



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

(Fr. Alberione)

Today, Saturday 24 October 2009, at 4,30 p.m. (local time) and first Vespers of the Solemnity dedicated to Him, the Divine Master has called our brother Priest to his eternal reward.

FR. SILVIO MARIO PIGNOTTI
82 years of age - 71 of Pauline life - 54 of priesthood
Superior General from 1992 to 1998

He had just reentered a few days ago after spending with his kin the August holidays, when an unexpected hemorrhage caused by aneurism has forced him to an urgent hospitalization in the hospital "San Filippo Neri" of Rome, to four successive surgical interventions and to a hospital stay lasting two months, in an alternating of recoveries and worsenings until the epilogue of today.

Born in Grottammare (Ascoli Piceno, Italy) on 13 March 1927, Silvio had crossed the threshold of the seminary of Rome on 5 September 1938 at age eleven. After finishing high school and gymnasial studies, in 1945 he entered the novitiate in Albano Laziale (Rome) and then made his religious profession on 8 September 1946 in Alba, where he attended the lyceum. Theological studies followed in Rome, the perpetual vows on 8 September 1951 and priestly ordination on 5 December 1954 through Mons. Ettore Cunial in the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles that the same Prelate had consecrated on 30 November. In the same morning meditation the words of the Primo Maestro had descended on the newly-ordained: "Behold the Priest, who preaches not only from the pulpit or in the confessional, but through films and the press. *I am the light of the world. – You are the light of the world.* The Priest is Jesus who preaches." Precious words for Fr. Silvio, called by obedience to carry out the priestly ministry in the formation of clerics and, subsequently, in the service of guiding his confreres.

In the years 1954-1956 he obtained his license in Theology at the Gregorian University and, at the same time, taught the aspirants in the Gymnasium of Rome. He was then assistant (1956-1960) and Master of the clerics (1960-1970) in the International Theological College and at the same time professor of Theology. From May 1970 to July 1976 he was Provincial Superior of Italy and Provincial Bursar during the ten successive years. In 1986 he was elected Vicar General and, in the Chapter of 1992, Superior General. As the fourth successor of the Founder, he exercised the office from 3 April 1992 to 5 May 1998. From 1995 to 2000, through nomination of the Holy Father John Paul II, he was Consultant of the Pontifical Council of Social Communications.

His biographical file, thus described, proceeds in a linear way in its components, just as straight and ordered was his life that took place entirely in the Roman communities. Methodical and punctual in his duties, measured in his words, considered in his decisions, demanding with himself before being so with others, fatherly and affable with discretion, in his conduct he expressed the *pay attention to yourself and to the public reading of scripture*, much recommended by the Primo Maestro, who cites Saint Paul (1Tim 4,13.16).

And his strength is here. A notable number of Italian and overseas clerics were prepared by him and led to the priesthood. He guided with wise discernment the Province of Italy in not easy times, times of assessment and of transformation, attentive to persons and matters; he continued work in the administrative sector of the Province with vigilance and pondering. He had been a student of Fr. Renato Perino in theology and also when he was his Vicar General; he benefited from his knowledge of the Congregation, his experience, lucidity in reasoning and versatility.

As Superior General, the six years of his mandate were marked by intense work in formation ("*Integrity. The passion of the Pauline*" was his first annual letter, 1993-1994), from a faithful application of the Capitular Documents and from notable difficulties and sufferings due to the serious risks that ran "*the good of unity*" (it was the title of a letter of his, on 1 May 1997) in the last years of his mandate.

He pressed, without clamour but with a vigilant eye and fixed on the essential, the Congregation to take the road of the future. Looking in this direction are the documents "*A proposito della III Priorità*" (On the subject of the III Priority) (16 December 1992) and the two seminars "*Formazione paolina integrale orientata alla missione*" (Integral Pauline Formation Oriented to Mission) (1994) and "*Gesù, il Maestro*" (Jesus, the Master) (1996) realizing the priorities fixed by the VI General Chapter.

Fr. Silvio passed his last years in habitual discretion, attending to various ministries, whether in the community or in the Roman communities of the Pauline Family; lending himself for consultations that profited of his experience on the top of the Congregation; cultivating updating. From 1 March 2000 to the present he held the office of Director of the Center of Pauline Spirituality, working with solicitude on the Opera Omnia Alberioniana.

Supported by our hope in the Risen Christ in this moment of sorrow, we elevate our thanks to the Father for the gift made to the Congregation by the life of this our dear elder brother, to whom we owe much and who we accompany fraternally with our prayers.

Rome, 24 October 2009

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

His funeral will take place on Monday, 26 October at 3 p.m. in the Crypt of the Sanctuary "Queen of Apostles." His body will then be transported to Albano Laziale to 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)