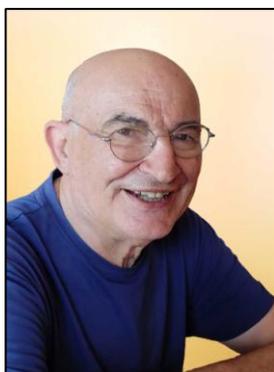


In the Father's House

*«As we have been united
in the profession of the faith,
so let us keep ourselves united
in suffrage and intercession».*
(Fr Alberione)



At 00:30 (local time) on Wednesday, 1 November 2023, he died in the community of Cinisello Balsamo due to lung cancer with bone metastases

BROTHER AMEDEO IGNAZIO DAMINATO

81 years, 69 of Pauline life, 61 of profession

Amedeo was born in Scorzè (Venice, Italy) on 12 February 1942, the seventh of twelve children, seven brothers and five sisters, to parents Augusto and Ester Vian. He entered the community of Alba on 24 August 1954, began his Novitiate on 8 September 1960, made his First Religious Profession on 8 September 1962, taking the name Ignatius. He was definitively consecrated with Perpetual Profession on 8 September 1967.

Brother Amedeo lived his apostolic experience, with the exception of the years 1972-76 spent in the Cinisello Balsamo printing house, almost entirely in the area of bookshops: Modena (1967-68), Catania (1968-70), Bari (1970-72), Milan (1976-80), Genoa (1980-83), Milan (1983-87), Turin (1987-1990), Florence (1990-92), Vicenza (1992-94), Turin (1995-2003), Modena (2003-2004), Milan (from 2004 until the worsening of the disease).

A confrere, considering Brother Amedeo's apostolic commitment, remembers him this way: "He was very willing to accept transfers from one bookshop to another, transfers often dictated by reasons of necessity which always met with his availability and generosity. Often when I was in difficulty, I turned to him because I knew that he wouldn't ask many questions... but he would go. He never made any particular objections, even in anticipation of difficult situations... I think it is difficult to think of a bookshop that was not 'inhabited' by Amedeo, bookshops in which he was almost always present as manager. He was very attentive in customer service as he was also very careful in reorganizing the bookstore he arrived at. He also had great ease and spontaneity in establishing relationships of service and friendship with customers."

Another brother writes: "I have always had great esteem for his correctness and honesty: a sincere and frank person. He accepted the observations made to him. He had no resentments. I appreciated the generosity and passion with which he lived his apostolate in the bookshop, which he frequented as long as he could. Despite his experience, he did not aspire to office. He was demanding of himself. He was a person who loved the company of his confreres. A beautiful example of a real, transparent person, aware of his limitations which he openly acknowledged. A true brother Disciple."

Brother Amedeo was a welcoming and friendly man, he presented himself for what he was: simple and serene, but also strong and decisive. He loved personal and community prayer: even in his illness, as soon as he could, he came to the chapel with the community, put his head on the pew and let himself be led by the community liturgies. He allowed himself to be cared for by

doctors and confreres. Everyone, including doctors, called him the “tough patient.” Moreover, in his illness, he always had surprises in store: when he seemed to be at the end of the line, he rose again with more vigour... and when he seemed to be leaving, despite the precarious conditions, he still seemed to be lingering, when he said goodbye to us, choosing the company of the Saints – in fact he died on the 1st ° November, Solemnity of All Saints – to travel, with those who were expert in guiding towards the goal, the path towards full Life.

He knew how to build serene and fraternal relationships with the younger ones, and he drew enthusiasm and positivity from them. Dedicated to the apostolate – for which he did not spare himself (even during illness, if it gave him a few days of respite, he immediately asked to collaborate in helping out with the community’s accounting) – he still knew how to carve out some space for himself to relax , personal or fraternal: a bike ride, a game of cards, a challenge in the most difficult levels of sudoku.

In these last days, while we were talking about death, which was nevertheless near, he was asked: “Who do you want to see as soon as you close your eyes to this life?” He replied, without hesitation: “The Founder! He welcomed me when I was only 11 years old and accompanied me in all the stages of my youth with a unique, attentive, sober and constant fatherhood.” He was told: “Not your mother?” “No. My Mom right after. The Founder first!” However, the family environment was very dear to him: he often longed for a few days at home, and for that terrace where, in the summer, he would sit breathing the air of the lagoon. Here is Brother Amedeo: a man who loved life in all aspects and his vocation, with all his sacrifices, until the end.

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and give him the eternal reward he so desired, while we ask him to intercede for numerous and holy vocations of brother Disciples in our Congregation.

Rome, 2 November 2023

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral mass will be celebrated in the community in Cinisello Balsamo on 2 November at 4:00 PM. The funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, 4 November, at 10.30 AM, in the Church of Scorzè (Venice). His body will be buried in the city cemetery.

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