



## Father Arturo Tait

1926-2018

Arturo Tait was born on 12 November 1926 in Mezzolombardo (TN). His father was Augusto Tait and his mother was Emma Matuella. He entered the seminary of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MI) on 16 October 1940. In 1943 he continued with his studies at the primary school in Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI). He did his novitiate at the St. Julian House in Verona from 7 September 1945 to 8 September 1946, the day of his religious profession. He ended his three years of study at secondary school and made his perpetual profession on 9 October 1949. He then engaged in theological studies and was ordained by Msgr. Gerolamo Bortignon, the Bishop of Padua, first as a deacon on 28 February 1953, and then as a priest on 21 June 1953, always being a member of the house in Mottinello.

He began his ministry on 20 September 1953 as a teacher and vice-master in the same seminary. On 18 April 1957 he was appointed to be the national delegate of the Camillians for sacred music to the St. Cecilia Italian Association. This lasted until December 1959 when he was replaced by Fr. Giovanni M. Rossi. In the meantime, on 20 August 1959, he was sent to the Venice Alberoni Institute of Care with the role of chaplain. On 1 June 1962 he was appointed to be the director of the same institute and on 20 August 1970 he took the place of the Superior of the community who had died unexpectedly. He also took the place of this Superior as president of ARIS Triveneta (the Religious Association of Socio/Health-Care Institutes). He was to remain the Superior for a further two mandates. On 16 June 1980 he was once again appointed the Superior of the community, a position confirmed for the next three-year period. On 30 April 1986 he became Provincial councillor for the economic sector and was confirmed in this post for the next three-year period. On 24 June 1998 he was made director of the house of Venice Alberoni and was confirmed in this position in 2001. On 18 October 2004 he was appointed a member of the governing board of the house in Venice. On 22 December 2004, at the end of his term as a member of this board, he was awarded the honour of 'Knight of Merit of the Republic of Italy'. On 15 October 2007 he became a councillor of the community.

Fr. Arturo, as a man of the mountains which he certainly was, became a man of the lagoon of Venice, but in his heart he remained a man of Trento. He loved his land and he went back there regularly, going to revisit sanctuaries there and coming back to Lido with some bottles of grappa doc. An eclectic person, a characteristic that was recognised by the award of his knighthood, he united being a manager with being a man of the Church, and ranged from being an animator of the liturgy to a singer of stories and teller of jokes, from being a lover of the things of God to being a man with his feet firmly on the ground.

His farsightedness meant that he was a leading figure in the operation involving the assimilation of the activities of the hospital of the women religious of the Island of Pellestrina and raising the St. Camillus Institute to the level of a registered hospital. Equally, he was one of the principal creators of the private research institute of Venice, the St. Camillus IRCSS.

However, he was also a religious convinced of his vocation, punctual at moments of community prayer, an animator of singing, an organ player, and joyous and expansive in his relationships: with a smile impressed on his mouth he made his environment happy and reduced tensions when there were problematic moments.

When in 2004 he ended his responsibility for the management of the hospital he did not stop being a priest: he flanked the chaplain in visiting the sick and heard confessions in nearby parishes and with the cloistered nuns. Until the age of eighty-eight he went about on a racing bicycle in the streets of Lido in order to keep fit and to be able to greet in the streets the many people who knew him and esteemed him. In his heart, it is said, he was a fan of Coppi, but he was certainly a fan of Moser, whose mother he visited in Palù di Giovo, during the golden years of Francesco, making himself well liked by her by bringing her rosaries.

He died as so many people hoped he would: within the space of two weeks what seemed to be bronchitis that became pneumonia made doctors think that the the melanoma of a decade before had got into his lungs. When he was preparing to go to the St. Camillus IRCSS for his convalescence, he was surprised by death during the night of Good Friday and Easter Saturday, in that same Civic Hospital of St. John and St. Paul where he had made his first appearance in Venice and took the place of the official chaplain. He took literally the words of Jesus that are listened to on Easter Thursday: "Wherever I go, you will come as well".