



At 2:45 p.m. on January 3, 2020, the Disciple of the Divine Master

BROTHER MARIO GIUSEPPE BERARDI

88 years of age, 69 of Pauline life, 62 of religious profession

died in the infirmary of the community of Rome (Italy).

A shy character, accustomed to working hard and sparing with words, Brother Mario left as he lived, without making too much noise.

He was born in Manerbio on 5 February 1931 into a large family of eleven children, composed of father Piero, mother Teresa, three brothers and seven sisters, one of whom, Sr. Lucia Imelda (deceased in 2016) joined the Daughters of St Paul. Baptized four days later in the parish church of Manerbio dedicated to St. Lawrence, Mario grew up attending schools in his village and saw his heart grow in the desire to consecrate himself to God. At the age of 19 he decided to enter the Society of St Paul. He crossed the threshold of the community of Alba on October 4, 1950, quickly becoming part of the intense dynamic of Pauline community life, consisting of prayer, apostolate and study.

From the very beginning, those traits of his character that would mark his entire existence were manifested: seriousness, industriousness, absolute dedication to the apostolate to the limits of scrupulousness; a sense of responsibility, firm piety, humility and generosity, extreme reserve that at times led him to isolation. His deep introspection and strong sensitivity, characteristics attested by the various formators in the early years of his Pauline life, sometimes led him to close himself off in pessimism, which he managed to overcome by adapting his considerable technical skills to the complex apostolic situations he was called to face in the 1960s and 1970s, a time of great and impetuous growth in the apostolate.

He made his first religious profession in Alba on September 8, 1957, confirming it in perpetuity on the same day 5 years later. His first obedience called him to stop at the Mother House in Alba, where he was assigned to the shipping department of the Periodicals. Here, taking advantage of his remarkable technical skills, he developed a machine to pack more quickly the copies of the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*, which soon reached the incredible amount of one million of copies. He remained in Alba until 1967, when he was transferred to the paperback department of the House of Rome. Here he carried out his apostolate until 1982, also working alongside Brother Giuseppe Giacomo Bortolotti in the mechanical workshop, where he could continue to exploit his practical skills.

Afterwards he was sent for five years to the bookbindery of the House of Vicenza, before returning to the paperback department in Alba. It is July 1987. He remained in the Mother House until 1996, when obedience still called him to Rome, where he would spend the rest of his days until the fulfilment of his earthly existence.

In Rome, as long as the printing house remained open (2002), he lent his work in paperback. Afterwards he made himself available for the many maintenance works that the House of Rome required for its good functioning. For a certain period of time he also dedicated himself to the care of our estate in Porta Medaglia, in the southern suburbs of Rome.

Brother Mario suffered from chronic atrial fibrillation and chronic renal failure. His death was caused by a cardiovascular arrest that occurred in the early afternoon of January 3 in the infirmary in Rome, following a previous hospitalization at the San Giovanni Addolorata Hospital in Rome due to severe cardiorespiratory insufficiency and acute pulmonary edema, situations that did not return.

Those who passed through our District of Via Alessandro Severo in Rome could not have failed to notice this religious maneuvering in the courtyard for some service dressed in cassock, an external sign that wanted to signify his great fidelity to the charisma he espoused at a young age and which he always nurtured with his love for the First Master, Don Giacomo Alberione, whom he knew, admired and from whom he was admitted to perpetual profession. We now take leave of him, waiting to meet him again in eternal life, quoting from the beginning of his will: *«I thank God for having created me, made me Christian and called me to religious life. I testify that I wish to die in the Holy Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church and in the profession of all the truth that she teaches. May God have mercy on me during my life, but especially at the hour of my death».*

Rome, 4 January 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

Brother Mario's funeral will take place on January 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (local time) in the Subscript of the Queen of Apostles Shrine in Rome. His remains will rest in the Laurentino cemetery in Rome.

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