



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 8:30 p.m. yesterday (local time), 18 September 2011, in the hospital São Luis do Morumbi, in São Paulo (Brazil), the Divine Master has called to his eternal reward our brother Priest

FR. LORENZO STEFANO COSTA

83 years, 71 of Pauline life, 65 of religious profession, 56 of priesthood

“Father Costa” – thus he was known and called by the Paulines in Brazil – was born in Canale (Cuneo), on 1 December 1927. He entered the Congregation on 1 October 1939, during the twenty-fifth of foundation of the Society of Saint Paul. After the first stages of his formation, he reached the novitiate in Alba in 1944, at the end of which he made his first religious profession on 19 March 1946, taking on that occasion the name Stefano. His formation continued in Rome, where he made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1951 and also received the presbyteral ordination on 5 December 1954 through Mons. Ettore Cunial.

In 1955 he received his first destination that wanted him for the mission: Fr. Lorenzo left for Portugal, where he stayed until 1969, committed in the teaching of the boys and in the printing press. At the end of August 1968 the Superior General, Father Luigi Zanoni, asks his availability for a new destination: “I thank you for the much work that you have done in Lisbon. I remember above all the times of the old house, where from nothing you have been able to realize so many good things... But you will see that in Brazil the field is much more vast with enormous possibilities in every form. Go therefore with great confidence and I should say with joy, because it seems to me that you will feel yourself doubly young and almost about to start a new life full of holy ventures” (30 August 1968).

Thus at the start of 1969, with joy and with some apprehension, Fr. Lorenzo leaves for Brazil, where he will spend the rest of his life: first in São Paulo (1969-1974), where he carries out his apostolate as a professor, then in Caxias do Sul (1975-1977), where he continues the service of teaching and is committed in the printing press, to return again to São Paulo, to Cidade Paulina, with various tasks: the years 1978-1980 saw him committed in the composing sector; then he was provincial bursar (1980-1982), bursar of the community (1982-1987) and worked in the administration of the periodicals (1987-1989). Starting 1990 Fr. Costa lent his service, until his health allowed him, in the editorial sector of PAULUS, translating and revising texts. During the last years and, in particular, during the last months, his apostolate has become that of prayer and suffering.

The confreres of Brazil are very much grateful for the long presence of Fr. Costa in their midst, with his testimony that has stirred great esteem and respect. To Fr. Lorenzo, now in the company of the “multitude of witnesses” and of the “assembly of the first-born whose names are written in heaven” (Heb 12,1.23), we entrust intercession before the Divine Master for all the Congregation, in particular for the Province of Brazil, and the growth of the apostolate of social communication in that land.

Rome, 19 September 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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