



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

(Fr. Alberione)

In the first hours of the afternoon today, Monday 13 July 2009, around 1 p.m. (local time), our beloved brother Priest has ended his earthly existence.

FR. MARIO GRAZIANO MANCA
75 years, 61 of Pauline life, 47 of priesthood

He has passed away in the infirmary of Alba-Motherhouse, where he was a patient for some weeks due to the spread of a form of tumor of prostatic origin, which affected him for some years and gradually changed into metastasis.

Coming from Nuoro (Italy), where he was born on 3 February 1934, Mario had entered as a thirteen-year old in the Society of Saint Paul in Rome on 9 September 1947, presented by his parish priest as “a good son showing evident signs of priestly vocation”. He had known the Congregation through the Daughters of Saint Paul residing in Nuoro who had known well his family as rich in faith and children (6 boys and 3 girls), and Mario himself, “a healthy boy, of excellent character, pious and intelligent”.

He had his first Pauline formation in the seminary of Rome, frequenting the high schools and grammar school and dedicating himself to the typographical apostolate “with optimum generosity and love, showing great interest in the activities of the Congregation”, thus placing on a good foundation his future Pauline life. He finished his year of novitiate in Albano Laziale (Rome), that ended with the religious profession on 8 September 1955. High school in Alba and theological studies in Rome followed. In Rome he consecrated himself definitively to the Lord on 8 September 1959 and received the priestly ordination on 1 July 1962 through the imposition of the hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial. In the meantime, accompanying his specific studies were apostolic and formative tasks: paperback binding, assistant of the aspirants in Alba (1956-1957), Vicenza (1957-1958) and Rome (1960-1962).

Formation was precisely his first field of priestly apostolate as master of the aspirants in Catania (1963-1968). But it was a brief parenthesis compared to the apostolic activity that will occupy him for the rest of his life. In fact, sent to Turin to work at the SAIE as in charge of the Customers’ Office at the start of 1969, he dispatched this task uninterruptedly until 2003. The beginnings were not easy, but Fr. Mario, thanks to his “open and practical character, authoritative as the needs arise”, succeeded in organizing the office and establishing frank rapport with the customers, also undertaking the thankless job of recovering credits and solving stale situations. – In the long run, the result of this attentive and farseeing activity we find synthesized in the volume *Editrice SAIE, 50 anni (1954-2004)*, where he is numbered among the Paulines who “have written important chapters” in the history of the Publishing Company: “... above all Fr. Mario Manca, who remained as director of the Customers’ Office until 2003, guarantor of a correct management among vendors-clients-company, feather in a cap of the instalment system still in force”.

Suffering marked his last years. He had to lessen his work, but he felt himself accompanied and supported by the affection of his family, his confreres and by the friendship of so many who in the course of years had woven with him rapports of collaboration. Thus it has been also during the last days spent in the infirmary of the Motherhouse.

While we trust in his intercession, above all for the needs of the Congregation, we entrust this dear Brother to the mercy of the Father with our fraternal suffrages, so that he may enjoy in God relief after toil, life after death and eternal repose.

Rome, 13 July 2009

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

The funerals will be held on Wednesday, 15 July 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. – His remains will be transferred to Nuoro, his city of birth and interred in the cemetery of the city.

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