessary last 19 June for him to be admitted to the *Clínica Colombia* in Bogotá where, in the following 28 June, he rendered his soul to God due to a cardio-respiratory block.

Father Tommaso was part of a group of many Paulines who, on the word of the Founder, spent his life on the mission. Now that the Pauline vocation is increasingly played on the routes of the digital environment, may he intercede with the Divine Master so that the Congregation will find especially in young people the new missionaries of paths still unexplored.

Rome, 30 June 2018



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral of Father Tommaso took place on the 30 June 2018, at 11:00 AM (local time), in the community chapel of the “Calle 170” in Bogotá. The body was interred in the Cementerio la Inmaculada of the Colombian capital.*

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).