



Rome, 12 November 2020

Dear Fr. Achilles, dear confreres of the Province of Uganda

Greetings to all of you in the Risen Lord.

We have just received the sad news of the death of Bro. Elio Croce. After the celebration of the funeral of Fr. Jesus and Bro. Benito, the Lord has also called our brother.

Our confreres left us while in the front line of the mission among the people they loved. They lived all these years giving their best for the love of Christ and the love of the people. Like the good shepherd they stayed with the people in the middle of war, diseases, pandemics, difficulties in various fields. Of them, we can say, *they have fought the good fight, they have finished the race, they have kept the faith* (cfr. 2 Tim. 4,7).

In this moment of pain and loss, we would like to thank the Lord for their lives, their vocation and mission. We want to thank them for their example of generous service, dedication, and love. We are in communion with them, they continue to be part of us and we keep praying for their eternal rest.

We feel in communion with the Local Church and the people of God whom they loved and who loved them, considering them as their own family.

We feel close to the confreres of the communities where they belonged to and all the members of the province of Uganda and with their families and so many friends who will never see them again. We will miss their presence among us, their joy and dedicated service.

With us remains the consolation of faith. We believe that they are forever with the Lord who said: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though he dies"* (John 11,25).

May they intercede for us and for all those who are suffering and dying these days due to the pandemic of covid19, which is affecting the whole world with its consequences of hunger, depression, increasing of poverty. May their lives consumed in the service of the kingdom bring many vocations to the Church and the institute.

We keep in communion with one another in the *"Divine Providence who never abandons those who trust in him"* (W. 709).

from the General Council