

# 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 10:30 AM (local time) on 30 October 2020 our brother priest died in Cinisello Balsamo (Milan, Italy)

## **FATHER TOMMASO ANGELO COSCARELLA** **85 years, 73 of Pauline life, 66 of profession and 59 of priesthood**

A sudden illness struck Father Tommaso in the morning of 30 October, which was followed by his death shortly after.

He was born on 11 February 1935 in Borgo Partenope (Cosenza). At the age of twelve, he entered the House, in the community of Rome. On 11 September 1947, in an Italy that had just emerged from the war and was taking its first steps towards democracy, he began his path of consecration to God in the Society of Saint Paul. They were hard years, but also very rich in experiences, together with many young people in the Pauline life of that time: study, prayer, apostolate, play.

Tommaso felt a strong call from God. It was another Pauline who had brought him to Father Alberione's court and he felt that path was very suitable for him. In a spiritual testament found among his papers, he recalls when, as an aspirant in middle school, some of his classmates left, creating a certain sense of bewilderment in him. It was his teacher, Father Francesco Zecchinati, who caught a veil of sadness on his face and spoke to him privately. At the confession of the reasons for his state of mind, little Tommaso received great consolation from Father Francesco, together with the invitation to meditate on the words of Psalm 91: «*A thousand will fall by your side and ten thousand to your right; but nothing can strike you*». His paternal blessing and the exhortation to persevere were sufficient reasons for continuing on the vocational journey.

Later, when he was 16, other needs, this time familiar, given the premature death of his father and the need to help at home, put him in doubt. But here too he overcame the crisis and doubts and continued, arriving at the first religious consecration (Rome, 8 September 1954), confirmed in perpetuity four years later, and to priestly ordination, received in Rome on 2 July 1961 by the imposition of the hands of Mons. Ettore Cunial.

A year of pastoral experience in Rome and in the graphic sector of the Pauline magazines followed and then nine years in Catania, as Master and teacher of young boys and, in the last two years, as head in the press. In 1971, he was transferred to Turin, where he dealt with marketing in the diffusion of the book sector. He remained here until 1985, where he was called by obedience to serve the Lord in Cinisello Balsamo, a community he will never abandon, to fill various positions in the Pauline Publishing of the time. Long years awaited him, in which he joined the editorial office as

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a proofreader, but he was also commissioned to oversee the annual publication of the book catalogue and take care of the publishing house's book archive. His precision in work, methodically and meticulousness have made him a very precious brother in recent decades to give today's *Edizioni San Paolo* a solid and lasting structure. He also collaborated in preparing an "editor's grammar", an internal manual for use by proofreaders for the uniform use of upper/lower case, punctuation, etc.

Father Tommaso was very attached to his family of origin, still residing in Borgo Partenope. Here in recent years he loved to spend Christmas and a few weeks during the summer holidays. He returned to the community, in the testimony of his brothers, always physically and spiritually refreshed. The relationship with the mother, while alive, and the sisters has always remained "old fashioned", therefore very respectful. He was very fond of the ministry and in the village Church, he acted as chaplain, especially in the absence of the parish priest.

May the words of Psalm 91, which saved his Pauline vocation at an early age, be now the key to heaven for him but may they be an encouragement for us too, especially in this grave hour of humanity: «*My refuge and my strength, my God , in whom I trust*».

Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020  
Solemnity of All Saints



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*Father Tommaso's funeral will be celebrated in the chapel of the Cinisello Balsamo community on Monday, 2 November at 10:30 AM. The body will continue to Borgo Partenope, where a funeral Mass for suffrage and burial in the city cemetery will take place on Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM.*

***The Superiors of Circumscriptions are to inform their communities for the suffrages prescribed (Const. 65 and 65.1).***