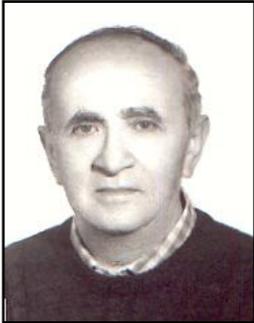


«As we have been united  
in the profession of the faith,  
so let us keep ourselves united  
in suffrage and intercession».  
(Fr. Alberione)



At approximately 4 PM on 11 November 2017, at the Community of Alba "Divina Provvidenza", our brother Disciple returned to the Father's house

**BROTHER DOMENICO PIETRO NEGRI**  
**92 years, 67 of Pauline life, 65 of profession**

«I ask to be admitted to the perpetual profession so that, through the observance of the vows, I could sanctify myself and save many souls through the Apostolate of the Editions». The longing for an active holiness of Pauline colour, expressed by these few lines addressed to Primo Maestro on the day of the Solemnity of the Assumption of 1957 and written on the eve of his definitive vows, characterized the life of Brother Domenico Pietro Negri, whom we will remember as one of the last "bookshop masters" in the Province of Italy.

Domenico, was born in Trovo, about forty miles southwest of Milan, on 16 February 1925, from Papa Pietro (from whom he would take the name of religious profession) and Mama Maria. Baptized the next day in the local parish of San Biagio, he lived in the countryside until the outbreak of World War II. In the preceding years, those of Fascism, he participated reluctantly in the activities of the local Balilla National Movement. However, according to the memories of some of the Paulines with whom Brother Pietro confided, at the time of the proclamation of the Republic of Salò (27 September 1943), dissociating himself from the fascist movement, he was arrested and interned in a labour camp in Germany for one year, until the end of the war. An experience that would lead him all his life to love contemporary history, of which he was, in spite of himself, the protagonist and above all to always show a lot of sensitivity to the suffering people he has encountered over the long years spent in our communities and in the bookshop.

Domenico walked through the door of the Cinisello Balsamo community on 2 May 1950, at a young age of not more than 25 years, to begin the first formation. In the following March he moved to Rome to undergo the novitiate year at Villa San Giuseppe, on Portuense Street. In the Eternal City, he emitted the first profession on 19 March 1952, before confirming it forever, always in Rome, on 8 September 1957. These were years when, suited to his personal attitudes, he was immediately directed to the apostolate of the bookshop, who lived with the same missionary enthusiasm that he felt at his early stages at home. During the years of formation, the judgments were always positive and encouraging for the young Disciple, because he could integrate with rare capacity the entire apostolic, human and fraternal dimension. «It is a remarkably reassuring element for the environment in which he lives», wrote the Master, Fr. Franco Testi, on the final evaluation prepared before the perpetual profession.

This positive judgment will be confirmed by countless confreres and customers of our bookshops for many years, between Rome (1951-1959),

---

Catania (1959-1973), Florence (1973-1977 and 1981-2017) and Genoa (1977-1981), that will always meet him in his indefensible work of spreading the Good News and his personal testimony of life.

Helped by a great memory for the faces of so many priests, religious and lay people whom he met in the bookstore and for the innumerable titles of book novelties, Brother Pietro with his cheerfulness knew how to make the places he attended spaces of true humanity. If this led him to suffer in some circumstances, this did not prevent him to cultivate profound friendships, such as that with the then President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, Msgr. Gualtiero Bassetti who, when he entered the bookshop of Florence, he tried to exchange with him two words and gave him a competent bookshop advice. He then knew personally all the parish priests, with their merits and defects, but remembering them only for seconds in order to serve them in the best of ways. Even the Sisters who, so many, frequented the bookshop, not only to look for books and useful material for their formation and apostolate, but also to receive his fraternal and affectionate irony.

Many confreres remember him for his vocational sensitivity and his constant encouragement to younger Paulines, a gift not rare to our bookshop brothers. Even the vocation group that revolved around the bookshop of Florence in the '90s, was always accompanied by him with discretion and enthusiasm.

Until the last time in Florence, Brother Pietro tried to make himself useful in the bookshop and in the community reception, always devoting a lot of time to meet the people who wanted to find him. Then, last February, too weakened because of age, he left Florence for the “*Divina Provvidenza*” community of Alba, only to find out there the aggressive tumour in the stomach that in a few months brought him, with some final suffering but accompanied by the consoling presence of Brother Lukasz Jedrak, to the definitive meeting with the Trinity.

Brother Pietro is now being added to the 601 Paulines who already enjoy the eternal prize. We entrust him, in this sad moment of goodbye but with grateful memory, to God, who consoles the righteous and dries every tear from their eyes (Ap 21:4).

Rome, 12 November 2017



Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The funeral will be held on Monday, 13 November 2017, at 10 AM at the Church of Saint Paul in Alba. His remains will then be buried in the city cemetery.*

The circumscription Superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Cost. 65 and 65.1).