

SOCIETY OF SAINT 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 21:10, local time, of 13 November 2016, at the Turin community, the doors of Heaven opened to our brother Disciple of the Divine Master

**BROTHER GIOVANNI BATTISTA SERAFINO ROSSO**  
***87 years, 74 of Pauline life, 69 of religious profession***

«I got my leave. Tell me your goodbye, brothers. I bow to you and I'm leaving alone. Asking a thousand apologies and forgiveness. I ask you for suffrages and a few parting words. Almost nothing» (Brother Serafino). With these few and delicate words, – a hand written note found in his room of the Turin community where he lived and where in the evening of Sunday, 13 November, he has consigned his soul to God – Brother Serafino took his leave from us. He left quietly, almost without wanting to disturb anybody, as he lived his life, almost always in the “trenches” of the bookshop to offer the “Word-incarnated-in-paper” to those who, in search of God, are trying to find Him in the book shelves.

With this faithful disciple of the Divine Master goes another piece of history of the Italian Province, especially that stock of booksellers who, taking seriously the value of the “pulpit” of the bookshop, as defined by Primo Maestro, have made a big service to the Church in Italy. Bari (1953-1958), Rome (1958-1960), Vicenza (1960-1982) and Turin (1982-2003) are the bookshops where he made his valuable service, driven by a strong desire to learn, which has always made him to read a lot, even after his discharge from active apostolic life.

Here are two biographical notes, before allowing a silence, filled with emotions, to settle down on his personal story. A native of Piove di Sacco, Veneto (but with a Piedmontese great-grandfather), he moved at the age of two years to Turin with his family, very religious and active in the parish. Here his parents had a farm. He entered Saint Paul just at thirteen years in Alba where attended the novitiate year. On 19 March 1947 he consecrated himself to God. After his perpetual profession (Rome, 19 March 1952) and a short time at the printing press in Modena, he landed at Bari (1953), where he began his apostolate of the bookshop.

Discreet, quiet, without pretensions, helpful, witty in his rare interventions, genuine with customers, feeling the approach of death, he faced it head on, preferring not to be taken to the hospital. A stroke has thrown open the doors of Heaven for him. He had the grace of having been assisted during his last moments by the brothers of the Turin community gathered in prayer around his bedside.

*Rome, 14 November 2016*

*Fr. Stefano Stimamiglio*

*The funeral will be held on 16 November, at 10:30 (local time), at San Giorgio Martire Church in San Sebastiano da Po, Frazione Moriondo (Turin). His mortal remains will rest in the family tomb in the cemetery of this locality.*

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