



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 1:30 pm (local time) of Monday, 30 January 2012, our brother disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father:

BR. FERINO LORENZO GERARDO ULMERT

97 years old, 81 years of Pauline life, 75 years of religious profession

Br. Ferino died serenely in the infirmary of the community of Alba where he was bedridden for many years due to inevitable limitations related to senescence.

Born in Mango (Cuneo, Italy) on 25 February 1914, Ferino – called familiarly Zeffirino – entered the Society of St Paul in Alba on 25 January 1931, at the age of 16. In the same countryside of Mango the Venerable Andrea Borello, two years younger than him, was born. Subsequently, Br. Zeffirino would strive “to know all the persons who have known the dear Borello and with Br. Candido M. Turbiano placed everything on paper”, as he wrote to the Vicar General, Fr. Luigi Zanoni in September 1962.

Br. Ferino finished almost the whole of his formative curriculum at the Mother House. There he studied, lived his novitiate (1935-1936) and made his first religious profession on 23 February 1936 with the new name of Gerard. In the meantime he dedicated himself to the apostolate, assuming the character of urgency of the moment as was the custom during the early years: from manufacturing paper to bricklaying and from electrician to plumber.

The final consecration to God occurred in Rome on 19 March 1942, solemnity of St Joseph. The preceding year, in 1941, the apostolic activity entrusted to him which continued until 1949 was principally in the bookshop and distribution. By the end of 1949 to the middle of 1950 Br. Gerard was in charge of the warehouse in Turin. Successively he was at Sacile and then in Vicenza, for work in distribution.

In November 1953 he started mission work in Canada where the Pauline presence began some years before. He passed through the three Pauline communities of Sherbrooke, Montréal and Toronto. He was bookseller, did commission work, and had a way of continuing the exercise of those practical abilities which had been the daily bread in the first period of his initial formation. He returned to Italy in 1966 and was assigned in Alba where he was to help in various tasks: invoicing, publishing, telephone reception and mail, as long as his strength allowed. Advanced aged, physical debility and ailments associated with it led him to walk the journey of the apostolate of suffering and of offering, until the epilogue of today.

Br. Gerard leaves us the example of his Pauline life, lived with generosity and dedication. We are now confident in his intercession for the necessities of the Congregation and above all for the Disciples of the Divine Master. We accompany him with fraternal prayer and suffrage as to enjoy relief in God after hardship, life after death and eternal repose.

Rome, 31 January 2012

Fr. Giuliano Saredi

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