



Fr. Angelo Bordignon

1923-2018

Angelo Bordignon was born on 16 March 1923 in Castione di Loria (TV) to his father Domenico and his mother Amabile Elisa Esatti. On 28 September 1936 he entered the seminary of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MI) where he began his secondary school studies. He attended the second year of his main studies at Mottinello. On 7 September 1941 he entered the novitiate at S. Giuliano of Verona. He made his first religious profession on 8 September 1942 and continued his school studies which went on until the year 1945 at the end of the Second World War. On 15 September he continued his theology studies at the house of Mottinello in Rossano Veneto (VI). On 8 September 1948 he made his perpetual profession at S. Giuliano in Verona. On 1 November 1948 he was ordained a deacon and on 2 April of the same year he was ordained a priest by Msgr. Carlo Agostini, the Bishop of Padua.

On 5 July 1949 he was sent as a chaplain to the hospital of Padua and on 22 October 1951 he was sent to the sanatorium of Sondalo in Vallesana. On 22 November 1954 his Superiors thought that he was suited to the service of spiritual direction at the new seminary that had been inaugurated in Marchirolo (VA) in Valganna. From October 1971 until August 1974 he commuted from Marchirolo to Varese because it was there that the group of seminarians had been transferred for four years as guests of the minor friars of Brunella. After the summer he was ready to engage in summer replacements and in December he was sent to the community that had been established in the Province of Lombardy and Veneto at the Carderelli Hospital of Naples as a chaplain and the financial administrator of the community. On 18 January 1980 he went to the hospital in Padua but on 16 September he had to go back to the Carderelli Hospital. He stayed there until 31 January 1981 when the diocese of Treviso appointed him the parish priest of Mottinello, a position that he held until January 2004. However, he stayed in the local religious house to help with ministry in the parish for almost ten years.

The years weighed upon him and on 18 June 2015 he was transferred to the Community of S. M. del Paradiso and put in the nearby nursing home before being transferred on 6 November to the nursing home of S. Giuliano. Fr. Angelo took part in the daily Holy Mass that was held in this institution where he also heard the confessions of those who were looked after there. On Sundays, like the other religious in the nursing home, he took part in the community lunch and he also took part in its monthly spiritual retreats. In the meanwhile his lack of autonomy led to a growing situation of bed sores and urinary infections, with high temperatures which every now and then required him to be admitted to hospital. He died on the evening of the eve of Pentecost, the moment when the Church holds a vigil with Mary and the Apostles while awaiting the Paraclete.

Father Angelo was known for the 'aristocratic' aspect of his personality: he was kind and always careful to wear his well washed habit from which he was inseparable and he was very far from having the image of being unkempt. This external order reflected his internal order: he was always punctual for communal acts and faithful to prayer and to the celebration of the Eucharist, as long, that is, as his physical powers allowed him to do this. Attentive and welcoming towards other people, he suffered when he was not able to settle disputes, trying in every way possible to be a sign of fraternity and unity. Attached to a rather traditional, but not traditionalist, role as a priest, he always felt personally responsible for personal care and long discussions were not his style when decisions had to be taken concerning pastoral or practical matters. Meek but not passive, he always achieved the goals that he had set himself, unless this was expressly forbidden by the authorities. For him, obedience was not a matter for debate. Ready to accept transfers far away from his home, he never ceased to exercise his ministry 'for the salvation of souls', nourishing his spirituality more with the hagiographies of saints than books of high theology. Even though apparently shy, he always loved and appreciated company and good food, without ever indulging in excess. He knew

how to be in the company of everybody, even those who did not profess his faith, in his prayers remembering those who felt resistant to the message of Christ. From the 'Sermon on the Mount' today he hears addressed to him the words: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth!"