

## 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)



At around 23:30 (local time) of 18 August 2018, while the Church was about to begin the First Vespers of the XX Sunday of Ordinary Time, our Brother Disciple of the Divine Master, in the “*Divina Provvidenza*” Community of Alba, has received his eternal reward

### **BROTHER AMERIGO BERNARDO MODANESI** **85 years, 68 of Pauline life, 63 of religious profession**

Brother Bernard was known by everyone by his professional name, borrowed from the great Abbot, Father of the Cistercian Order, whose liturgical memorial (20 August) falls the *dies natalis* of our Congregation. This testifies to a life of dedication entirely hidden in God, carrying out the humble and precious press apostolate and, for long stretches, even the one in bookstores, away from the glories of the world. A life silently conducted and, as silently, he left in the night between 18 and 19 August.

Brother Bernardo was born in Saludecio (Rimini, Italy) on 3 August 1933 and grew up in the dark times of the war, in places particularly devastated by the struggle for national liberation (8 September 1943 – May 1945), which he preserved until today the memory of many martyrs of the faith. Born of his father Attilio, spouse of Esterina, with whom he had eight children, of which the little Amerigo is the third in order of birth. It was on 7 December 1949 when his father signed the authorization for the young man to enter the Society of Saint Paul.

It is interesting, also for the history, the brief description of the Disciples of the Divine Master, which was on the second page of the application form then in use: «*They are young people who received from the Lord more gifts of grace and heard in their hearts the invitation of Jesus Master to follow a path of greater perfection in the Pious Society of Saint Paul. Their purpose is the apostolate of adoration, of good example and of the technical apostolate for the Press*». By espousing these holy intentions, on 3 January 1950 Brother Bernardo crossed the threshold of the Mother House in Alba, bearing the letter of his parish priest, stating that the boy had «*without doubt signs of vocation*». History, in fact, would prove him right.

In Alba, where for almost three years, he carried out the apostolate in the book compositions and the layout of *Famiglia Cristiana*. The boy, inserted in the group of the “little Brothers”, received the investiture on 19 March 1951. Since he was young, he did not enjoy good health, but this did not prevent him from serving the Divine Master over many years. Then followed, between 1953 and 1954, four months in the community of Balsamo (Milan) in preparation for the novitiate, which he lived in the

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House of Ostia (Rome) from March 1953 to 8 September 1954. On that date, he emitted in Rome the first religious profession, which he confirmed as his choice of life. The formators were happy with him and underlined his humility, piety, sense of duty and continuous spiritual progress, together with a sincere Pauline spirit.

After the novitiate, Brother Bernardo returned to Alba, where he continued until 1957 in the press apostolate, before being transferred to the House of Rome in anticipation of perpetual profession. Here, for two years he was an assistant to the “Apostolines”. On 8 September 1959, therefore, he made his perpetual profession in the Eternal City.

The first obedience that Brother Bernardo received is for the community of Catania, where he remained until 1973, dedicating himself to what he did best, the book compositions. These were years of youth, full of energy and apostolic zeal. In 1973, he returned to Casa Madre in Alba, where until 1987 he was still working in the printing sector, then in full expansion, thanks to the dizzying diffusion of *Famiglia Cristiana*. Thirteen years followed in Bari (1987-2000), where he reconverted his skills by dedicating himself to the diffusion apostolate in the local bookstore. After a short stay in the community of Genoa (January 2000-June 2001), he was then assigned to the reception service in the House of Tor San Lorenzo (Rome), a maritime residence, now closed, which welcomed many Paulines during the summer months. In 2003, given his positive attitude and mature ability in those years, the Superior General, Fr. Pietro Campus, transferred him to the Casa Divin Maestro of Ariccia, where he remained until October 2007. In that year, he received his last destination, the community of Vicenza, where he would remain practically until the end of its life.

Brother Bernard died due to a tumour metastasis, discovered almost casually just a few months ago, when he underwent a delicate operation on one knee. This is why he had been hospitalized for some months in the infirmary of Alba, where he died last night. One of his most appreciated attitudes has always been that of singing. May he now unite his voice with that of the angels in raising the eternal praise to God.

Rome, 20 August 2018



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral Mass of Brother Bernardo is being held today, 20 August 2018, at 15:00 in Saint Paul Church in Alba.*

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