

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 1:45 PM (local time) on Sunday, 19 March 2023, he died in Rome infirmary due to cardiac arrest

FATHER NELSO GABRIELE CASOLARI

86 years, 74 of Pauline life, 67 of profession and 60 of priesthood

Nelso was born in Serramazzoni (Modena) on 12 June 1936, the youngest of four children (two brothers and two sisters), to his parents Armando and Iseppi Maria. He entered the community of Modena on 4 October 1948, made his First Religious Profession on 8 September 1955, assuming the name of Gabriele; he was definitively consecrated with his Perpetual Profession on 8 September 1959 and was ordained a priest on 1 July 1962.

Father Nelso began his apostolate as a teacher of Letters, first in Rome, from 1962 to 1964, then in Modena, from 1964 to 1970, and later in Vicenza, from 1970 to 1975. Also in Vicenza, he started the apostolate of the Promotion of the Pauline Periodicals and in 1982, in Modena, he was in charge of the Warehouse of the Pauline Editions. In 1994, he began his pastoral commitment in the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Rome, where he would remain until 2018 when, for health reasons, he was transferred to the infirmary in Rome.

Father Nelso was a kind and generous person, very reserved, discreet, shy and silent. During his teaching years, he was greatly appreciated, both by students and by the families with whom he had good relations. Diligent in school preparation, very respectful of the students, he was precise in scholastic judgments, never offensive and always cheerful in his relations with the teachers, attentive and orderly in the various school registers.

In the Parish of Jesus the Good Shepherd, he undertook his pastoral service with meticulous dedication, without reservations. He was omnipresent in the most important tasks of the priestly ministry, such as the ministry of Confessions and Spiritual Direction, as well as in the various services for the good running of parish structures and the Parish Rectory.

As a faithful disciple of the Apostle Paul, he took care of the Sunday sermons with determination where, in the depth of the content, an appropriateness of language was perceived, a legacy of the years of teaching. He left a vivid memory, still perceptible today, for the absolute dedication he had towards the children and adolescents who were preparing for the sacraments of Christian initiation, as well as in the attention and availability towards everyone, including the sick and the poor.

In recent times, in the infirmary, he continued with tenacity to do everything he could by himself. He was always faithful in the liturgy; he still took great care in reading, always smiling and positive, thus leaving a good example.

Father Nelso left us precisely on the Feast Day of St Joseph, as if he himself had come down to come and take him and accompany him into the holy kingdom of God. St Joseph – writes Don Alberione in the *Agenda Paolina* on the occasion of his Feast – “stands out for his abandonment in the hands of God”, walks silently and docilely in listening to his Word, to “please God, fulfill his most holy will”. This is what Father Nelso tried to do during his life, and now he invites us too to walk in this direction.

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and reward him with the abundance of his life, while we ask him to intercede with the Lord for numerous and holy vocations in the Pauline Family.

Rome, 20 March 2023

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Tuesday, 21 March, at 3:30 PM in the Shrine of the Queen of the Apostles. The body will be buried in the Laurentino Cemetery in Rome.

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