

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)



On the afternoon of 8 April, Wednesday of Holy Week, in Staten Island (New York, United States), the Disciple of the Divine Master reached the Father's house

BROTHER HENRY LAWRENCE SCHUBERT
94 years, 60 of Pauline life, 57 of religious profession

Brother Lawrence, who had been progressively weakening for a few years, died of lung complications during ambulance transport from the Carmel Richmond Nursing Center on Staten Island, the nursing home where he was hospitalized, at the Emergency Department of Staten Island University Hospital North. Despite having been tested negative for the coronavirus swab, according to the health professionals who advised of his death, the symptoms that led him to the end was that typical of Covid-19. It is possible, therefore, that this brother of ours is also among the many victims of the pandemic that is affecting New York these days.

Henry was born on 20 March 1926 in Brooklyn (New York), the only child of Henry and Mary Hedberg. The very wealthy family accompanies him in his human and religious growth. After the earlier compulsory school and later the higher studies, he graduated in electrical engineering from Manhattan College which, not before having completed his military service in the artillery of the American army, would introduce him to the world of work for a few years. In 1951, he was employed, in fact, at Sperry Gyroscope Co., a leading company in the design of electrical and electronic equipment, and worked there until 1959 as a technical writer, a professional figure who deals with planning, writing and updating the technical documentation.

In 1959, at the age of 33, he decided to make the leap: he quit his job and joined the Society of Saint Paul as a postulant. It is 14 September 1959 when he crosses the threshold of the Derby community. Among the reasons he provides for this radical choice, reported in his letter written during the novitiate, there is the opportunity to make fruitful for apostolic purposes, that is, in the field of social communication, his studies and his professional experience. But another explanation is more striking, more spiritual and with a very Pauline flavor: overcoming his dominant passion, pride, and offering his life for the conversion of his father.

He lived his novitiate in Canfield, where on 8 September 1962, he made his first profession as a disciple of the Divine Master, assuming the religious name of Lawrence. He perpetually professed religious vows on 8 September 1967 in Staten Island, a community in which he will then live all his religious life. The reports of the Masters of Formation describe the young person's vocation as sincere and very promising: exemplary piety, very diligent and efficient in the apostolate, exemplary in the practice of poverty, respectful of common life, good character, modest.

In his apostolic life, he deals with long periods of promotion and marketing. But the role that will engage him most deeply will be that of being Bursar: for 35 years, that is until the late 2000s, he manages the finances of the community and those of Alba House Publishing, the publishing house of Staten Island, also suffering personally when the economic situation presents difficulties and problems.

In the testimony of the brothers, he has always distinguished himself for his dedication to the apostolate and for his fidelity to the life of prayer and has been a remarkable resource for community life for his uncommon sense of humor. Great lover of music and singing, he always animated the Mass and the daily Visit.

Brother Lawrence remained lucid and mentally active until the end of his life. A fall in his room in March made it necessary to first be hospitalized and then stay in the Carmel Richmond nursing home on Staten Island, where the aforementioned lung complications occurred.

In his long life, Brother Lawrence embodied the Pauline spirit, cultivated and lived in the manner of the Disciple of the Divine Master: active, humble, concrete, always available. From the house of the Father, may he intercede now for the new generations of Paulines, called to announce the happy news of Easter in the current culture of communication.

Rome, 10 April 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The farewell and burial will take place as soon as the situation makes it possible.

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