

SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO  
il segretario generale



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 11 p.m. yesterday (local time), 5 January 2011, in the Hospital of San Camillo, where he had been brought from the Hospital of San Giovanni Battista following a pulmonary edema and resulting acute respiratory crisis, our Brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

### **BR. MARIO LUIGI PRANDO**

***77 years, 64 of Pauline life, 57 of religious profession***

Brother Mario was born in Cosseria (Savona) on 23 August 1933. He entered the Congregation on 30 September 1946 at Mondovì and proceeded to Alba. He makes his novitiate in Rome, making here his first religious profession on 19 March 1953 and then his perpetual profession on 8 September 1958. At Alba he had worked on printing machines, while in Rome it was in the subscription Department where, as his superiors affirm, "he does very well and with commitment," notwithstanding his rather frail health and "very thin and very lanky appearance." His superiors describe him as being "of somewhat reserved character," but his "apparent 'grit' and serious and severe face hide and mask a deep sensitivity and spiritual finesse," as Fr. Franco Testi writes in his report for his admission into the perpetual profession.

We still find brother Mario in Rome, busy in the subscription and photographic Departments (until 1965) and eventually as head of the printing press (1965-1971). In 1969 he is elected as General Councilor, a work that costs him not little, and in the period 1974-1976 he is delegate of the Superior General for the community of Albano, where he finds himself facing difficult situations. He writes to the then Superior General, Fr. Raffaele Tonni: "For me the thing is a new sector, having to do with novel technologies where in addition I'm practically alone. I only asked for trust and no interference unless first agreed with me. And as God wanted and with the sincere help of the confreres he came out of it in a satisfying enough manner." The eventual decision of Fr. Tonni to proceed with the juridical regularization of the community of Albano will cause him notable suffering, expressed in a letter (5 November 1976), with which he even submits his resignation as General Councilor; but Fr. Tonni didn't accept his resignation. He still stays in Albano until 1980, working in the discographic sector.

The year 1980 opens for brother Mario a new period, with his transfer to the community of Milan. There he is committed in the San Paolo Periodicals Group. He remains here until 1983. From 1983 to 1985 he is once again in Albano Laziale, where he works at administration, before reprising apostolate in the editorial office in Rome at the service of the Periodicals Group. He becomes in-charge of the Roman editorial office in 1992, an office he has kept until its closure. He also remained as person of confidence for the

remaining period of the Roman office, maintaining rapport with various personalities who greatly esteem him.

Recently brother Mario suffered an ictus, because of which he had been admitted to the hospital of Albano. Then he came to the hospital of San Giovanni Battista for rehabilitation. Here he has had the crisis of pulmonary edema for which he has been brought to the hospital of San Camillo where he passed away.

Brother Mario was a circumspect person. His confreres remember him as somebody capable of making situations less dramatic, capable also of fair jokes like sending humorous gift packages, full of trifles but also containing some chocolate or candy, as if to say: in life know how to accept the ugly things as well as the good things. He is of sensitive character, esteemed friendship and deeply respected his friends. He leaves his mother aged 102.

We entrust to the Lord on the day of his manifestation to the nations, this our dear brother who loves his vocation as a disciple and is dedicated without reserve to the apostolate, asking that his prayer for vocations and for our apostolate continue even in heaven, in the communion of the wonderful Pauline Family of heaven.

*Rome, 6 January 2011*

*Fr. Vincenzo Vitale*

*His funeral will take place on Friday, 7 January 2011, at 4 p.m., in the crypt under the Sanctuary of Mary Queen of Apostles (via Alessandro Severo, Rome). His body will then be transported to Alba, where there will be a celebration on 8 Saturday at 9 a.m.(in the Temple of Saint Paul), before his burial in the local cemetery.*

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