



Brother Lodovico Pangrazzi

1938 -2017

Lodovico Pangrazzi was born on 2 November 1938, in Dimaro (TN), to his father Cherubino, a peasant, and his mother Eleonora Giuseppina. His was a typical family of country folk of Val di Sole and there were five children. He was baptised in his local town (06.11.1938), received confirmation (23.07.1947), and went to elementary school until going to technical school. After that he went to the apostolic school of Castellanza (05.10.1954) as an aspirant brother. He became a postulant (25.03.1956) and entered the novitiate in Verona at the House of St. Julian (25.09.1956). He ended the novitiate with his first religious profession of vows which were renewed in 1960 (in Verona) and in 1961 (in Cremona) until his perpetual profession (01.10.1961) at St. Camillus Cremona in front of Fr. Stefano Fontana, the Provincial Superior. On that occasion, he asked to put his name close to that of Mary and on his holy picture he wrote: 'Divine heart of Jesus, receive from the hands of the Holy Virgin of the Rosary my perpetual donation by this solemn religious profession to comfort the sick and as a pledge of graces for those whom I love'.

For Brother Lodovico, his ministry following St. Camillus did not involve many transfers. Just as mountains remain where the Heavenly Father and nature place them, he did not have many experiences but, rather, lived them in faithfulness to routine, in the slow fire of service.

Let us therefore follow his pathway as a religious who cared for the sick starting with the dimension of the corporal. His first destination (05.10.1957) was the St. Camillus Nursing Home in Cremona where he was awarded a diploma in nursing (19.06.1959). During the summers of 1958 and 1959 he provided help and assistance in the Hospital of *Venezia Alberoni*. On 04.12.1961 he was transferred to the St. Camillus Nursing Home of Milan and on 04.09.1966 he went to the St. Pius X Nursing Home, which had just been built in the same city. In 06.07.1969 he began a course to be a ward nurse at the St. Joseph Nursing Home and he was head nurse on the second floor of the St. Pius X Nursing Home until 2007.

From then onwards he willingly visited the sick, when he was able to do this, because he began to have health problems: diabetes, kidney complaints, gallstones, and a hernia in the groin. He was then diagnosed as having myelodysplasia. With the closing of the St. Pius X Religious House, on 01.02.2016 he was transferred to the community of Capriate S. Gervasio. On 02.08.2017 he felt unwell and was admitted to the hospital of Zingonia and then to the Cerruti RSA, but there was no improvement in his condition. After receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick in the evening, he died in peace the following morning (03.10.2017) at 7.40.

In the first reports of those who were providing him with formation for his presentation to the novitiate and to his perpetual profession, the features of the personality of Brother Lodovico were already evident and they were confirmed during his sixty years of religious life: 'Exemplary, a good boy from Trentino. Healthy, peaceful, industrious. Pious: the sacraments, the Rosary, good readings. Superiors and confreres speak very highly of him. One could not say anything else. In his studies he has been excellent.

Not even a smile of self-satisfaction. He seems like a hermit...He cordially loves the silences of the Rule. He loves his vocation'. Furthermore, 'He is never disciplined. In his way of living he is always modest and well-behaved. He is the friend of everyone and with a nature well suited to common life. He has studied to be a nurse in an excellent way. Assiduous and faithful in his service to the sick'. A fellow religious observed: austere, observant of the rules, very devoted to Our Lady.

He had a great love: mountains. He was a member of the Society of Alpinists of Trentino from 1979 onwards; and his 'library' was made up of large albums of photographs and effective slides of his walks. Thus it was that during the weekends he balanced the fogs of the plane of Padua with the blue skies of the Alps and their foothills; the white shoes of the wards with the walking boots and red socks of alpine walks; the spires of the Duomo with the wood headbands of Our Lady; and the busy asphalt streets of the city with the mirrors made by little lakes. Another more stay-at-home interest was reading books featuring Tex Willer, a cartoon character whom he had encountered as a young man and never left, a timeless ranger with whom, perhaps, he identified, with his measured words and sculptured facial features, in a body that was as solid as a rock with two blue eyes. 'Holy Mary, Lady of the snows, cover with your white soft cloak our friend, our brother, up above in heaven', where there are waiting for him a throng of patients who blessed him.

The funeral will take place in Milan at the Sanctuary of St. Camillus on Friday 6 October at 10.30. His coffin will be laid in the tomb of the Institute at cemetery of Musocco.