

In the Father's House

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



At 11 AM of Sunday, local time, 14 January 2018, at the community of “Divina Provvidenza” of Alba, our confrere

FATHER DOMENICO FEDELE BRANDOLINO
78 years, 64 of Pauline life, 56 of profession and 49 of priesthood

died due to a tumour metastasis. A life led on tiptoes is that of Father Domenico. Those who knew him certainly remember his delicate traits, not without a natural shyness, that he had since childhood.

Domenico was born on 26 November 1939 in Caramanico Terme (Pescara) in a charming medieval village at 650 meters above sea level, located in the heart of the Majella National Park. His family, of modest conditions, is composed of father Nicola, mother Assunta and six among brothers and sisters. Domenico had, from an early age, an attraction for the things of the Spirit and decided, with the consent of his parents, to enter the Society of Saint Paul, not yet even 14 years old: it was 27 September 1953 when he crossed the threshold of the community of Pescara, opened just 11 years before.

Like all his companions, he lived the Pauline formation as our Founder thought about it: study, prayer and apostolate. After his very first years at the House, he took the religious habit in Alba on 30 June 1958, and then entered the novitiate at Albano Laziale two years later. On 7 September 1961, he made his first religious profession, still in Albano Laziale. The masters of formation were happy with him: aside from noticing his timidity that sometimes led him to withdraw from the group, however, he demonstrated a sincere dedication to the apostolate, sincere piety and a connaturality with the dimension of poverty, having very few needs for himself, an human trait he inherited probably from his family. Speaking of apostolate, during the long years of formation spent between the communities of Pescara and Alba he would work in the paperback sector, warehouse and bookstore. Even in studies he would manage quite well, which is why the formators saw him right away suited to deal with young people and teaching.

After the first profession, the young cleric stayed in Rome for theological formation, which he would complete by obtaining a license in Sacred Theology. Then followed the diaconal ordination (5 May 1968) and the priestly ordination, 30 June 1968, which took place in the Shrine of Mary Queen of the Apostles by the laying on of the hands of Cardinal Angelo Dall'Acqua.

Long years of teaching followed between Francavilla a Mare (Chieti) and Rome (1969-1980). In 1981, we saw him for a year in the community of Bari, where, in addition to teaching, he dedicated himself to the apostolate

of diffusion in the bookstore. Immediately afterwards, however, he moved to Cinisello Balsamo, where he remained until 1984, always engaged in teaching in the classroom but also as vice-president of the local school. In that same year, he returned to Pescara as a vocation animator, right there where he had entered 31 years earlier. Here it would only be two years because in 1986 the Superiors moved him to Alba, in particular in the Periodicals Community. In the city where the Pauline Family was born, he would remain there uninterrupted until his death.

In Alba, Father Domenico began a new life, dedicated above all to the apostolate in the editorial office, dealing above all with *Pastoral Life*, the monthly magazine wanted by the Primo Maestro for the ongoing formation of the Italian priests. In that reality, he also held the position of local Superior (2000-2006 and 2009-2012) and of Delegate, practically until the merger of that community with the *Casa Madre* (2013).

In addition to the many brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family, the Diocese of Alba also gratefully remembers our confrere for the various pastoral services he carried out within that local church in his over 30 years of permanence: in particular the parish community of Saints Peter and Paul in Neive and the religious men and women of the area, Father Domenico having been for several years the episcopal vicar for the consecrated life, animating many retreats.

Grateful to the Lord for having granted us the delicate companionship of this apostle for so many years, we take leave of him with the words of the Apostle: «*Maranà tha: come, o Lord!*» (1Cor 16,22).

Rome, 15 January 2018



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 10 AM, at the St. Paul Church in Alba. The rite will be presided by the Bishop of Alba, Msgr. Marco Brunetti. The mortal remains of Father Domenico will be immediately interred in the local cemetery.

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