

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 6:00 AM today (local time), 28 October 2021, our confrere died in the community of *Alba Casa Madre*, due to a cerebral haemorrhage.

BROTHER GIOVANNI MARIA ALFONSO VENDRASCO

81 years, 65 of Pauline life, 61 of profession

Brother Giovanni was born on 9 September 1940 in San Zenone degli Ezzelini (Treviso), to father Antonio and mother Anna Bortolon, the third of five children. On 7 December 1955, he entered the community of Alba (Cuneo). He began his novitiate in Ostia Lido (Rome) on 7 September 1958, made his first profession on 8 September 1960 – taking the name of Alfonso – and perpetual profession on 8 September 1965.

His first apostolic commitment was in the *Rotocalco* of Alba, in the years from 1965 to 1983. He was then transferred to Bari and for a couple of years he was employed in the warehouse. From here, he passed on to the community of Vicenza, where he gave his apostolic contribution in the bookbinding; with the same position, he was transferred to Rome (1988-2001), before arriving in the community of Alba, where he remained until the end, spending the last two years in the infirmary.

Brother Giovanni was a very simple person, a man of few words, a lover of peace, of «an exceptional calm, serenity, availability and obedience», recalls a brother. He avoided any criticism of his brothers. He was always available, charitable, humble and, if he could do someone a favour, he would gladly do it. He always tried not to bother others and to bother them as little as possible. In the apostolate he was very attentive, even “scrupulous”, and «encouraged others to be very attentive and responsible», recalls another confrere. A special feature of him was the prayer that he lived with intensity, always faithful in the various moments of the liturgy in common, to which he gladly lent his service when needed.

The master of formation in the report for admission to the novitiate outlines some aspects of his character as follows: «Of virtuous piety, good and sociable soul, generous in the apostolate, takes initiatives to heart and corresponds to what he is able to do». The Superior General, Father Valdir José De Castro, grasped an important element in the life of Brother Giovanni, when in the message of best wishes for his 60th anniversary of religious profession he wrote: «Your 60 years of Pauline life are rich in love, in gratuitousness, of simple things lived with a big heart... engaged in rotogravure, in the warehouse and for many years in bookbinding and typography, generosity was your business card».

In a Happy Easter greeting card, after a course of spiritual exercises in Ariccia, he wrote in 2007 to a confrere: «Our Lord and Redeemer Jesus

showed the glory of his resurrection to the disciples ... In his resurrection, let our life shine, be renewed».

Let us entrust this brother of ours to the mercy of the Father and from heaven may he intercede for the needs of the Congregation, for all vocations and, in particular, for the Disciples of the Divine Master.

Rome, 28 October 2021

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

Brother Giovanni's funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, 30 October at 9.30 in the Church of Saint Paul in Alba. The body will be buried in the cemetery of Alba.

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