

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 4:35 AM yesterday, September 14, our priest confrere died in the infirmary of the Community of St. Paul in Rome,

FATHER FRANCESCO LICINIO GALATI
97 years of age, 85 of Pauline life, 80 of religious profession

Father Licinio was born in Vallelonga (Catanzaro) on 25 June 1924, the second of two brothers, from parents Elisabetta and Antonio. He entered the community of Rome on 30 September 1936.

From the very beginning of his Pauline vocation, he had the joy of meeting Don Alberione, remaining fascinated by him. The words that the Founder, at the end of each dialogue, said to him were decisive: "Let us become saints, let us be saints together". In fact, he felt gratified by the fact that the person whom everyone considered a saint stimulated him to sanctify himself together with him: "For this reason he made the decision not to betray the expectations of those who had shown that they had so much faith in him".

After completing his high school studies in Rome in 1940, he was transferred to Alba for the novitiate, high school studies and the first year of theology. After the war, he returned to Rome and in 1945 he made his perpetual vows in the church of the *Tre Fontane*, dedicated to the martyrdom of Saint Paul the Apostle. He completed his theology studies, collaborating at the same time with various Pauline journals with articles that would serve him to be enrolled, in 1966, in the newborn Order of Journalists, in the category of "professionals".

Ordained a priest on 25 July 1948 in Pompeii, in the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary, he immediately began teaching in our Roman vocation house, before joining the editorial staff of *Il focolare*, which in 1950 would take the name of *Orizzonti*. At the same time with his journalistic activity, as editor and then director of *Orizzonti*, he attended the Pontifical Gregorian University, graduating in Sacred Theology in 1954.

He then moved on to the La Sapienza University of Rome and graduated in Philosophy, later specializing in Psychology of the developmental age and learning, then in Modern Literature. At the Italian-African Institute, he obtained the Diploma for the knowledge of Africa and then that of specialization in the development problems of the African continent. At the same time, he was entrusted with the position of professor of moral theology at the Pauline International College and the

Maria Adelaide Institute, before taking on the teaching of human sciences and then of Italian literature in some state high schools.

In the 1960s, he entered the Publishing Office, remaining there for 18 years. His name is linked above all to the three volumes of the *Dictionary of World Literature of the '900* (1980), in which it avails itself of the collaboration of many university professors, Italian and foreign critics. *L'Osservatore Romano* welcomed Father Galati as a literary critic, an activity carried on for twenty-seven years.

In the last period of his life, Father Licinio spent much of his time in the ministry of confessions, especially in our Sanctuary *Maria Regina degli Apostoli*, where he lovingly welcomed the faithful. He was a spiritual guide for many people, accompanying them on the path of Christian growth.

A reserved but cordial and affable person, Father Galati was always jovial and smiling. We can say that in many ways he tried to “do the charity of the truth” and at the same time to live a fraternity that resulted, for example, in waiting for the brothers who returned from the bookshop after a day of work.

May the Lord welcome this dear brother of ours into his kingdom of joy and peace, together with the whole Pauline Family, and fill him with all his graces.

Rome, 15 September 2021

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Wednesday, 15 September at 3:30 PM in the Parish Sanctuary Regina degli Apostoli. 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).