

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 7:25 PM (local time) on Saturday, 3 June 2023, he died in Paris (Hôpital la Salpêtrière) due to cardiac arrest

FATHER IGNAZIO ERMINIO CAU

77 years, 63 of Pauline life, 55 of profession and 43 of priesthood

Ignazio was born in Albagiara (Oristano, Sardinia) on 6 January 1946, the second of six children (two brothers and four sisters), from parents Carmelo and Erminia Macis. He entered the community of Rome on 26 September 1959. He began his Novitiate on 7 September 1965, made his First Religious Profession on 20 August 1967, assuming the name of Erminio, and was definitively consecrated with his Perpetual Profession on 8 September 1975 in Sherbrooke (Canada). He was ordained a priest on 21 July 1979, in Albagiara.

Fr Ignazio – already destined during his juniorate to carry out his mission in Canada – as soon as he was ordained was already involved in the direction of the Pauline Edition Center in Montréal (Canada), where he would gradually take on various positions: Regional Superior (two terms), Councilor and Regional Bursar, Head of the Communications and Mission Center, Coordinator of the commercial and administrative area. From 2001 to 2008, he was Regional Superior when Canada and France were united in a single Region (2003); in 2005, he left Canada and moved to Arpajon (France). In 2008, he was Regional Councilor and Director General of the Apostolate; he will continue to carry out his service as Councilor for a few years and, together, that of Vice-Director General of the apostolate until the closure of the house in Arpajon, when he will move to Nogent-sur-Marne (France).

The Pauline life of Fr Ignazio was spent entirely in the Canada-France Region. The full and serene smile in the photo would be enough to testify to his love for the Pauline mission, lived with joy, conviction, and generosity, more with deeds than with words. He died on a Saturday, a day dedicated to Mary, to whom he entrusted himself filially but confidentially, according to his style and on the threshold of the feast of the Most Holy Trinity: Fr Ignazio translated one aspect of this mystery of faith with a lifestyle marked by relationship, communion, welcoming.

In the apostolate, Fr Ignazio lavished his skills of analysis and synthesis, becoming a point of reference for administrative and organizational matters. We can say of him that he was somehow the living memory, the ordered and detailed data archive of the Region. For the apostolate, he gave the best of himself with full generosity, incapable of refusing a request for collaboration or help. Faced with the most complex difficulties and dossiers, he opposed the typical tenacity of the Sardinian character while yielding, when necessary, to a reasonable compromise.

As Director General, he was the person who listened and promoted teamwork, always seeking the widest consensus for the good of the works. Demanding with himself, he knew how to recognize the good in everyone; he managed to welcome everyone and everything, without judging, with benevolence, to let the light beyond the difficulties emerge from the comparison.

In the editorial field, we owe him the opening of the sector of youth literature and illustrated albums. He was also the author of a research on the development of Canadian French-speaking editorial, much appreciated and a point of reference for the book industry in Québec.

Fr Ignazio assumed the service of authority several times. He carried it out with the charge of humanity that was recognized by all, with respect and acceptance of every confrere. He lived the Pauline spirituality fully but did not flaunt it. The priestly ministry that he carried out on various occasions was rich in the humanity of Jesus and for this reason he was much appreciated.

Fr Ignazio's person was a rich Pauline life, lived in the spotlight, if one can say so, but he always refused to put himself in the limelight. A man of service, he preferred humility and availability. He also knew how to be politely ironic, a precious gift in the context of common life.

Suffering from multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer) for many years, he gave his contribution to the apostolate until the end, compatibly with the discomforts of the disease that led him to cardiac arrest.

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and reward him abundantly. May the suffering that characterized a good part of his life be fruitful of spiritual and apostolic fruits for the whole Pauline Family, especially for the Region that he served and loved for so many years.

Rome, 4 June 2023

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

The funeral will be celebrated on Thursday, 8 June 2023, in the Chapel of the Pious Disciples in Nogent-sur-Marne, at 10:30 am. The body will be cremated, as per his and his family's expressed wishes, and the urn will be placed in the family tomb in Sardinia.

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