

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)



In the morning of April 222 the Disciple of the Divine Master

BROTHER EDWARD ROBERT KONRAD

81 years, 58 of Pauline life and 54 of religious profession

passed away at the Clove Lakes Health Care in Staten Island (New York, United States). Brother Robert died in the health facility where he was hospitalized on 8 April 2016, when he suffered a severe stroke, which partially paralyzed his body, forcing him for almost 4 years to remain almost completely still. For a few weeks, his already tested physical conditions have undergone a further worsening due to off and on fever and loss of appetite, combined with other typical symptoms of the coronavirus, which probably caused his death. More information, given the current emergency situation in New York hospitals, is not currently available. For the same reasons, it is not possible to establish the date and place of the funeral and the place of his burial, as also happened for Brother Kevin Cahill and Brother Lawrence Schubert, who recently passed away in Staten Island in similar circumstances.

Edward was born on 11 November 1938 in Reading, Ohio, not far from Cincinnati. The only son of Anthony and Florence William, he lost his father at a very young age. The mother, remarried, nurtured him with love, not letting him miss the education (at 18 he graduated from High School) and healthy spiritual growth. He entered the Congregation in Staten Island on 1st February 1962. A year later, the novitiate began, which ended on 8 September 1965 with his first profession, when he took the name of Robert, with whom he will be commonly known thereafter.

Since his youth, as the formators attest, he showed marked relational skills, which will help him during his years of apostolate, especially when he was called to work in contact with the public. On 23 August 1970, he professed the religious vows perpetually at St. Elizabeth Church in Cincinnati.

In the seventies, we find him for his first destination on Staten Island, in the shipping department of *Alba House Publishing*. Ten years fly quickly and in 1981, he is transferred to Dearborn, Michigan, where he is asked to take over the management of the local bookshop. A demanding assignment, an apostolic effort that faithfully he continues until January 1990, when he returns to Staten Island. Here he is engaged in bookbinding and, subsequently, in the marketing department of *Alba House*, with the task of contacting customers to promote our apostolate products and respond to their requests. Unforgettable, at

the end of the newsletter he sent, is his beautiful smiling face, very reassuring, accompanied by the writing: «*For any information call Brother Bob!*».

A passion Brother Bob has always maintained, since the years of his first formation: that of the ministry of the sacristan. In all the communities in which he lived, he always served the Lord with joy, even in this precious, humble work. A man with many interests, during the many years spent in New York, he often loved to visit the city, in particular the St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. During the years in which, paralyzed in half of the body, he was hospitalized at the Clove Lakes Health Care in Staten Island assisted by the confreres, he was always informed about the life of the Province. On his part, he was ready to give good advice and to pray for every initiative.

This brother of ours will always be remembered for his smile, for his joviality and positivity, qualities that, according to a phrase attributed to Saint Teresa of Calcutta, have their beginning with peace of heart. Several of the faithful attending our Staten Island chapel also testify to his smile on Facebook. Among these, we mention Mr. James A. Haynes IV: «*I will always remember going to the Pauline chapel on Sunday for Mass, and one of the first people to welcome me and my wife at the door was always him. A smile and a personality so great that we will miss him*». We subscribe to this last farewell written by a lay faithful, testimony of a confrere who loved the Pauline vocation to the last breath.

Rome, 23 April 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

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