



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 9:30 (local time) today, 31 May 2012, in the community "Timoteo Giaccardo" (Rome, Italy), the Divine Master has called to his eternal reward our brother Priest

FR. ANDREA EZECHIELE DAMINO

96 years, 84 of Pauline life, 78 of religious profession, 70 of priesthood

Fr. Andrea was born in Liguria, in Calizzano (Savona), on 2 November 1915. He entered the Congregation on 20 October 1927, in Alba. Here he made his first profession on 28 October 1933, assuming on that circumstance the name of Ezechiele. In a letter to his parents he explains the choice of a name so little known, recalling that while the people of Israel "was groaning under a foreign yoke there appeared in their midst a venerable man, a priest of their race who was for them a guide and consolation called Ezechiele. This holy prophet... wrote his difficult and symbolic prophecies that are one of the books of the Bible" (letter dated 9 November 1933). In an article written in 2008 in *Il Cooperatore Paulino*, Fr. Andrea records some circumstances of his first profession, particularly an anecdote connected to his name: the Founder, calling to mind the importance of the name of profession, said to the newly-professed: "As Paulines you are respectable people, so you must put before your name the title of 'Sir'." Fr. Andrea remembers how he felt embarrassed being called "Sir Ezechiele," so as to make somebody say: "You have a hearing problem"; to which he answered "No, a problem of identification." He made, also in Alba, his perpetual profession on 25 July 1937 and was ordained a priest in Rome on 6 July 1941. He further had a chance to study, obtaining a degree in theology at St. Anselms in 1950.

In Rome Fr. Andrea stayed practically for all the long years of his life, except for a brief parenthesis in Alba in 1946-1947. Soon after his ordination, from 1941 to 1943, Fr. Andrea was chaplain in Collina Volpi (the Queen of Apostles sanctuary did not yet exist), being busy in the meantime even in the work of redaction; from 1943 to 1945 he was in the parish of Buon Pastore, committed as vice-parish priest of Pomezia. From 1947 to 1961 he was tasked with teaching literary subjects in the house, first in Alba (1946-1947) and then in Rome (1947-1961), where he also taught at the Pauline International College (1952-1969) and taught Latin to the novices in Ostia (1962-1968). After a specific preparation in the Scuola Vaticana for librarianship, in 1962 he took charge of the library in the Roman area, in which he worked for more than thirty years until the middle of the 90's and which he organized with competence and passion. From 1970 to 1981 he was professor at *Ut Unum Sint*.

Fr. Andrea has kept until the last moment his peaceful disposition, his curiosity and interest which he knew how to show to the persons who approached him, including the young. He loved to narrate anecdotes which he remembered with lucidity and with which he liked to spice even his homilies, which thus acquired the flavor of lived life.

Fr. Andrea is to be remembered also for a reference work very important for every research on the writings of Fr. Alberione, carefully and with scientific criteria catalogued by him: precisely the book titled *Bibliografia di don Giacomo Alberione*, published the first time in 1979 with the Editions of the General Historical Archives of the Pauline Family and updated several times, until the last edition (2004) available in the site www.alberione.org. To this work is to be added *Don Alberione al Concilio Vaticano II. Proposte, Interventi e "Appunti"* (Fr. Alberione in Vatican II Council. Proposals, Interventions and "Notes") (1994).

Serene and amiable of character, Fr. Andrea has fought his good battle and ended his earthly journey (cf 2Tim 4,7). We now entrust Fr. Andrea, already in the company of the "multitude of witnesses" (cf Heb 12,1) of the Pauline Family in heaven, to the kind face of the Divine Master who waits for his faithful servants for their eternal reward.

Rome, 31 May 2012

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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