

SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
The Superior General



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 1:45 today (local time), in the “Timoteo Giaccardo” Community in Rome, has returned to the house of the Father our brother priest, Superior General *emeritus* of the Society of St. Paul,

FR. PIETRO ANSELMO CAMPUS

81 years: 69 of Pauline life, 63 of religious profession and 55 of priesthood.

Fr. Pietro was born on 25 October 1934 in Osilo (Sassari, Italy) and entered the Congregation in the community of Rome still at a very young age, on 5 August 1946. Having completed his novitiate at Albano Laziale (1951-1952), he made his first profession on 8 September 1952. After completing his formation in Rome, he made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1957 and was ordained priest on 3 July 1960 by the laying of hands of Msgr. Ettore Cunial.

In the early years of priesthood he was assigned in the formation – as Master of the young and as a teacher – first in Rome (1960-1961) and later in Cinisello Balsamo (1961-1966). In 1966 began for Fr. Pietro a long period of mission abroad, which extended for fifteen years in the Philippines (1966-1981) and then in Australia (1981-1984). The decision of the Vicar General of that time, Fr. Luigi Zanoni, left Fr. Pietro “terrified”, as he himself would write, for assignments that he felt were superior to his strengths. But trusting in God and in the dispositions of his Superiors, and with the help of his confreres, Fr. Pietro sailed on. In the Philippines, where he was sent – precisely in the community of Makati – he held several positions: first as Director of the printing press and as Responsible of the administration (1966-1970), then Regional Superior for two terms (1971-1977 and 1977-1981) while continuing always to take care of the administration. From 1981 to 1984 we saw him as the Regional Superior of Australia, while he worked in the administration.

In 1984 Fr. Pietro returned to Italy, destined in the community of Milan (1984 to 1991), where he held various responsibilities: Superior of the community for two terms (1984-1987 and 1987-1990) and Provincial Councilor (1986-1990). In Milan Fr. Pietro was appreciated for his hard work, tenacity and dedication to his assignments – mainly in the administration sector – also enjoying the esteem of many lay collaborators. Then still later he was again Superior of the community of Milan (1990-1992) and again Provincial Councilor (1990-1992), before being elected Councilor General (1992-1998). Fr. Pietro therefore transferred to Rome in the General House. Then in 1998, during the difficult circumstances of those years, he was elected Superior General, the fifth successor of the Founder.

Finishing his mandate as Superior General, Fr. Pietro was transferred to Ariccia, as Delegate for the *Casa Divin Maestro* (2004-2009). From 2009, his health began to suffer a rapid decline due to Alzheimer’s disease and ischemic heart. For three years he was completely bedridden at the “Timoteo Giaccardo” community in Rome because of the aggravation of the illness from which he was suffering.

The life of Fr. Pietro was well spent and overspent for the proclamation of the Gospel and the gift for having lived in many continents led him to enlarge his heart to welcome and entrust

to God different peoples. In his service as Superior General he encountered new ideas related to Pauline life. He was called to do more differently in the apostolic field, lived in creative fidelity in the culture of communication which in the late '90s was becoming increasingly necessary, as he was able to witness during the meeting of the Superiors General in Ariccia at our *Casa Divin Maestro*.

Along with his apostolic passion we can not forget the way he lived among us, because Fr. Pietro has shown himself not only as a gentle soul but a loving man and priest, capable of listening, welcoming and willing to help the confreres in different circumstances, although shy and reserved. Many Paulines are grateful for the tangible good received from him and now they remember him as a caring father.

During his term as Superior General he had the joy of celebrating with the whole Pauline Family the beatification of Fr. James Alberione (27 April 2003) and to point to him as the first example of a life given for the Gospel, as a precursor of a new way of living out holiness: «We were called, without our merit, to do the charity of truth to our fellow human beings. Even with all our limitations, we will continue to do it. We enter the third Christian millennium with the same confidence and the same faith with which Alberione entered the twentieth century» (interview done in the Italian Pauline monthly magazine *Jesus* in December 2000).

We draw on the living testimony of Fr. Pietro Campus, supported by its many years of illness, a journey that has united him to the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ, to renew the joy of our being apostles today, called to live and give Jesus Master, the Word of the Father. That this brother of ours rejoice in the heavenly liturgy together with the great number of the Pauline Family in heaven. We now rely on his intercession for the needs of the Congregation, while we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he can enjoy eternal rest in God.

Rome, 3 November 2015

*Fr. Valdir José De Castro
Superior General*

The Circumscription Superiors are to inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Cost. 65 e 65.1).

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, 4 November at 17:30 in the Crypt of the Minor Basilica of Mary Queen of Apostles. The remains will be buried in the morning of Thursday, 5 November, at the chapel of the Pauline Family located in the Flaminio cemetery - "Prima Porta" in Rome.