

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
Casa generalizia



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 7:00 today, in the community of the Motherhouse at Alba, due to a sudden heart attack, our brother disciple has returned to the Father.

BR. ANTONINO ALBERTO PARLAVECCHIO
67 years, 52 of Pauline life, 46 of profession

He was born in Roccella Valdemone (Messina – Italy) on 7 February 1948 and at age fifteen he entered the Community of the Motherhouse in Alba, already quickly involved in the life of a community rich with apostolic initiatives. In this atmosphere he decided to start his novitiate in Ostia (Rome) on 8 September 1967 and to make his first religious profession two years after, followed by the perpetual one on 7 September 1975; it was the Holy Year willed by Pope Paul VI, a time “of renewal and reconciliation.”

After this step, Br. Antonino lived in Alba for the rest of his years. His daily apostolate he passed from being a proofreader and page maker to work in the bookstore. For about a decade he will direct the Libreria San Paolo in Alba, the one that faced the San Paolo plaza. But the most demanding and delicate task he has carried out has been his long and precious collaboration with the informatics project for the running of all our bookstores in Italy. He has committed himself in this service with care and competence, we would say full time. His manner of being close to the one who worked in the bookstore showed the primacy of relationships, aided by his temperament, since he was a good man and somebody attentive to rapports, capable of smiling or not being overly dramatic, above all in the most difficult moments, when this new program was yet to be started. From his words reported in a letter, addressed years back to the Provincial Superior, we can understand how he has tried to make concrete what he believed in the depth of his heart: «Persons, and not things, would have occupied the first place».

Precisely to help his confreres and the lay co-workers, he has done everything to organize specific and repeated courses, traveling several times to the bookstores to facilitate the use of this new informatics system. He has not spared sleep and even his health to answer the various needs, always trying to understand the real needs of those who operated in this apostolate so much loved by him. In his desire to be of the greatest help, he has also dedicated himself to study and to a deepening effort, even as a self-taught person, demonstrating his apostolic doggedness. Study has effectively always been a passion of his, even if he has never been able to realize the academic one.

Although he lived in Alba, his spirit pushed itself beyond when, upon accepting the invitation to promote the project “The Bible for China,” he, like so many Paulines, has gone out of his way to involve other persons for an effective help for this initiative that is so special.

Br. Antonino leaves us for Heaven on the day when we celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul, a not small coincidence for us who bear his name. At the same time, this our brother greets us while we live the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. Let us liven up the joy of being grafted in the Pauline life, a vocation to sanctity, a call to receive and testify that it is the merciful love of the Father which transforms us into apostles in the culture of communication.

Let us pray to the Divine Master for this our brother; may he too exult in the heavenly liturgy, together with Blessed James Alberione and so many Paulines, both men and women, who are in Christ the Master, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Rome, 25 January 2016

Fr. Domenico Soliman

His funeral will take place on Wednesday 27 January, at 3 p.m. in the Temple of Saint Paul in Alba. His body will be buried in the city cemetery.

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