

# *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 12:40 PM yesterday, Thursday, 10 June, our confrere from our Alba (Italy) Mother House died in the community infirmary, due to a respiratory crisis

## **BROTHER SILVIO LUIGI LIBRALATO**

***86 years, 74 of Pauline life, 69 of profession***

Brother "Gigi", as he was called by everyone, was born on 12 September 1934 in Sant'Alberto di Zero Branco (Treviso), to Papa Giovanni and Mama Bendo Maria, the second of four children. On 27 November 1946, he entered the community of Sacile (Pordenone). Five years later, he began his novitiate in Rome and, in the same community, on 19 March 1951, he made his first religious profession, taking the name of Luigi. In Rome, he professed the religious vows in perpetuity on 8 September 1957. The Master of formation in the admission report to perpetual profession outlines some aspects of his character that will accompany him forever: «Of a simple and good soul, generous and helpful... enterprising and an initiator... very attached to the Congregation».

His first apostolic experience was in the printing press in Bari, followed by a short period in Vicenza (1959-1960). Since 1960, he has been involved in San Paolo Film in Cinisello Balsamo (Milan) for a couple of years and in 1962, after having made a request to the Primo Maestro and then to Father Zanoni, he was transferred to Congo. Thus, he wrote to Father Zanoni: «I am very happy to have become a Pauline and to work with good will for the Kingdom of the Lord, but I have always wished to be able to lend my poor work in mission land».

Brother Gigi lived in Congo for 37 years, taking care of the typography, mainly in the Lubumbashi house. He was very skilled with printing machines. In fact, as Father Zanoni wrote to him in 1965: «You have your good touch in mechanics and in the face of a breakdown of any machine you know how to get by». He also took care of all the maintenance of the house and was always available to help the communities of our Pauline Sisters.

Having been involved in a train accident with his car, Brother Gigi returned to Italy in 1983 for surgery with the insertion of a femur prosthesis. He returned to Congo resuming all his activities, despite the semi-paralyzed leg and the daily and constant use of the cane. In 1999, he needed a second surgery on his leg, however, causing some new difficulties and requiring special care. For this reason, he will remain permanently in Rome at the Generalate. Brother Gigi loved Africa so much and it was

---

very painful for him to return to Italy, however he dedicated himself with great enthusiasm and dynamism to the various needs of the Generalate.

In 2007, his health situation worsened and he was transferred to Alba, in the Mother House for special care, and in 2012, he settled permanently in the community infirmary.

Brother Gigi lived a strong missionary spirit. Several times, from Africa, he had expressed to superiors that he was ready and eager to be able to go and render his service in our Region of Korea, with the motivation that «I feel too well here and by now perhaps I am too attached, so I ask to go in the poorest house».

Brother Gigi leaves us with a message of great generosity and love for the apostolate: he never pulled back at work. He paid particular attention to the goods of the house, avoided waste, repaired everything. He might seem a bit gruff at first glance, but a smile was enough to get in tune with him and make him happy.

We entrust this brother of ours to the mercy of the Father and from Heaven may he intercede for the needs of the Congregation and of the beloved Congo Region in particular.

*Rome, 11 June 2021*

*Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp*

*The funeral of Brother Luigi will be celebrated on Saturday, 12 June at 9:30 AM in St. Paul Church of Alba. The body will be buried in the cemetery of Gorla Maggiore (Varese).*

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