



*"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 today, Tuesday 2 March 2010, the Divine Master has called to his eternal reward our brother Priest

**FR. GIOVANNI MASSIMO SELLE**  
*85 years, 74 of Pauline life, 60 of priesthood*

He passed away at 4:45 a.m. (local time) in the infirmary of the community of Alba.

Born in Lanzo Torinese (Turin, Italy) on 27 June 1924, Giovanni passed as an eleven-year old the threshold of the Motherhouse on 5 September 1935, at the end of elementary school that he attended in a "praiseworthy" manner.

He spent about ten years in Alba, alternating grammar school and high school with typographical work and assistance to the aspirants. He also lived here the significant stages of the religious vestition, novitiate and profession of the religious vows made on 8 September 1942, when he assumed the new name of Massimo.

He continued his theological studies in Rome, in the course of which he consecrated himself definitively to the Lord on 15 September 1946. He received the priestly ordination in Rome, in the parish Church of "Santi XII Apostoli" three years later, on 10 July 1949 through Mons. Giovanni Urbani. During these years he worked in the sector of diffusion at the warehouse for books in Rome.

We can divide the period of his Pauline priestly life in two stages: his mission to Argentina and Spain that covered the first seventeen years (1949-1966) and his long stay in the Motherhouse of Alba from 1966 to today.

Benefiting of his presence in Argentina were the house of Florida (1949-1957; 1958-1961) and Córdoba (1957-1958), wherein he dedicated himself mainly to the formation of aspirants and clerics and to teaching. Endowed with a good culture, with eloquence and with intense love for the Pauline charism wherein he had seen from the start "a means corresponding to my inclinations," he did not fail to make himself appreciated in the tasks that gradually were entrusted to him.

At the end of March in 1961 he reentered Italy for a period of rest to relax a certain psychological tiredness that subjected him to discouragements and a state of precariousness. His residence for about a year was the house of Rome and his activity was caring for the Pauline Cooperators. In 1962 he left for Spain where, until 1966 in the house of Zalla, he attended to – as already in Argentina – the formation of the aspirants and to teaching.

His definitive reentry in Italy brought him to Alba. In his more than forty-year stay in this house, various tasks followed one another: from teaching the aspirants to library work; from priestly ministry for various Pauline communities to being rector of the Temple of Saint Paul; from chaplainship of Sanfrè for the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master (1997-1998) to the preaching of retreats and courses of spiritual exercises... Everything marked by great dedication and by exquisite fraternal sensitivity, but also veiled by a scrupulous and suffered sense of his limits.

Stricken by ischemia about ten years ago, he was forced to be on wheelchair. The new situation placed him on the altar of suffering that he patiently bore and offered in union with Christ. His speech also being affected, from his face transpired the pain of not being able to express himself and the displeasure of not being able to communicate his gratitude to all who dedicated themselves to his care and assistance, or to thank those who gave him a little of their time. The intense and generous life of this our brother Priest faded away through consumption.

Fr. Giovanni consigns to us fidelity and loving availability to the Pauline mission, discreet and industrious cordiality, the offering of his suffering. To his intercession we entrust the needs of the Congregation and in particular during this year of priests, the priests and vocations to the priesthood, as we invoke for him "relief after toil, life after death and eternal rest."

Rome, 2 March 2010

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

*His funeral will take place tomorrow, Wednesday 3 March, at 3:30 p.m. in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. Following will be his burial in the chapel of the Pauline Family in the city's cemetery.*

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