



SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

8 marzo
1916-2016

Centenario della nascita del

VENERABILE ANDREA BORELLO

Nato a Mango (Cuneo), l'8 marzo 1916
Morto a Sanfrè (Cuneo), il 4 settembre 1948



Rome, 8 March 2016

Dear Brothers,

it is with a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord that I write you as, exactly today, we remember the birth of Brother Andrea M. Borello, which took place a hundred years ago. A Pauline that Fr James Alberione pointed out as an example for one's life: «In the light of Saint Joseph, the concern of Brother Andrea Maria Borello was to inform the whole of his life with intense reparatory piety, habitual recollection and silence, a serene docility in generous sharing in the apostolate through technology and propaganda, a constant straining toward Pauline perfection» (*San Paolo*, June 1964).

His life was simple from birth as the son of peasants, marked by the premature death of his father and, after a few years, of the mother. He entered the House in 1936, after reading about the life of Maggiorino Vigolungo, attracted by this young man who worked and gave everything for the Gospel, like the Apostle Paul. He spent his days working in the garden of the community, then the paper mill and in the repair of foot wears for many years.

This disciple of ours of the Divine Master of the early days and today Venerable, shows us the way of personal holiness of those who, not holding back anything for himself or herself, adheres with love and profound freedom to the Father's plan, and embraces the apostolate of communication in union with the priests.

At the same time Andrea Borello, as a religious Brother, is a sign of an essential quality of clerical Congregations, the fraternity. In fact, the recent document *Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church* of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life – a beautiful text to be read individually or in community! – affirms that the presence of the brother «is important, not only for their contribution to meeting material and other needs, but above all because, in these congregations, Religious Brothers are a permanent reminder of the fundamental dimension of brotherhood in Christ which all members should strengthen».

Brother Andrea Borello is a gift for all of us, still able to show us what is essential in our Pauline life. Let us pray to him with greater intensity and familiarity, let us make him known, entrusting to him our communities and the apostolate of communication. May he help us not to seek things for ourselves and to defend stubbornly our ideas and contentment. May he accompany each of us in the following of Jesus Master, so that he may form us to be apostles after his own heart.

Fr. Valdir José De Castro
Superior General