

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 5:00 PM today (local time), Sunday 24 October 2021, our confrere passed away in the infirmary of the Community of St. Paul in Rome

BROTHER VALENTINO IGNAZIO RIZZO *79 years, 59 of Pauline life, 53 of profession*

«... He followed him along the road» (Mk 10:52). These few words, taken from the Gospel of today's Eucharistic liturgy, can describe the simple life of this brother of ours, Disciple of the Divine Master. He lived by following Jesus and serving his brothers. A man with a simple character, shy, always available and ready to say a kind word, often smiling.

His Pauline life was spent mostly in the St. Paul Community of Rome (1972-2021), for a short time in the bookshop in Piazza della Pigna, then in the magazine subscription office – together with some Daughters of St. Paul – , in paperback binding and, for many years, available for various community and apostolic services. He could be met at the reception's desk or in the courtyard of the Roman compound with some mail to be delivered; a Disciple who, loving the Pauline apostolate, knew how to “network” and create communion with his style.

He loved the liturgy and as an acolyte, he was often present in the celebrations of the Pauline Family in the Shrine of the Queen of the Apostles. For some years he worked in the Roman parish of *Santissima Annunziata* to help the altar servers in the service of the Mass.

Brother Valentino was born on 27 February 1942 in Mestre (Venice) to mother Antonietta Ghidini and father Ottorino. A family of humble origins. With him are two other sisters. After his mother's death (1986), he loved to occasionally invite father Ottorino to the community in Rome, always happy for his presence.

On 14 November 1961, he entered the community in Vicenza and remained there until the novitiate in Ostia Lido (Rome), which began on 8 September 1966 and ended with his first religious profession on 20 August 1968, taking the name of Ignatius. In Rome, he made his religious vows in perpetuity on 8 September 1972. His first apostolic experience was in the Florence bookstore for a few months (1972), before finally arriving in Rome.

For about ten years, his health had been fragile and he suffered from tinnitus, a disorder that will affect him considerably. But it was a progressive prostate cancer that caused his death, a disease that only recently manifested itself in a very advanced state, and which Brother Valentino faced without making others feel its weight.

We salute this brother of ours with the words of Fr. Valdir José De Castro, Superior General, written on 20 August 2018 on the occasion of

the 50th anniversary of Brother Valentino's religious profession: «Thanks to the Trinity and thanks also to you for the good you have given, because your life is a gift for us all. Thank you! ... Today Fr. Alberione repeats this to you too: “All those who work with one's whole heart in various ministries or activities in the footsteps of our Father Saint Paul come to my mind at every moment. I would like everyone to hear a lively word of gratitude, faith and love for the Divine Master (CISP, p. 107)”».

Close to the Solemnity of the Divine Master, we entrust to Him this brother of ours, an unpretentious Disciple... with the sole desire to follow Jesus «along the road».

Rome, 24 October 2021



Father Domenico Soliman, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral will be celebrated tomorrow, 25 October at 3:30 PM in the sub-crypt of the Regina degli Apostoli Sanctuary. The body will be buried in the cemetery of Favaro (Mestre-Venice).

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