



Following a serious road accident at about 9.15 am on Friday, 24 November, in Enugu (Nigeria), has entered into eternal life our

**CLERIC BAKAM YOHANNA BASSAHWA**  
**25 years, 7 of Pauline life, 2 months of Religious Profession**

As Bassahwa was preparing himself for the Feast of Blessed James Alberione together with the community of Enugu and in communion with the entire Pauline Family around the world, Jesus the Divine Master called him to Himself in the prime of his youth. It was just two and a half months ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> September, that he made his First Profession. He leaves behind his father, mother, one brother, three sisters, confreres of the community and a lot of friends.

What took away the life of young Yohanna was a tragic road accident in Enugu where we have our community and whose member he was. After the morning mass on Friday, 24 November, Bassahwa along with some members of the community got into a car and was going towards Nsuka, about 60 kms north of Enugu, to attend the funeral of Mr Fidelis Mbah, who passed away on last 24 October and he was the father of one of our Clerics, Paschal, belonging to the same community. Our confreres along with some of our staff were travelling in two vehicles when one of the vehicles, driven by a staff, was suddenly hit from behind by a service bus carrying passengers. The bus on a very high speed moving on the same lane and could not be stopped in time for reasons still not known. The car was thrown out of the road and fell into a nearby bush. Yohanna, who was seated at the back seat, was hurled out of the car and he died on the spot due to a severe head injury. Besides the death of two passengers who were in the bus, Fr Martins Obasi, one of the first two Nigerian Pauline priests, who was sitting in the front seat of the car was also injured but he is said to be out of danger.

Bakam Yohanna Bassahwa was born on 6 September 1992 to Mr Yohanna Bassahwa and Rifkatua at Kachia in the state of Kaduna, Nigeria. After having completed the high school studies in his native town, he entered the Congregation on 6 October 2010 in the community of Enugu. After an year of Aspirancy, in October 2011, he was transferred to the community of Ibadan where he joined the Major Seminary of Sts Peter and Paul to begin his four-year philosophy programme. This was followed by his one-year Postulancy programme in the same community. At the completion of his Postulancy, he left of Lagos to enter the Novitiate on 8 September and at the end of which he made his first Religious Profession on 8 September this year. After spending almost a month with his family, he was transferred to the community of Enugu where he began his Theological studies from the *Bigard Memorial Seminary*.

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Our confreres in Nigeria remember Yohanna as a person of few words but with high ideals and a great capacity in evaluating himself and the life in the Congregation. He had a characteristic smile of his own whenever he spoke with someone and which was very fascinating for anyone who would come in contact with him. Indeed, a true son of Alberione, he was the type of a young man whom every formator would love to have under his care. He was very honest, committed, intelligent, simple, trustworthy, responsible, extremely joyful and loving. It is a great loss for the superiors who could entrust to Yohanna any responsibility with great confidence. He had always shown a great sense of belonging to the Congregation. He was very friendly, lovable, understanding and exemplary towards his companions. Yohanna possessed great leadership qualities and skills for organization which was discovered while he was the student representative during the four years of his philosophy in Ibadan. He had always manifested great love for the Pauline apostolate and whenever time and occasion permitted he was available for whatever form of apostolate with great spirit of dedication and sacrifice. The Society of St Paul in the Nigerian soil was considering him as a strong pillar for its future missionary activities. Of course, the Lord had but a different plan for him and for the Congregation in Nigeria!

In this very year, we have lost a novice from the Region of Congo on 20 February and now a young Junior from Nigeria! Now that they enjoy the beatific vision in heaven, we can confidently approach them for the various needs of our communities in the African soil and specially for our young people in formation.

Rome, 24 November 2017



Fr Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*The date of the funeral service and the place of burial will be communicated in due time.*

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