

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 3 PM (local time) on 9 November 2020 at the Verduno hospital (Cuneo, Italy), our brother Disciple of the Divine Master died following a severe pulmonary crisis

BROTHER BRUNO CLETO TAMAI **82 years, 68 of Pauline life and 61 of profession**

Already hospitalized in very serious conditions on the evening of 6 November following a respiratory crisis caused by a coronavirus infection, Brother Bruno struggled between life and death for a few days before answering the last call. The serious previous pathologies, which in recent years had compromised his immune system, did not allow his body to fight against this invisible and terrible enemy, which is bringing Italy and other nations of the world to its knees.

With Brother Bruno another “master bookseller” is leaving, a brother who has been able to live our missionary charism with creative fidelity from the trenches of a bookshop, where contact with the faithful and pastors is more direct and therefore requires greater tact, competence, intuition, love for souls and apostolic passion. But he was also appreciated for that peculiar originality of his way of being, which has always led him to create bonds and relationships with great ease thanks to an open and jovial character. A lucky character, certainly!, but cultivated with discipline over the years and very propitious for every Pauline apostle; a predisposition of mind that led him to love interpersonal relationships and enjoy that healthy “wasting time” with people, capable of mixing interest in their life events with the right word to offer them, accompanied, when it was the case, from a suitable book. A healthy love for souls who frequented the pulpit of the bookstore and whom he knew one by one, just as the Good Shepherd knows his sheep one by one (cf. Jn 10:14).

In his very long years spent between the bookstores of Vicenza and Padua (continuously from 1982 to 2017) and, even before that, in Modena (1972-1982), Brother Bruno was able to build countless relationships, from the simplest of the faithful to the bishop: all they turned to him because they knew they could always have the right answer to their needs. He was a man capable of involving others, an excellent Pauline witness who made us appreciate the beauty of our service in the Church. He took particular care of relationships with the bishops of the Triveneto, in particular when he lived his personal spiritual exercises in the same structure at the same time as theirs, giving each one a book designed ad hoc at the end. He believed in the sanctity of daily work, which is why he loved the Venerable Borello whose figure he always promoted as a model of holiness. He was a man of considerable apostolic dynamism, which led him in the long years

spent in Veneto to bring countless Bibles and catechisms to the homes of many parish priests scattered throughout the territory, personally covering many kilometres to relieve them of their heavy pastoral tasks. Also admirable in him is the ability to make the missionary/diffusive dimension and the economic dimension coexist peacefully, without which there would be no apostolate.

Brother Bruno is also a confrere who, precisely because of his ability to “team up” and feel part of a greater mission, has always known how to get involved in the “other” apostolates carried out in the communities where he lived: cultural heritage of Vicenza and Alba, from the management of the museum on the origins of the Congregation in Alba – the last passionate guide offered to the Superior General just before contracting the virus! – to the many book exhibitions on the occasion of conventions, conferences or directly in the parishes. As proof of the fruitfulness of his Pauline life, one can cite the ability he had to involve and thrill the many young aspirants who have been entrusted to him over the years. A sense of paternity not uncommon in the brother Disciples of his generation.

Finally, two biographical notes. He was born in Silea (Treviso, Italy) on 21 September 1938. He entered the House in Sacile (Pordenone) on 9 September 1952. He made his first vows on 8 September 1959, assuming the religious name of Cleto, and confirmed them in perpetuity on 8 September 1964. In 1995, he was awarded the title of *Cavaliere del Lavoro* of the Italian Republic. But he did not really like talking about it.

We take leave of him with what we can consider his spiritual testament, contained in an email sent last 21 September to the Superior General as a thank you for his birthday wishes: *«Life is a continuous miracle ... It is God who gives you life. It is God who keeps you alive. It is God who, when the time comes, takes your life. God is like a mother, he always follows us in the light of day and in the darkness of the night. He performs many miracles. And us? We do not even notice it! For this, together, we thank and pray to God on our knees! Pauline greetings. Bruno»*.

Rome, 10 November 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

Brother Bruno's funeral will be celebrated privately on Thursday 12 November at 9 AM in the *Tempio San Paolo* in Alba. The body will be immediately buried in the city cemetery.

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