



At 12.15 AM (local time) on 7 November 2018, died at the Community of Rome "Timothy Giaccardo" (Province of Italy) our confrere

FATHER DAVIDE ANTONIO MARIA ARPE

76 years of age, 52 of Pauline life, 46 of Profession and 41 of Priesthood

«Life is a gift from God, and it is indispensable to live it for Him and for others». Father Davide presented himself to the readers of the website he created in 2004 (<https://digilander.libero.it/credente2/benvenuto.htm>). A phrase that can be the magnifying glass through which reread his parable of life.

Davide was born on 5 November 1942 in Sestri Levante (Genoa) to his father Antonio and mother Maria, third son after two sisters. He was baptized ten days later in the parish church of Sestri, dedicated to St Bartholomew. On 28 May 1950 he received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Chiavari. In his youth he followed his father in the conduct of his business in the country, but his heart was beating elsewhere..., that is, to the rhythm of the music that he, together with his rock music group, created and played (as a drummer...) in local of the ligurian riviera. These were the roaring '60s, those of the economic boom, of the Second Vatican Council, of a climate of general optimism towards the future.

In all this, the young Davide had an experience of conversion, which radically transformed his way of seeing things and imagining his future, so much so that, after a brief period of discernment, 6 November 1966 – at the age of just 24 – he was admitted to the aspirantate, after having been approved by the Primo Maestro, in the House of Albano Laziale, the first house of formation and novitiate in Italy. His father's professional vocation had never in fact attracted him, as he later confessed to those who knew him closely, and that call of the Lord had finally opened a future full of hope. During his training in Albano he started the full Pauline apostolate and took care of the paperback, the shipping of records and magazines, the rotogravure, proof reading. He entered the novitiate in Albano Laziale from September 1971 to 8 September 1972, the day in which he made his first religious profession, assuming the names of Antonio and that of Mary, the name of his mother in the flesh and of his Mother in the spirit, the Queen of Apostles, to whom he has always been very devoted.

A helpful character and commitment to the apostolate helped him to be admitted to the priestly ordination, he was ordained in the church of St Anthony di Chiavari on 10 July 1977 by Mons. Daniele Ferrari.

Impatient of compromises, consistent with his principles and with a good observance of poverty, perhaps sometimes a little scrupulous, Fr Davide achieved first the bachelor at the Pontifical Theological Faculty San Bonaventura *Seraficum* of Rome and then, given his passion for Pauline Spirituality, the Licentiate in Spiritual Theology at the Pontifical University *Antonianum*, also in Rome. After the ordination we found him first in Albano Laziale (1977-1982), where he worked in the field of records / audio cassettes and the director's room, then in Florence (1982-1984) to promote the Pauline periodicals. This was followed by the transfer to the community of Bari, where he remained until 2006, taking care of the formation of our young people and of the animation of the Pauline Family, and also for several years a valued typically Pauline ministry, both within the Interreligious Theological Study of Bari as a professor of Social Communications and as a collaborator of the Communications Office of the Archdiocese of Bari-Bitonto. In 2006 he was nominated for three years as Delegate of the house of "Don Giacomo Alberione" in Albano Laziale. From 2009 to 2014 he was in Modena, where he collaborated with our Cultural Center and with the Church of St Domenico, entrusted to the Society St Paul, offering his help also to update the digital database of the religious institutes present in the Diocese. Since 2014, following the worsening of his health and the emergence of an aggressive form of cancer to the digestive system, he was transferred to Rome to be better monitored in his illness that led him finally, in the night between 6 and November 7, at death.

One of the great passions of Fr Davide was his site, which was always updated until the end, taking care to update it with the documents of the Church and with many news from the Pauline Family. In his welcome page he leaves us his last message, now that he has reached Jesus, whom he loved and served: *«Secured to the certainties of those who have preceded us, believing in the Son of God made man to free humanity from the power of evil, we look with confidence at the present and open ourselves to future events»*.

Rome, 8 November 2018



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral of Fr Davide will take place on Thursday, 8 November 2018, at 4 PM in the Shrine of Mary Queen of the Apostles in Rome. Subsequently his mortal remains will continue to Sestri Levante, where he will be buried in the family tomb.

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