



At about 4:30 pm on 20 November 2019, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master died in the community of Canfield (Ohio, United States)

BROTHER JOHN PASCHAL DUESMAN
87 years, 58 of Pauline life, 55 of religious profession

John was born on 19 September 1932 in Pilot Point, Texas, a town in Texas about 90 kilometers from Dallas. Papa Henry is a farmer, while mother Pauline Altebaumer provides the house and eight children (three brothers and five sisters), of which John is the third in order of birth. He crossed the threshold of the Staten Island community on 29 August 1961, at the age of 29, shortly after his mother died. Before joining the House, in addition to high school, he attended various specialization courses (radio and TV repair, welding, administration) and worked, in addition to his father's farm, in some local companies. All activities that will be useful to him in his future religious life. In fact, the brothers of the United States Province remember that in the community and in the apostolate, he has always cared for the maintenance of cars and typographical machines. Finally, from 1954 to 1956 he served in the United States Navy, of which he was for some years, to his great pride, a reservist.

He completed the biennial novitiate at Canfield, where on 8 September 1964 he made his first religious profession as Disciple of the Divine Master, assuming the religious name of Paschal, with whom he will be universally known from then on. During the years of temporary profession in Staten Island he completed some courses in theology, Church history, graphic arts and creative writing, whose variety expresses much of the eclecticism with which he interpreted the score of Pauline life until his death. But, above all, it is remarkable that the dimension of study will never lose its appeal in him: in his ongoing formation there are, in fact, various biblical courses of spirituality, on religious vows and on the dynamics of community life.

The formators on his way to the perpetual profession were very happy with the young Disciple in all the typical expressions of the "4 wheels". Obviously, in the years of the initial formation, the apostolate cannot be missing: he deals, in fact, with the maintenance and operation of the printing machines and the bookbinder that produce the books of the publishing house.

From his first profession (1964) until 2002, Brother Paschal lives in the Staten Island community, continuing to work in the bookbinding and warehouse. In 2002, he was transferred to the Canfield community, where he worked in the audiovisual sector, in particular editing the speeches of some national Catholic preachers. But it is also a time in which he is strongly active in the Movement for Life, participating in national events and receiving some awards. It will be, thanks to his mediation that in 2002, through the Knights of

Columbus, of which he is an active member, he will be able to do numerous charitable works in favor of the elderly and that a billboard may be posted in favor of life rising along the main highway of Youngstown (Ohio). Thanks to him, moreover, a small memorial was built for the unborn children (“Memorial to the unborn”) in the property of our community, blessed on 26 October 2002 by Bishop Thomas Joseph Tobin, Bishop of Youngstown. He was also an active supporter of the Bella Women’s Center, a national life support center for young mothers in difficulty.

Brother Paschal has always maintained a warm and affectionate relationship with the Superiors General who succeeded one another over time, from whom he received in return a feeling of paternal guidance and encouragement. At the beginning of the 1980s, in particular, from a correspondence with Father Perino, all his gratitude to the Divine Master emerged for the new printing machinery and the perfect binder just purchased on Staten Island, which greatly increased the production capacity of the local printing house.

Brother Paschal was a true witness of Pauline spirituality, always faithful to daily Mass and to the Eucharistic visit. He also represented a strong support for the local Pauline Family, in particular for the Pious Disciples, the Daughters of Saint Paul and, more recently, the Holy Family Institute. Over the last few years, a severe spinal stenosis has invalidated him considerably, causing him to bend badly. But he has patiently endured the consequences until, at the beginning of 2019, he was discovered with an esophagus cancer. The therapies, however, did not give any results and in October, it was learned that the disease had already spread to the lungs, liver and bones. He faced this last adversity accepting the will of God for him until, surrounded by his brothers and many friends, he surrendered his soul to God to receive the eternal prize. His fidelity to the Pauline vocation, even in the most adverse conditions, are the testimony to all and to the new generations of Paulines that God is faithful and that it is worth spending one’s life for the sake of Hm.

Rome, 22 November 2019



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral of Brother Paschal will take place, together with that of Father Jeffrey Mickler, on 26 November 2019 at 11 am (local time) in the chapel of the Pauline community of Canfield. His remains will rest in the Sterling (Oklahoma) cemetery.

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