



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 1 o'clock (local time) today, 4 December 2010, in the infirmary of Alba, as a result of a heart attack, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BR. OTTORINO LINO GANDELLINI

84 years, 53 of Pauline life, 48 of religious profession

Brother Lino was born in Longhena (Brescia) on 13 February 1926; he is baptized in the parish of Saint Dionigi in Longhena on 21 February and given the name Ottorino. He enters the Congregation rather as an adult, something not common during those times, in the house of Alba, on 10 September 1957: he is 31 years old and already has a certain experience in life as a worker. On 7 September 1960 he enters the novitiate in the house of Ostia, which he finishes making his first profession on 8 September 1962, taking on that occasion the name Lino. The following period sees him in the house of Rome committed in various mansions besides his formation. On 8 September 1967, also in Rome, he makes his perpetual profession.

Brother Lino remains in Rome for four years still (1967-1971), committed in Sampaolo Film in the sectors of dubbing, photo development and shipping of films. In 1971 he is transferred to Alba (house of Periodicals), where he remains for almost forty years until his death. From 1971 to 1973 he carries out his apostolate in the rotogravure; starting 1973 he works in the shop and jobs of maintenance, activities that he has maintained until almost to the end. Brother Lino, before this autumn, had never been to a hospital. But after summer, his health, already undermined by diabetes, had undergone a worsening; in September it had been necessary to bring him to the hospital due to pneumonia.

His formators see in him "a very austere concept of religious life," a rather "misanthropic" character and a critical spirit toward the life of the younger members, but also that "he is not afraid of hard work"; his piety is "very good, of the outdated kind." They are traits of a personality marked by severe ideals that are reflected even in his appearance. Until the end he has always worn the religious habit with the rosary, with an almost disdainful tenacity that showed at the same time his attachment to religious values and the difficulty to pick up the demands of new times. This difficulty to accept the changes in ways of living the religious life Brother Lino has manifested several times when he writes letters to the General Superiors, wherein transpire together ideals that echo the heroic spirit of sacrifice of the first times and the bitterness and disappointment in regard to the present, of which he sees almost only the negative aspects and the difficulties. He writes to Fr. Perino (31.1.1988), asking about the legacy of the Founder: "Every day I ask myself: does his work grow from the root and stump planted by him? Or do we tend to fall back to the means, that of course are useful, but cannot substitute the scope and the goal that was the the spirit and the ideal of the Founder? In the years of long ago... we used to work two days in a day with enthusiasm and solidarity, so that the apostolate could be done by us... Now I see that work split in two: between the S.r.l. and ourselves that comprise the moral entity." It is worthwhile reporting and reflecting on the answer given him by Fr. Perino: "The S.r.l. and the moral Entity are all civil entitites that are indispensable so as to go forward in this type of society, and they are pure instruments behind which must be a mission and a missionary spirit. And all of that depends on us" (11.2.1988). Also

Fr. Perino, in another letter (10.3.1988), writes to him: “The Congregation, like the Church, is a living organism that continually develops and changes; she dies and lives again continuously, and woe to us if we did not accept the signs that the Lord traces in the history that we are now living. Woe to us if blocked ourselves looking with nostalgia at the past in order to deny the good and developed that exist in the present... This does not mean that we must not ask ourselves critically regarding everything that we do, in order to overcome inevitable limitations and mistakes.”

But Brother Lino is also described by his formators as “generous to the point of sacrifice” and loving of recollection and prayer that is “intense and lengthy”; and his letters are proof of his unfailing love for the apostolate in spite of every difficulty. We now entrust him to God, “the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation” (2Cor 1,3), trusting that he too may intercede for all of us still journeying toward the goal “that God calls us to receive on high, in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3,14).

Rome, 4 December 2010

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

His funeral will take place on Monday 6 December 2010, at 9.30 a.m. in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. His body will then be transferred to Longhena (Brescia), where there will be a funeral ceremony at 2 p.m. before his burial in the local cemetery.

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