



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

At 5:36 (local time) yesterday, Wednesday 26 December 2012, our brother of the Divine Master has returned to the Father

**BRO. ROBERT BENEDICT SANTORO**  
***81 years, 63 of Pauline life, 61 of religious profession***

The Lord has called to himself our brother on the feast of St Stephen, at the fullness of the Christmas season, from the "Carmel Richmond Nursing Home" of Staten Island (New York, U.S.A.), where he was staying for being in need of continuous assistance.

The son of Leonard Santoro and Helen Scarnato, he was born in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, U.S.A) on February 13, 1931. Robert entered the Society of Saint Paul at the age of eighteen in the House of Derby (Buffalo) on March 25, 1949. He was the first postulant-candidate of this then new foundation of the expanding USA province.

He had his novitiate and made his first religious profession in Canfield (Ohio) on January 25, 1951, assuming the name of Benedict; then followed his studies and apostolic formation in Staten Island, where he made his perpetual vows on January 25, 1956. From this time on he was exercising his different apostolic assignments: from preparation and production of the weekly liturgical-pastoral bulletins and monthly publications to book exhibits in schools and parishes and to mailing services.

Activities in which Bro. Benedict dedicated himself also after his perpetual profession in the house of Staten Island from 1956 to 1960: assisting in the production and distribution of the SSP weekly liturgical bulletin *The Word of God* and willingly helped with numerous book exhibits in school and parishes. From 1960 to 1967 he was at Canfield serving in the subscription and mail systems departments of the province's two monthly publications, *Pastoral life* and *Catholic Home Messenger*. From 1967 to 1971, he lived instead in Dearborn (Michigan) where he was asked to lend a valued helping hand to the Pauline community's film distribution apostolate. In 1971 he returned again to the community of Staten Island, doing his apostolate in the bookstores in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island until deteriorating health imposed an unhappy retirement in 2007.

In the summer of 1985 he participated in one of the regularly scheduled retreats held in Italy from which he brought back fond memories. He would eventually return to Staten Island with great enthusiasm and renewed motivation. In addition, many Paulines and members of the hierarchy of the Church remember his avid interest for the liturgy and his love for special liturgical functions as Master of Ceremonies and the pride he took in doing it. Bro. Benedict was one of the first Disciples of the Divine Master in the United States who contributed to the development of the Society of St. Paul. Dedication to the Pauline mission in its various expressions characterized the entire life of this Brother disciple. Ultimately, his illness gradually reduced him to inactivity, forcing him to stay in bed for a good part of this past year where he was cared for by staff at Carmel Richmond Nursing Home in Staten Island, but his mind was alert and he was available to God's will.

As he joins the vast array of members of the Pauline Family in heaven we entrust our confrere to the Divine Master who has promised to transform "our lowly body to make it like his own in glory" (Phil 3:20). We ask his intercession for the needs of the Congregation, above all of the Paulines in the United States.

*Rome, December 27, 2012*

*Fr. Giuliano Saredi*

*Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel of the Society of St. Paul with Burial at Resurrection Cemetery in Staten Island, New York.*

**Circumscription Superiors inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1)**