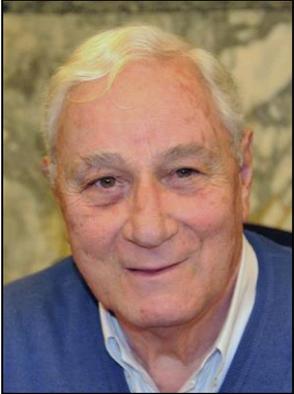


In the Father's House

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



At 12:15 PM (local time) on Monday, 19 September 2022, our confrere died at the “Regina Apostolorum” hospital in Albano Laziale (Rome) due to heart failure and cancer

FATHER OLINTO GIOVANNI ROBERTO CRESPI

84 years, 72 of Pauline life, 63 of profession, 56 of priesthood

Fr Olinto was born in San Zenone degli Ezzelini (Treviso) on 10 July 1938, the last of ten children, to parents Erminio and Paola Tedesco. He entered the community of Sacile (Pordenone) on 11 September 1950. He began the Novitiate on 7 September 1958, made his first Religious Profession on 8 September 1959, assuming the name of Roberto. He was definitively consecrated with perpetual profession on 8 September 1964 and was ordained a priest on 30 June 1966.

As soon as he was ordained a priest, he was assigned Master of aspirants and teacher in the community of Catania and in 1977, in the same community, he was appointed Superior. Elected Provincial Councilor and Coordinator of the Pauline Vocation Ministry, the following year he returned to Rome. In 1986, he was Superior in the community of Albano Laziale and, three years later, Coordinator and Animator of the community of the Generalate, where he remained until 1998. In the same year, he was transferred to the Italian Province with the position of National Delegate of the Association of Pauline Cooperators, a task he maintained until 2007, when he returned to the Generalate, always as Delegate of the community. In 2009, he was in charge of the animation of the Pauline Family of the Triveneto in Vicenza. In the same year, he was appointed Delegate of the Holy Family Institute, a position he held until 2015. In 2016, he was in the community of Ariccia, where he carried out his ministry among the groups of guests of the house and in the neighbouring Pauline communities. In 2021, he was transferred back to the Province of Italy and, due to various pathologies, he was placed in the infirmary of the San Paolo community in Rome.

Fr Olinto, among other things, gave a great service in the Generalate when he was in via della Fanella, with particular attention to the elderly, the sick, instilling strong motivations for reflection and ecclesial involvement, taking care of singing and promoting ongoing formation, with frequent conferences organized by him by well-known experts on religious life and on the various aspects of our Pauline identity.

He truly believed in the mission of the Society of Saint Paul and the Pauline Family. He was enthusiastic about our apostolic spirituality, and for this very reason, he edited various publications on the biblical roots of our spirituality, as well as some texts on Pauline formation and vocation. He has collaborated for some time with the Italian Conference of Major Superiors on formative projects.

He was a “beautiful” person. He had a particular predilection for the world of youth and contributed to giving life to the coordination of the Pauline Vocation Ministry in Italy. He has always been a formator, first with the boys in Catania, then among the Pauline Cooperators and the members of the Holy Family Institute, and of the Juniors in preparation for perpetual profession. He was a 360-degree formator... also in the liturgy and in singing. He also oversaw the preparation of the texts of the Liturgy of the Pauline Family. Until the end of his life, he was always with a book in hand to read and to share.

An affable and sociable person, he took great care of the relationships that he constantly nurtured through phone calls, visits and some concrete gifts. He always managed to instil trust and hope, strength that he found in the prayer that he personally lived and recommended with zeal.

Fr Valdir José De Castro, the then Superior General, wrote to him in 2016 on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of ordination: «Your apostolic commitment, especially in the formative sphere (of young Paulines, cooperators and families), united to the gift of the priesthood, was the place where Grace worked». And Don Olinto in 2019, confided to him with a writing: «I have always dreamed of being able to communicate to others, not just with our own people, the beauty and depth of the charism and spirituality left to us by Don Alberione».

In his homily, delivered on the anniversary of his 25th anniversary of priesthood in San Zenone degli Ezzelini, his place of birth, he stated: «I am happy to be a priest, and I thank the Lord for the wonders he works in the lives of those he called, for the hundredfold that he knows how to give to those who leave everything to follow him... Following Christ means fully realizing our life... I believe that this is, for me, the strongest reason to thank the Lord as a priest: to have done something so that Christ reign in the hearts of others, of all...».

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and give him the prize reserved for his faithful servants, while we ask him to intercede with the Lord for numerous and holy vocations for the whole Pauline Family.

Rome, 20 September 2022

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Thursday, 22 September at 10:30 AM in the Crypt of the Shrine of the Queen of the Apostles in Rome. The body will be buried in the family tomb in the cemetery of San Zenone degli Ezzelini (Treviso).

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