

# 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)



Our brother priest

## **GIUSEPPANGELO FELICE MASTRANDREA**

**81 years, 68 of Pauline life, 59 of profession and 52 of priesthood**

died at the Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome (Italy) at about 12 noon (local time) on Sunday, 3 May.

Father Giuseppangelo, affectionately called “Don Peppino” by the confreres and the boys of the Good Shepherd Parish of Rome, where he resided for a long time, died following the effects on the respiratory system of the coronavirus, which went to worsen an overall situation already complicated by the diabetes, from a general renal failure and from other previous pathologies. Several weeks ago, Father Peppino had contracted the virus in the infirmary of Rome and had been hospitalized at the Gemelli Polyclinic.

Father Peppino was born in Grumo Appula, in the province of Bari, on 9 March 1939, of Papa Felice and Mama Teresa. She would like all six male children to become priests. And one, little Giuseppangelo, satisfied her immediately, entering the house in Bari on 8 September 1951, followed two years later by his brother Tommaso, also a Pauline priest. These are the initial times of that community, founded only a year earlier. Father Tommaso recounts: *«A country villa, with a shed, a former carpentry shop and storage of agricultural tools. The old villa was demolished to build the seminary and to set up a printing press. When we boys arrived, there was only one parallelepiped under construction and the shed housed the community. The Superior was Father Antonio Brossa and Father Primo Boni, the teacher of the boys. The Primo Maestro, who came to visit us often, said that we were like in the cave of Bethlehem»*. A fresco that describes well those fantastic but very difficult early years of our presence in the Apulian capital. And which tells us, together, how cheerfulness and complicity made up for the many shortcomings of those distant years. In fact, Father Tommaso still reveals: *«Father Peppino, in order to convince me to enter college, had described to me, in Hollywood language, a magnificent castle, a large playground, and every good things to eat. He had jubilantly cheated me, with my mother as accomplice»*. A glimpse of life that describes well the playful soul of Father Peppino, which will not abandon him to the end.

After a few years of initial formation, he lived the novitiate in Albano Laziale. Here on 8 September 1960, he made his first vows, assuming the religious name of Felice. A name that goes well with what his formators and companions said about him, who saw him as a happy boy with his vocation, with an exuberant and witty nature, of good company, conciliatory, capable of always seeing the positive side of things. These are scattered notes of a lucky character, very suitable for the long years of common life that await him.

---

He professed his vows perpetually in Rome on 8 September 1965. Finally, still here, he was ordained a priest on 30 June 1967 by the laying on of the hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial. Over the years, he obtained a diploma in Sociology from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome and a license in Ecumenical Theology from the Faculty of Bari. His first assignment was in Modena as a vocation animator. In 1970, he returned to Bari, where for a decade he was engaged in the bookstore, also as Director. The return to Rome followed, to the parish of Jesus Good Shepherd, where until 1986 he exercised the parish ministry and was assistant scout. From 1986 to 1992, he returned to the community of Bari to assist his sick mother and, after another brief interval in Rome (1992-1995), we found him for five years at the Mother House in Alba, where he was a contributor to the weekly *Gazzetta d'Alba* and vocation animator. A three-year period followed as Superior of the House of Genoa (2001-2003) and the return to the beloved Parish of Jesus Good Shepherd, where he remained until 2012, highly esteemed by the people of that populous district of Rome. Among the many memories of him remains that of "his" typography, where he prepared and printed the parish bulletin distributed in many copies to the faithful. The last few years have seen him once again protagonist in his native Bari, where he carried out his ministry in the parish of Monteverde di Grumo Appula, his hometown, and at the Monumental Cemetery of Bari, earning the esteem of the local Archbishop, Mons. Francesco Cacucci, who, when he learned of his death, did not fail to express his gratitude to relatives for these years of precious ministry.

Since September 2019, Father Peppino was hospitalized in the infirmary of Rome for the aggravation of an ear infection. A time lived in serenity and with explicit gratitude to our brothers who dedicatedly engaged in helping the sick.

We close this grateful remembrance with the phrase of Pope Francis reported in the little image printed on the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood, which summarizes his life more than many words: *«I find three significant characteristics in our priestly joy: it is one joy that anoints us, it is an incorruptible joy and a missionary joy that radiates to everyone, beginning in reverse: from the most distant».*

Rome, 5 May 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*After cremation, the ashes will be placed in the family chapel of the cemetery of Grumo Appula (Bari). The funeral will be celebrated on site as soon as possible.*

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