

# Fr. Giangirolamo Martini

(known as Father Nino)

1944-2017



Giangirolamo Martini was born in Cagliari on 17 May 1944, the son of Bruno and Angela Maria Floris. He entered the seminary in Imperia on 6 October 1955. He began the first year of his novitiate at Borghetto S. Spirito (SV) on 28 September 1960 and this led to his temporary profession of vows. He celebrated his perpetual profession in Forte dei Marmi (LU) on 1 October 1966. He was ordained a deacon in Turin and became a presbyter in Martassina (TO) on 17 August 1969 with the laying on of hands by Msgr. Bettino, the Auxiliary Bishop of Turin.

He began his ministry on 01/10/69 as the assistant to aspirants in the house at Imperia. After two years, on 26/10/71, he was appointed the financial administrator of the chaplaincy of the hospital in Imperia. From 23/06/77 onwards he was a Provincial Councillor entrusted with economic matters and from 31/07/77 onwards he exercised the service of Superior at the house of Villa Lellia in Turin. From 13/07/83 onwards he was first Provincial Councillor and he continued his service as the Superior of the house of Marmi for a six-year period. On 22/07/89 he became the Superior of the nursing home in Turin.

On 29/01/92 he left for Armenia where, together with two confreres of the Province of Lombardy and Veneto, he was entrusted with the management of the 'Redemptoris Mater' Hospital of Ashotzk. In the meantime, on 01/07/92, he had been confirmed as Superior of the health centre of Turin. On 31/03/93 the General Consulta of the Order made him the administrative director of the hospital in Armenia and on 02/02/95 he was appointed the Delegate of the Order for the Caucasus. On 24/07/95 he was transferred to Villa Benso in Turin. On 15/04/92 he had become the president of the St. Camillus Humanitarian Foundation of Armenia. In the year 1998 it was Father Martini who presided over the foundation in Georgia and on 27/01/2003 he was appointed the Superior of the Foundation of the Caucasus. He then returned to the Province of Piedmont and on 24/01/2011 he was appointed the Superior of the house of Imperia and engaged in the service of chaplaincy in the local city hospital. He stayed there until an illness which had been treated for many years got the better of him. He died, cared for by his confreres, at the St. Camillus Hospital of Turin on 24/07/17. The month of July had always witnessed his transfers and this time it was a final one – towards the House of the Father, which awaits us all.

Father Giangirolamo, commonly known as Nino, stood out for the richness of his humanity, for the incisiveness of his witness, and for the very many pastoral and missionary activities that he generously engaged in during all the years of his religious life: at the service of young men receiving formation, of Camillian health-care works, of the poor populations of the Caucasus, and, lastly, as a spiritual assistant in hospitals.

An man of easy and abundant communication, he gradually incorporated into his being the cultures of the various places in which he had lived: a Sardinian by birth, a little Tuscan, a little Georgian, a little Ligurian...His personality was a mixture of sensitivity, extroversion, intelligence, creativity, a strong will in achieving his goals, a special approach to interpersonal relationships, not, however, devoid of a certain self-satisfaction, but he was constantly ready to provide service. This approach of his gained him esteem and good feeling everywhere he went. A man of learning and of deep historical, philosophical, and theological interests, a convinced priest and a religious who was fully Camillian, in his own way he expressed a fine synthesis of the ecumenical priest of the age of the Second Vatican Council.

He expressed the best of himself as the director of health-care works of the Institute, in Italy and abroad, demonstrating in this field great managerial abilities and skills, however always giving priority to the visibility and witness of the Camillian charism.

He loved 'his' Imperia where he had begun his pathway of religious formation, and he divided his time between the complex management of the house and service at the hospital. Somewhat incognito, it was there that he had his malady treated and when it was no longer possible to check this illness he was finally convinced to receive treatment in Turin at the institution of his own confreres.

His funeral took place in the chapel of the same hospital on 27/07/2017 in the presence of a large number of Camillian religious and the faithful. The God of Mercy, whom he served as a good Camillian religious, has received him now amongst the ranks of the sons of St. Camillus.