



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

(Fr. Alberione)

Yesterday evening, 6 June 2012, at 7 p.m. (local time), our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BRO. KINTOKI EMMANUEL ROBERT PEMBELE

69 years, 46 of Pauline life, 42 of religious profession

Bro. Pembele was born in Kinshasa (Congo) on 2 February 1943. After some time in the seminary, he crossed the threshold of the Congregation – the first Congolese – at Kinshasa on 4 July 1965, received by Fr. Giuliano Zoppi and by Fr. Raffaele Tonni. He came to Italy after some months, continuing his journey with the novitiate (1967-1969, Ostia), at the end of which he made his first religious profession on 8 September 1969; on that occasion he took as name of profession Robert. He continued his formation in Rome (1969-1971), to then return – after a brief stay in Alba and Paris – to his native land, in the community of Kinshasa; during this time he carried out his apostolic tasks in the linotype, the offset and the printing press. He made his perpetual profession on 8 September 1974 in Rome. In the long period starting 1974 to 1995 Bro. Pembele took charge of the linotype and the printing press. Then he passed to the bookstore (1995-2003). He has been regional councilor for three mandates (1997-2000, 2000-2003 and 2006-2009), regional vicar for two mandates (2003-2006 and 2006-2009) and delegate of the Regional Superior for the community of Kinshasa for two mandates (2003-2006 and 2006-2009). During the last years, in spite of the worsening of his health problems due to disturbances in the eyes and a prostrate tumor that was advancing, he has not allowed his contribution to the community life to be lacking by being busy with many services needed by the house.

The formation he received in Italy has strongly marked his personality: his meetings with the Primo Maestro and his confreres, the companions of his journey, have always remained in his thoughts. And what must be affirmed of the role of Bro. Pembele for the Congo is immediately said: he was the “aîné,” the elderly, the “Mbuta”, the person of reference for everybody, and he has actively exercised this function for his confreres and for the lay collaborators until a few months ago, when his prostrate tumor has awakened, making him weak day after day, yet with his lucidity and faith never failing. He himself has prepared, with his usual precision, the manner of his hospitalization on June 5 in the Promedis Clinic, where he died on the following day. For many years he has been one of the columns of the Society of Saint Paul in the Congo, while passing through the difficult moments of social and political changes and defending with his own person the community. As he himself narrated, in the course of the sackings of 1996, with his religious habit on, he had stopped the armed aggressors on the door of our community at Limete.

As a keeper of the Pauline vocation, he was proud of being a Disciple of the Divine Master and he enjoyed seeing so many young Paulines grow beside him. He has participated

in the common prayers until he has been able; in particular, in spite of being already weakened, at the prayers during the feast of the Queen of Apostles with all the Pauline Family, on the day of Pentecost he has received with devotion the anointing of the sick.

His elderly mother is still living. Starting today until next Tuesday, as is traditional in Kinshasa, the Pauline Family, relatives and friends will gather every evening and will continue to pray throughout the night, remembering their dear “YaPe.”

Sociable in character, Bro. Pembele leaves us a strong testimony of his long Pauline life characterized by fidelity and generous dedication to the various jobs that had been entrusted to him. And now, as we ask the Father to grant him his vision “face to face” (1Cor 13,12) reserved for his faithful servants, we recommend to his intercession the needs of the Congregation and of the Pauline Family and, above all, the Disciples of the Divine Master and the entire Pauline Family in the Congo, as well as the needs of the next Regional Assembly (21-23 June).

Rome, 7 June 2012

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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