

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
The Secretary 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 24:00 of Wednesday, 2 September, at the *Centre Hospitalier de Bligny* of Briis-sous-Forges, Paris, has returned to the house of the Father our brother priest

FR. MICHELE ANGELO LEONE

69 years: 58 of Pauline life, 51 of religious profession and 43 of priesthood.

Michele was born in Grumo Appula (Bari) on 1 December 1945. In September 1956, he entered the Seminary of Bari and remained there until 1960, when he moved to Rome to attend the Secondary school. He entered the novitiate in Ostia in September 1962 and made his first profession on 20 August 1964 in Rome. He spent the next four years in Alba, where he completed his Tertiary education, before returning to Rome for his theological studies. On 26 June 1972 he was ordained a priest in his native place.

Hi first assignment was in Bari, where he joined the house as Master of the young boys. In 1980 he was appointed Superior in Vicenza. There he remained only for two years because, after being elected Provincial Councillor and becoming a Vicar, he in fact, had to go back to Rome. The Provincial Superior, Fr. De Carli, appointed him as Superior-delegate of the Juniors. The post-sixties, the "post-conciliar" years and the effervescence of the Clerics were difficult for him because these did not jibe well with his character. Fr. Michele put up with the challenges and in 1986, his mandate as Councillor having expired, he moved to Cinisello Balsamo in the book redaction sector. The following year, the Superior General Fr. Renato Perino, desiring to develop the young Region of Zaire (now Congo), transferred him in that Circumscription to accompany the first novices who were trained locally. There he dedicated himself with passion, even if the experience was not lacking in hardships, typical for a first-timer missionary. Even here, however, perseverance has prevailed but, after many struggles, in 1992 he was sorry to leave Africa in order to give a strong support to the confreres in France. In this Circumscription (in 2003 became Canada-France), which he would learn to love, he spent the rest of his life, where he held canonical roles (e.g., Regional Superior in 2008-2011) and apostolic assignments (editorial director and that of production). Since May of 2011 he was Superior of the community of Arpajon.

Fr. Michele had a tumour two years ago in the vocal cords which was successfully addressed. It was a great suffering for one who loves singing like him. In July, he spent a month in the family. At his return a metastasised tumour was immediately discovered which, in just weeks, has led to his death. At the news of his death many of the faithful of the parishes of Arpajon where he did pastoral services, and the local bishop, Msgr. Michel Dubost, have expressed their condolences, testifying of the affability of his person. In saying goodbye to him, we assure him of our prayers so that he could receive the reward of the faithful servant and ask him to intercede for the Circumscriptions where he had worked always lovingly his Pauline mission.

Rome, 4 September 2015

Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on Monday, 7 September at 15:00 in the parish of Saint-Clément of Arpajon. On 9 Wednesday the remains will be transported to Italy and will be buried in the family tomb of Grumo Appula (Bari).

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