



“As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession”.

(Fr. Alberione)

Yesterday evening, Saturday 14 March 2009, our brother Priest has concluded his earthly existence

FR. GIOVANNI ANSELMO BANDINI
97 years, 83 of Pauline life, 71 of priesthood

He has passed away in Casa Don Alberione of Albano Laziale (Rome) at 9.10 p.m.(local time), after a progressive physical deterioration due to advanced age above all.

He had crossed the threshold of 97 years some days ago, and it had been a big feast that day for the “Dean of the Congregation”, accompanied by the prayers, gratitude and affection of the Community to which the Superior General and some members of the General Government had united themselves. Immobile in his bed but lucid in his mind, he had lived this gesture with emotion. Also two days ago he had reached the enviable stage of 71 years of priesthood.

Born in Casola Valsenio (Ravenna, Italy) on 4 March 1912, Giovanni entered as a thirteen-year old the Society of Saint Paul in Alba on 6 October 1925. The Motherhouse was the seat of his Pauline formation: from gymnasial and high school studies to those of philosophy and theology; from technical preparation to the Pauline-apostolic one; he also marked the rhythm of significant religious stages: the emission of profession on 6 January 1931; the perpetual profession on 15 August 1934 and the priestly ordination on 12 March 1938 through the imposition of the hands of Mons. Luigi Maria Grassi. In calling to mind these stages, he loved to emphasize numbers: the 1930-31 novitiate (the first canonical one, he said) with 72 novices in the beginning and 50 professed at the end, of whom 30 reached priestly ordination.

After ordination, Fr. Giovanni still remained in Alba for some years with the task of teaching the aspirants. Then in the year 1956-57, we find him in Mexico as superior of the community of Ciudad de México and “it was particularly due to the superior Don Bandini and his collaborators if the Paulines made a notable jump forward with the acquisition of a terrain in Taxqueña where the new (1957) seminary rises”, wrote Fr. Ugo Zecchin (died 30 January 2004), initiator of the Mexican foundation.

We find him afterwards in Venezuela as superior in Caracas (1957-1964), then at Córdoba, in Argentina, also as superior (1964-1971). From this city he wrote to the Primo Maestro: “We have placed the construction works of a wing of the new seminary under the protection of the Madonna... I shall try to correspond to the trust you have placed in me, notwithstanding the many deficiencies in my task... You have always taught us that our life is born of the Tabernacle and must live and consume itself of the Tabernacle; now more than at any other time I have understood this: I shall try to live it” (16 July 1965).

In 1971 he was recalled to Italy for the task of teaching the gymnasium aspirants of the Roman seminary and the adult vocations of Albano Laziale. “It is a matter of getting a little dust on the books of Homer and Virgil...”, he joked good-naturedly upon accepting the work. In 1973 he also got a license in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Lateran University.

In 1974 he returned to Venezuela, in Valencia, in the parish of San Martín de Porres of which he became a very appreciated parish priest in August of 1977. This pastoral experience ended in 1988, when for reasons of health he had to return to Italy, to reside first in the General House and finally in Albano Laziale.

In taking our leave, we are thankful to Fr. Giovanni for his long generous and enterprising apostolic ministry, combative if necessary, but also seasoned with intelligent irony, consumed in the offering of his suffering to the Divine Master. May our fraternal prayer of suffrage hasten his relief after hard toil, life after death and eternal rest.

Rome, 15 March 2009

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

His funeral will take place tomorrow, Monday 16 March 2009, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of the Hospital “Regina Apostolorum” in Albano Laziale. – His remains will be buried in the Chapel of the Pauline Family in the city cemetery.

Let the Superiors of Circumscription inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1)