



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

(Fr. Alberione)

Yesterday evening, at 7:30 (local time), in the community of “Divina Provvidenza” of Alba, our brother Disciple of the Divine Master has returned to the Father.

BR. GIUSEPPE MARCELLO MAGRO

86 years, 68 of Pauline life, 66 of religious profession

Giuseppe was born in Pressana (Verona, Italy) on 13 April 1928. After some years with the Scalabrinian Fathers, he crossed the threshold of the Congregation in Alba on 12 October 1945. He did his novitiate in Rome (1947-1948), at the end of which he made his first profession on 19 March 1948, taking the name on that occasion of Marcello, a name with which his confreres had used to call him, in French (Marcel). He made his perpetual profession in Rome on 19 March 1953.

After the first years still spent in Italy, in the communities of Alba (1953-1956) and Pescara (1956-1957) as department head of the linotype, for Br. Marcel would have begun a long period as a missionary which he lived first in Canada, where he stayed for more than twenty years (until 1980), and successively in France (1980-1991). In Canada he resided in the community of Sherbrooke (1957-1960), still committed in the linotype, and in that of Montréal, where he filled several assignments: he lent his service in propaganda and in promotion (1960-1971), as director of public relations (1971-1974) and as Superior of the community (1974-1975). In propaganda he gave the best of himself, as his formators already recognized, also due to his sociable character, his capacity to make himself well liked and to «treat with a certain ability» persons with whom he came in contact in the apostolate.

In 1980 he left for the turn of France, where he did his best in the bookstore of Paris (1980-1991), to then reenter definitively Italy. He stayed for many years in the community of Cinisello Balsamo (1991-2009), at the service of the bookstore of Milan until his strength allowed him. In 2009 his declining health and the need for adequate assistance made necessary his transfer to the infirmary of Alba, where he passed away.

He is a simple but generous man, an enthusiastic and down to earth Pauline, dedicated to the apostolate but also attentive to the other dimensions of the Pauline life, as he wrote to Fr. Renato Perino confiding to him some difficulties of the mission: «I am certain of one thing: when you pray, you cannot bring to conclusion anything. Make us understand that for us what is important is to be men of God, men who pray and work... As for me, I thank the Lord every day for having led me into this house where there is a good spirit and where I have found the joy of my religious life» (2.2.1976). On another occasion he wrote, right in the midst of so many apostolic commitments that absorbed him: «As far as my life is concerned, I must truly say that “que je suis vraiment un homme comblé” (I am a truly happy man). This situation leaves me with a deep interior peace and at the same time a restlessness in the face of the problems of our delegation» (21.6.1976). He was sensitive to

the needs of common life, as he testified when writing to Fr. Luigi Zanoni: «My relations with the confreres are very good and believe me: I have convinced myself that conserving charity among us occupies first place even at the expense of so many of my views that would seem to me to be good or better». In another occasion he prayed so that «I may be ever more empty of myself to leave space for the invisible Lord among us and visible in our brothers» (11.10.1962). Still two words that often recur in the letters of Br. Marcel: cheerfulness and joy, visible signs of enthusiasm for the successes of the mission and for a life of total dedication to the Pauline apostolate that was congenial to him, the propaganda.

We now entrust this our confrere to the mercy of the Divine Master, so that after having made him similar to himself in death and in burial, he may associate him with himself in the glory of the resurrection and make him live in eternal beatitude, together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We ask for his intercession in this year of our Centenary, for the needs of the Congregation, of the Province of Italy and of the Region of Canada-France in particular, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God.

Rome, 2 May 2014

Fr. Vincenzo Vitale

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