

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
il segretario generale



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 6 p.m. (local time) of 13 August 2009, in the infirmary of Alba Motherhouse, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BRO. GIOVANNI CIPRIANO CÀNEVA
84 years, 71 of Pauline life, 66 of religious profession

Bro. Cipriano had been discharged from the Hospital of Alba just a few hours before, since the seriousness of his state of health did not allow further hospital treatments; he has passed away following the increase of cardiac-respiratory problems that complicated a clinical situation that was already in jeopardy.

Giovanni was born on 16 April 1925 in Mure di Molvena (Vicenza, Italy) of Germano and Adele Fiorentin. At age thirteen he entered the house of Alba where he spent his first years of Pauline life. In Rome he made his novitiate and the first religious profession on 2 May 1943, taking the name of Cipriano. He consecrated himself definitively to the Lord in Alba, exactly five years later.

Immediately after his perpetual profession Bro. Cipriano worked in propaganda, for the Pauline Cooperators and in the Pius X Bookstore in Rome until 1953, when he was called to work in the Subscription Office in Alba. In September 1957, obedience called him to Milan to exercise his apostolate in S. Agnese Bookstore - transferred afterward to Piazza Duomo – for about twenty years. During this period, thanks to his intelligence, talent and competence in photography, he began the production of 'holy pictures', photos commented by spiritual phrases. He was probably the first one in this and many publishers, even not Pauline, will take up and perfect this idea that soon enjoyed noteworthy success. Some series of these holy pictures were successively collected in pocketbooks, for example "Per vivere la tua amicizia" (Living Your Friendship) and "Sono felice perché tu esisti" (I'm Glad Because You Exist). During these years he was an example of methodical fidelity to his commitments of religious life and of infectious laboriousness.

At the end of the 70's, he was asked to leave the bookstore. With some traits of his character as accomplices, he was not able to continue to channel all his energies in the Pauline apostolate. However he collaborated with the Editions and had manner to put to fruition his skills and experience as a bookseller in the handling of some popular books, of biblical and marian content: "Ogni giorno con Maria" (Every Day with Mary), that met the favor of the public. In the last twenty years we have seen him gradually closing himself to dialog and collaboration, already before ailment struck him.

Now that he can enjoy the light of God, may he intercede so that the Paulines may place their intelligence in apostolic creativity, so that even the faraway and the distracted may be reached by the Gospel of Christ. May Bro. Cipriano, who had borne for thirty years the cross of "that tremendous vault of a dark heaven that weighs on your spirit", as a Major Superior to whom he had confided himself had written him, come to the help of those who experience interior sufferings not less painful than those that affect the body.

Rome, 13 August 2009

Bro. Lorenzo Vezzani

His funeral will be held on Monday, 17 August 2009, at 10.30 a.m., in the Temple of Saint Paul, Alba. – His body will be buried in the Chapel of the Pauline Family in the cemetery of the city.

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