



"As we have been united in the profession of faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession."

(Fr. Alberione)

At 12,15 today (local time), 12 May 2011, in the infirmary of the Community San Paolo in Rome, following a serious renal failure, the Divine Master has called our brother Disciple to his eternal reward.

BR. MARIO GIUSEPPE OMEDEI
97years, 65 of Pauline life, 63 of religious profession

With his 97 years, brother Giuseppe was the "dean" of the Congregation, being born on 2 January 1914 in San Damiano d'Asti. Mario – this was his baptismal name – crosses the threshold of the Society of Saint Paul in Alba on 2 August 1945. He spends in Rome the time of his novitiate (1947-1948), at the end of which he makes his first profession on 19 March 1948, taking the name Giuseppe on that occasion. He makes his perpetual profession on 19 March 1953.

Since that time, in his long life, brother Giuseppe will have as his base the community of Rome, and his apostolate can all be summed up in a single service that has committed him for very long years: that of errands-driver. This service was for him an authentic apostolate, contributing to that "course" of the Word (2Tim 2,9) "made paper" – that is, of the magazines that were printed by rotogravure in the Roman area – toward the various destinations in Italy. Many confreres still remember his departures with his truck at 2 o'clock at night and the various stops that he made, like in Florence, Bologna, Padua, Vicenza, Cinisello Balsamo before reaching Alba. Even when already he did not drive anymore "his" truck, he made himself useful doing community services, driving some motor vehicle, always ready until his strength has allowed him.

Thus brother Giuseppe has honored one of the handovers of the Founder: "Redemptive work, work in the apostolate, hard work. Is this not the way of perfection, to put in active service for God all our forces, even the physical ones?... Must we not do, even more as religious, the duty of earning our bread? Has this not been a rule that Saint Paul has imposed upon himself?... Everybody to work! moral, intellectual, apostolic or spiritual work!" (*Abundantes divitiae* 128-129).

Certainly, brother Giuseppe has not limited himself to apostolic work, but has also cultivated spiritual work: being extremely shy in character, a man of few words, accustomed to recollection, he has incarnated the ideal of the disciple in the mind of the Founder, with saint Joseph as model: "Like saint Joseph, the disciples do a tiring work to cooperate in the coming of the Kingdom of God; they follow a way of sanctification similar to his; they find their joy in the spirit of piety, in humble conformity to the will of God, in active quietness" (CISP 347).

We now entrust this dear confrere to the Lord of the dead and the living (Rom 14,9) who awaits the athletes who have "fought according to the rules" to receive his eternal reward (2Tim 2,5). May he intercede for the needs of the Congregation, above all for the vocation of other disciples, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage.

Rome, 12 May 2011

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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