

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
The 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 5:30 of Friday of 11 December, in the *Timoteo Giaccardo* Community in Rome, has returned to the house of the Father our brother priest,

FR MARIO FERNANDO PASSARELLI

94 years: 79 of Pauline life, 76 of religious profession and 68 of priesthood.

Fr Mario would have turned 95 years on the 18th of December. His life was completed in an unexpected way in the early hours of a sunny day in Rome, when his body was spent due to a heart disease that has afflicted him for some time, exacerbated by chronic renal failure. A state of complex health problems forced him last summer to move from the community of Catania, where he lived since 1956, to the infirmary of Rome. Here he was able to receive all the medical care he needed in the last stretch of his earthly life.

Mario was born in Alfedena, in the province of L'Aquila, on 18 December 1920 and was baptized a few days later in the parish of his place dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. While part of Europe which came out defeated or disappointed by the First World War was fermenting, showing the beginnings of Nazism in Germany and of Fascism in Italy, Mario grew serene in his mountain village, located in the Abruzzo National Park, showing right away the attitude to follow the path of religious consecration. So he entered at the age of 13 in the College of African Missions of Sulmona, where he attended the Middle school dreaming of a life dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel to those who have never known it. After two years, however, due to his health condition not favorable to extreme climates, he was advised, given his spiritual attitude and his desire to follow the priestly life, to enter into another diocese or religious institute. On 21 December 1935 he therefore entered in the Society of St. Paul in Rome, where he remained until novitiate, which he did in Sanfrè. Here on 8 September 1939 he made her first religious profession, confirmed definitely in Rome exactly three years later. On the desire of his mother, a widow, he took the name Fernando for his profession name. He studied philosophy in Alba while he did his theology in Rome. He was ordained a priest in Alba on 3 August 1947. These were the years of the impetuous growth of the Society of St Paul in Italy and Fr. Mario, after ordination, was sent as a teacher first in Modena ('47-48), then in Cinisello Balsamo ('48-52), Alba ('52-53), Pescara, near his native land ('53-54) and Rome ('54-56). Finally, since 1956, he was in Catania, first as a teacher and then as head of typography. He would remain there for the rest of his life, exercising the priestly ministry and in occupying himself with the different activities of the community.

Fr Mario, from the oral testimony of many brothers who now mourn his death, is a brother who loved our Congregation, contributing with his talents, even with the limitations that we all carry in our human condition, to proclaim the Lord who from an early age he had learned to love. May he now rest in peace and we accompany him in meeting the God of all mercy, entrusting to him in particular the Circumscriptions which are in dire need of vocations.

Rome, 11 December 2015

Fr Stefano Stimamiglio

The funeral will be held on Saturday, 12 December, at 9:30 in the Lower Crypt of the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles. The remains will be buried in the family tomb in the cemetery of Alfedena (L'Aquila).

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