

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 10:30 AM on 5 September 2021, our confrere died at the San Camillo Hospital in Rome, due to a liver tumor,

BROTHER SERGIO AGOSTINO GIALDI
76 years, 52 of Pauline life, 48 of profession

Brother Sergio was born in Castellucchio (Mantua) on 1 August 1945, the fourth of six children, three brothers and three sisters, from parents Carla Bottoli and Agostino. He entered the community in Albano Laziale (Rome) on 4 July 1969. He began his Novitiate on 8 September 1971, and on the same day of the following year, he made his First Profession, which he professed perpetually in 1977.

He met Don Alberione in particular circumstances. In fact, he had worked in the State Railways before joining the Congregation and once, “by chance”, he saw Primo Maestro who, without knowing him, said to him: «We have to get in touch!». Sometime later, when helped by his Parish Priest who was from the “Jesus Priest” Institute, he came to Rome to begin the journey of formation, he met the Founder again, and who then accompanied him to Albano. Precisely on that occasion, Don Alberione told him: «You have finally arrived!». And only then did Brother Sergio remember meeting him when he worked at the Railways.

He began his apostolic activity as head of the *Commerciale Edizioni Paoline* in Rome in 1974 until 1980. Later he was in the bookstores in Bari (1982-1988) and then at the *San Paolo Film Audiovisivi* in Rome (1988-1993). From 1993 to 2019, he was in charge of the *Deposito Saie* in Turin. In 2019, he was transferred to the “Timoteo Giaccardo” Infirmary Community in Rome, first to give a simple help and then as Delegate. In 2020, he was elected Provincial Councilor.

As he could be easily noticed, due to his stature and physical size, a brusque and sometimes shy person, despite his simplicity and being reserved, he had a heart exactly equal to his stature and size. A “gentle Giant”, as a brother defined him, he was a religious who truly loved his vocation as a Disciple of the Divine Master.

He spent most of his life in Turin. For many years, he was the Local Councilor of the community, able to find a solution to the various difficulties, always with a generous spirit. Visiting his room one could see two paintings with certificates and attestations of his commitment in the city of Turin and in the Piedmont Region. In fact, he had been, for many years, a volunteer of the Civil Protection and the Fire Brigade. An exemplarity in the social field!

He spent the last two years of his life in Rome, in the tragic period of Covid-19, especially during the critical moments, when the Infirmary was

seriously contaminated, and the virus also affected him. There were many situations in which he had to decide in the face of the various emergencies that followed one another. It is on these occasions that he showed his courage and generosity, truly spending himself for the good of his brothers.

Brother Sergio had the desire to assist the sick and inpatient confreres not only on a therapeutic level, but also with a broader vision linked to their physical and spiritual well-being. And this was the fundamental premise for the development of a “Pauline Pastoral Health Care”. He affirmed it in every fraternal dialogue: «The best strategy to implement is listening and sharing».

In this being attentive to the other, he had started daily meetings of half an hour, in which he gathered the confreres to inform them about the life of the Congregation and the Pauline Family and about apostolic initiatives.

During his participation in the *#incontripaolini* on 21 July last, Brother Sergio reminded everyone of the need to «stay with the elderly, stay there, chat with the elderly» and stressed: «I take care of the single person, we talk, pray and we journey together».

The nurse with whom he worked daily, and who was close to him until the last moment, remembers that «every morning he welcomed the brothers who needed to talk... he listened, reflected and then acted... He told me to smile. He said that a smile gives hope to those who are ill... I will always remember him for having believed in me... In the last days he told me that he was thinking about death, but he was not afraid of it».

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours in Paradise, together with our Blessed and Venerables, together with the Pauline Family and fill him with his grace.

Rome, 6 September 2021

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Tuesday, 7 September, at 11:30 AM at the sub-crypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary. The body will be buried in the Laurentino cemetery in Rome.

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