

# *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 2:05 AM (local time) on Thursday, 8 June 2023, he died in the Rome infirmary due to a cardiac arrest

## **BROTHER PAOLO ANGELO OCELLI** **89 years, 72 of Pauline life, 66 of profession**

Paolo was born in Zagarolo (Rome) on 1 October 1933, the youngest of four brothers, of his parents Antonio and Domenica Fia. He entered the community of Alba on 7 February 1951, began his Novitiate on 7 September 1954, made his First Religious Profession on 8 September 1956, assuming the name of Angelo. He was definitively consecrated with his Perpetual Profession on 8 September 1961.

Brother Paolo began his apostolic life in the community of Genoa as a bookseller, but soon found himself a missionary abroad, in England, working in the local printing house. In 1968, always available for the mission abroad, he was sent to the Philippines, to Makati, where he remained for many years and with various positions: bookshop, St Pauls Film, Regional Councilor and Regional Bursar. In 1990, he returned to Italy, to the Generalate, which was then based in via della Fanella, in charge of the Promotion and Missions Office. In 2007, he passed into the “Canonico Chiesa” community, still dependent on the General Government.

Brother Paolo was a simple person, always faithful to daily prayer, with a lot of initiative in his work, characterized by a marked generosity with the confreres, always ready to help them in everything he could, mainly in information technology.

He was happy to be in company, despite being reserved and of few words, as if he didn't want to disturb. However, he actively participated in community life. Generous and enterprising, he had equipped himself over the years with computer equipment for image and sound processing. One of his passions was to prepare posters for the birthdays of the confreres, taking care to illustrate the qualities of the birthday celebrant, with photos and caricatures, to contribute to the joyful atmosphere of community life.

«As a Manager – says a Pauline who had been with him when he was managing a bookstore – he was as “demanding” as he was kind. The jobs had to be finished on time and he didn't like to procrastinate. When it came to finances, he always advocated accuracy and accountability. If I had to define brother Paolo in a single sentence, I would say that he was “a good religious!”».

Over the years he had carried out the conversion into digital format of numerous audio recordings of the Founder and of most of the documentary films on the Pauline charism and history. He was proud to have digitally

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reproduced the entire Holy Bible of Mons. Antonio Martini (about 1,200 pages in A4 format), of the 1889 edition.

Lately, when age was starting to take its toll, he had surrendered to the fact that he could no longer stay away from doctors and hospitals and had accepted this new situation very patiently.

The then Superior General Fr Valdir José De Castro, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of religious profession of Brother Paolo, wrote to him: «You have come a long way; many are the years in which you spent yourself proclaiming the Gospel, always with the joy of belonging to our Congregation. The good that you have testified with your life and proclaimed in your apostolate, especially in the Philippines and in England, is precisely this good that will remain forever».

May the Lord welcome this brother of ours and grant him an eternal reward, while we ask him to intercede for numerous and holy vocations of brother Disciples in our Congregation.

Rome, 8 June 2023

Fr Vito Spagnolo, ssp

*The funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, 10 June at 9:00 AM in the Sub-crypt of the Basilica Queen of the Apostles. The body will be buried in Zagarolo (Rome).*

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