

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 3:00 PM (local time) on Wednesday, 19 October 2022, our confrere died in Alba (Cuneo) due to cardio-respiratory failure

FATHER LUIGI GIUSEPPE GELMINI **94 years, 76 of Pauline life, 71 of profession and 64 of priesthood**

Fr Luigi was born in S. Vigilio di Concesio (Brescia) – the same town where Paul VI was born – on 1 February 1928, the fifth of seven children (four brothers and two sisters), from parents Carlo and Rovetta Maria. He entered the community of Alba (Cuneo) on 2 November 1945 and began the Novitiate on 8 September 1950. He made his First profession the following year on the same date, assuming the name of Joseph. He was definitively consecrated with perpetual profession on 8 September 1955 and was ordained a priest on 6 July 1958.

Immediately after ordination and the year of pastoral ministry, Fr Luigi was first appointed Vice-Master of the Clerics in Alba, then Master of the aspiring Disciples and later of the Temporary Disciples. In 1966, he was in Vicenza, first as Master of Upper Secondary Aspirants and, in 1968, as Superior of the community. In 1971, he returned to Alba to accompany, as Master, the Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Aspirants and, in 1976, he was appointed Superior of the Mother House. From 1979 to 1996, he was always in Alba with the post of Bursar of the community and, from 1996 to 2013, he was Head of the “Divine Providence” Community. From 2013, onwards he remained in the infirmary of the Mother House, continuing to assist the sick confreres and, in 2022, he will be welcomed as an inpatient in the same infirmary.

Fr Luigi lived for many years with the very young and teenagers in formation, always creating a positive environment, making them feel at ease and working with great responsibility. He had a collaborative and helpful temperament, with rare moments of moderate impatience, always aimed at pacification and collaboration. He had a strong character, rigorous in observing his commitments, always ready for the required services.

Significant in this regard is the response he gave through a telegram to the letter with which Fr Zanoni in 1965 asked him to move from Alba to Vicenza. His answer testifies to his willingness to obey even when this is difficult: “It costs me a lot but I accept thanking God and my Superiors. Deo Gratias”.

Fr Luigi was above all a great lover of the mountains, where he went with young people and confreres. Together with Brother Severino Marcato, he has climbed hundreds of peaks, including Argentera and Mont Blanc 104 times. He was always available to celebrate Mass in the mountains with the confreres and with the members of the Alpine Club of Alba. Every mountaineering, he made his climbing partners recite a prayer. As long as his health allowed him, he was in charge of the “Father Alessandria” alpine house

in Sant'Anna di Valdieri. For him, going to the mountains was truly a celebration that he shared with friends and confreres.

In his message on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Fr Luigi's presbyteral ordination, the then Superior General Fr Valdir José De Castro expressed himself: «Thank you for the good sown among us, for many years as formator of young people and superior of community, but also as Bursar of the Mother House. I would like to thank you in a particular way for the loving attention and care you have had for the sick brothers in the "Divine Providence" Community of Alba. Thank you! Love for one's neighbour is the "summit" of Christian life, it is what remains forever... and in your life you have always loved climbing the peaks, walking in the mountains to see the beauty of creation, experiencing the wonder of a landscape that then it remains kept in your heart forever».

Fr Luigi left us for heaven on the day of the liturgical memorial of Blessed Giaccardo – to whom he often addressed in his prayers, especially since in 2014 when the body was transferred to the St Paul Church of Alba – almost suggesting that the Blessed himself has come down to take him to accompany him to his new heavenly home.

May the Lord welcome this dear brother of ours and reward him abundantly, while we ask him to intercede for us so that many young people may let themselves be fascinated by the Lord and follow him in the Pauline Family.

Rome, 20 October 2022

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Friday, 21 October, in St Paul Church 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).