

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 00:30 (local time) today, 18 January 2016, after several days of agony, our brother disciple has returned to the house of the Father,

**BROTHER ENRICO CARMELO BISON**  
***87 years: 71 of Pauline life and 67 of religious profession.***

With Brother Carmelino, as he was known by all, one of the master booksellers of Italy Province has just left us. He was the last to leave in a long line of apostles who have taken very seriously in their lives the words of the Founder, who saw in bookstores the modern pulpits from where to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. His was a life devoted to spreading the Word of God and to build good relationships with everyone – could be this bishop (it is known for example of his warm friendship with Giovanni Battista Montini, the future Pope Paul VI), priest, Brother, Sister, lay – first and necessary step to a more effective dissemination of the Word.

Born in Rio San Martino (Venice) on 14 November 1928, Brother Carmelino entered at 16 years, at the height of the World War, in the community of Sacile (Pordenone) with other companions, with whom he shared, helped by the typical joviality of his age, the drama of the continuous bombings, deaths and destruction that hit the North-East of Italy. He soon got used to the apostolic life, when he had to walk several kilometres every day to reach, from the barn of Vigonovo where the young Paulines were displaced caused by the semi-destruction of the villa of Sacile, the fraction of Cavolano, to the site where the warehouse of books was located. «Very cold, spiders and hunger», were his memories of that period which he told to those who had the good fortune to share with him a few hours during the apostolate in the bookstore, or even, in recent times, in the infirmary of Rome, where he was transferred from Bari in March 2012. Brother Carmelino made her first profession on 19 March 1948 in Rome, which was confirmed perpetually on the same date six years later, the day which falls on the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Disciples of the Divine Master. His apostolate as a bookseller begun in 1946 as a postulant in Vicenza, in the local bookstore recently opened. Later we saw him in Rome (1950-1954), Genoa (1954-1955), Milan (1955-1963), Catania (1963-1966), Florence (1966-1980), again Milan (1980-1983) and finally, from October 1983, Bari, where he remained until 2012, when his health left him and was forced to move to the community “Timoteo Giaccardo” in Rome. A progressive and rapid cerebra-vascular illness, followed in the last hours by a cardio-respiratory failure, brought him last night to encounter with the Lord whom he has faithfully served for many long years. It also affects us of the fact that his death came a few days after that of Brother Vincent Alemcheril, with whom he shared for so many years joys and hardships in the bookstore of Bari, reminding us that after being together on earth as apostles in their service to God, follows also their being together in heaven in perfect bliss.

This disciple of the Divine Master will be remembered by everyone – from the lay staff and the many Christians who knew him – as a very friendly person, affable, calm in his attitude, always able to mediate in the inevitable misunderstandings, welcoming and respectful of everyone regardless of their dress, able to balance the economic needs of the bookstore without losing sight of the apostolic dimension. Many seminarians and different Paulines who have had him as teacher of the apostolate will always remember him as a person capable of encouraging and helping them in times of difficulty and doubt.

While we now intercede for his soul before the Divine Master, we ask his prayer so that the Pauline apostolate, which he so much loved, may spread some more in the five Continents.

*Rome, 18 January 2016*

*Fr Stefano Stimamiglio*

*The funeral will be held on Tuesday, 19 January at 15:30 in the Sub crypt of the Sanctuary of Mary Queen of Apostles in Rome. The body will be buried the next day in the family chapel of Rio San Martino (Venice), after the funeral Mass that will be celebrated in the local Parish at 10:30.*

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