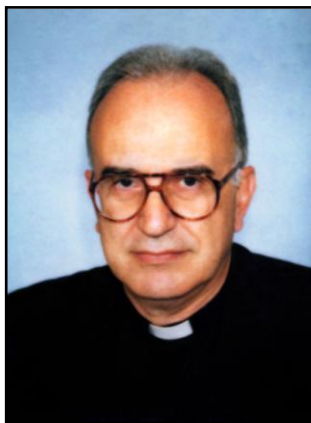


SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO  
Secretary General



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 6 p.m. Monday 9 November, at the Community of Timothy Giaccardo in Rome, our brother priest has returned to the house of the Father.

### **FR ANTONIO FRANCESCO MANNA**

***74 years, 49 years of Pauline life, 47 of profession and 43 of priesthood***

Fr. Antonio has reached his eternal end, after so much suffering. The Lord has visited him to receive him in his merciful arms in late afternoon of Monday, November 9, after already for a long time bedridden in the community of Timothy Giaccardo, his heart gave way.

Antonio is born in Rome on 13 September 1941, the fourth of nine children of Elda and Nicola. After his studies, on 7 July 1966 he enters the community of Albano Laziale, aided in his discernment by the Primo Maestro himself in his difficult choice to consecrate himself to the Lord at an adult age. Fr. Alberione in this manner writes him just before he enters the House: «Dear friend, I have admired your faith and sacrifice in giving yourself to God. (...) It is a time for prayer: strengthen your decision. See everything in Christ, the priest and religious of the Heavenly Father». Accompanying him during the first years of his journey upon instruction by the Founder is Fr Dragone toward whom Fr. Antonio subsequently will spend words full of gratitude: «Such was the goodness and understanding that he showed me, that I could not find in him at first sight those traits of a strong character and a little cold which we believe the Piemontese generally are known for». The strengthening of his vocation leads the well-loved Fr. Manna to profess in rapid sequence the temporary vows (8 September 1968) and the perpetual ones (8 September 1971), to then receive the diaconal ordination on 9 April 1972 and the priesthood on 29 June 1972, on the feast of the apostle Paul, when he is consecrated through the imposition of the hands of Cardinal Paolo Bertoli.

His first task is as vocation promoter in Albano Laziale for about two years. Then he is transferred to Rome, where he is assigned for a year (1974-1975) in the redaction of the Editions, a work that represents for him, an impassioned reader of books and a man of culture, a point of arrival. Obedience calls him the following year to Caracas, in Venezuela, to offer his contribution to the local office of the editions. He will remain there for a good nine years, until 1984, not without living in his body the hard work of a missionary in exciting but not easy times also because of the turbulent political-social times that Latin America undergoes during those years. He sometimes needs the encouragement of the Major Superiors: and in those years never wanting, among others, is that of Fr Perino and that of Fr Sassi. Upon reentering Italy, from 1986 to 2005 he lends his loyal work at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, holding high the name of the Society of Saint Paul in the Holy See. After his pension we find him for a year at Tor San Lorenzo, the house beside the sea near Rome, working as receptionist of the guests, and then at the Roman Area, where he makes himself available for community services and the ministry, in spite of a slight form of depression.

Lovingly assisted by Sr. Francesca and by the lay personnel of the Roman infirmary, for some time in a semi-conscious state and seriously struck in his body by two cerebral hemorrhages, Fr. Antonio now enjoys the peace of heaven. As we entrust him to the Lord Jesus, we ask him to intercede for the young Paulines in formation, both men and women, and for the needs now of the Holy Father Francis.

*Rome, 10 November 2015*

*Fr Stefano Stimamiglio*

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

*His funeral have taken place on Wednesday, 11 November at 10 a.m., in the Crypt of the Basilica of Mary Queen of Apostles in Rome. After the rites, his body will be interred in the family tomb in the cemetery at Terni.*