

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 1:00 AM (local time) on Monday, 16 January 2023, our confrere died in Fukushima (Japan) due to a tumour

BROTHER SHINRI PAOLO GIUSEPPE ABE **64 years, 51 of Pauline life, 43 of profession**



Shinri Paolo was born in Fukushima (Japan) on 18 October 1958, the sixth of eleven children (seven brothers and three sisters, one of whom is a Pauline priest and two Daughters of St Paul), of parents Saburo Giacomo and Kuni Teresia. He entered the community of Fukuoka on 30 March 1971 and first attended the Junior High School for 3 years in Fukuoka and then the secondary school for 3 years at the “Saint Paul Senior High School” in Tokyo-Hachioji. In March 1977, he began the one-year Postulancy in the House of Hachioji, a community in which he exercises the apostolate of photo composition.

He entered the novitiate on 24 March 1978 and made his First Religious Profession on 25 March 1979, assuming the name of Giuseppe (his baptismal name is Paolo). In 1983, he was transferred to the Tokyo-Wakaba House for two years where he was in charge of the distribution and the bookshop. In April 1984, he returned to the Hachioji House, continuing his apostolate as a photo composer. On 19 March 1985, he was definitively consecrated with Perpetual Profession in the same community, then dedicating himself to the press apostolate.

In September 1987, the new house in Osaka-Minoo was opened and Brother Giuseppe would reside there until May 2000, dedicating himself above all to the apostolate of diffusion. He then moved to the Tokyo-Wakaba House, engaged in the Tokyo bookshop, carrying out, at the same time, the task of Vocation Promoter and member of the Formation Team.

In January 2005, once the construction of the Tokyo-Yotsuya House was completed, Brother Giuseppe was transferred to the new community. In January 2008, he was appointed Local Superior of the community of Osaka-Minoo. In 2011, a new house was opened in Osaka and Brother Giuseppe held the task of Local Superior there until the end of 2012. He then continued his apostolate of spreading and promoting vocations in the same house.

In 2017, he was appointed Local Superior in the community of Osaka and in April 2020, he too became a member of the Spirituality Team. In the summer of 2021, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was treated in the hospital. For a few days, he had been resting in his home in Fukushima, where on the night of today, 16 January, he was called by the Lord.

Father Sassi, the then Superior General, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his religious profession, wrote to Brother Giuseppe, thanking the divine Master «for your apostolic commitment, witnessed for so many years in fidelity to God and to the Pauline vocation». During the celebration of his silver jubilee he was deeply moved, with tears in his eyes, by the kindness of his friends and confreres.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to the Pharisees about his disciples: «Can wedding guests fast when the bridegroom is with them?» The time of “fasting” is over for

Brother Giuseppe who lived – as Don Alberione reminds us of the thought of today's Pauline Agenda – by faith, hope and charity. Now let us pray that this brother of ours enjoy the company and the joy of the heavenly Spouse, while we ask Brother Joseph to intercede with the Lord for numerous and holy vocations of Brother Disciples in our Congregation.

Rome, 16 January 2023

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

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