

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)



At about 9:15 AM yesterday, 10 May, our confrere of the San Paolo Community in Rome died at the Umberto I hospital, due to heart complications after a serious ischemia aggravated by the effects of the coronavirus Covid-19

FATHER MARCELLO LUIGI VIOLA

86 years, 71 of Pauline life, 63 of profession, 56 of priesthood

A shy person *«but grateful, who kept in touch with everyone and did not fail to be present with a phone call on important occasions in life, perhaps remembering all the members of the family»*. This testimony of Father Giusto Truglia shows us a quality of our confrere, who worked in the field of vocation ministry in the 60s and 70s, when in Italy the boys knew our communities mainly thanks to the parish priests. For twenty years, Father Marcello travelled around Puglia, Basilicata and Calabria together with brother Giovanni Daniele to meet the young people who would then join the Bari community. First with the Fiat 600, and then with the Fiat 127, they grinded many kilometres together, full of hope and with many books printed in the community, which they often left as gifts to the children as a concrete testimony of our mission. *«He had the perseverance and humility to turn to parish priest after parish priest, from one diocese to another, to ask for vocations... There are hundreds and hundreds, perhaps thousands, of the boys who, after his invitation, passed to the Society of Saint Paul: if some then have become Pauline priests and disciples, nevertheless the many who have left along the way have not ceased to maintain contact with Saint Paul. And Father Marcello was the medium of this bond that was perpetuated over time, with gratitude from the boys who in Saint Paul had found an environment capable of combining study, play, initiation to work, human and spiritual formation, love for the Pauline apostolate»*. These words too are a cross-section of Father Marcello's life and person: the fruit of his work are precisely the young people who have become Paulines.

Father Marcello was born on 8 February 1934 in Trenta, a hilly village in the province of Cosenza. He is the fourth child of six brothers, where Papa Nunzio and Mama Cesarina De Rose educated their children to faith and a simple life.

He entered the Congregation in the community of Montalto Uffugo (Cosenza), before it is transferred to Bari, on 7 February 1949. He remained there for six years, until he reached the novitiate in Albano Laziale on 7 September 1955. He made his first profession in this community on 8 September 1956, also taking the name of Luigi.

Thus began the period of juniorate in Rome where he made his religious profession perpetually on 8 September 1961. He was ordained deacon on 5 May 1963 and on 7 July of the same year ordained priest by Msgr. Ettore Cunial.

After a year, he left for the community of Bari, to take care of vocation ministry: from 1964 until 1979 for 15 uninterrupted years, he dedicated himself to making our mission known, except for one year (1968-1969) where he attended some theology courses in Rome at the Lateran Pontifical University. From 1979 to 1981, he returned to Rome for the license in spiritual theology, after which we found him in Bari, engaged in the accounting and animation of the Holy Family Institute (1981-1983).

In 1983, Father Marcello left Puglia and proceeded to Alba, still engaged in vocation ministry until in 1985 when the Superiors proposed that he return to Rome to take care of the spiritual animation of the group of Pauline Cooperators (1985-1994).

In September 1994, Father Marcello left for Cinisello Balsamo, to be inserted in the editorial sector of our publishing house. It has been 11 years in which that community valued his love for our apostolate.

In the following years our confrere lived in the communities of Modena (2005-2006), Tor San Lorenzo (2006-2007), Rome (2007-2014) and Bari (2014-2017), always engaged in the ministry.

The last stage of his life was the *San Paolo* Community of Rome, where he was available for ministry and other community commitments. On 7 April, he was hit by a severe ischemia, which limited all the movements of the left part of the body and then caused his death yesterday morning.

We bid goodbye to Father Marcello, who reached eternal life on the fifth Sunday of Easter, the day on which the Liturgy of the Word gives us the passage of the Gospel so dear to Blessed James Alberione and to all of us: «*I am the way, the truth and the life. Nobody comes to the Father except through me*» (Jn 14:6). How many times has he heard these words of Jesus, how many times had he shared them with young people or during the biblical missions of the Pauline Family in which he often participated... Now these words fill with meaning his last meeting with the Master.

Rome, 11 May 2020

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral of Father Marcello will be celebrated on Tuesday, 12 May at 10 AM in the Sub crypt of the Regina degli Apostoli Sanctuary. The body will be buried at the Laurentino cemetery in Rome.

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