



# Father Pasquale Anziliero

1966-2016

Pasquale Anziliero was born in Bulgarograsso (CO) on 21 March 1966, the son of Mario and Rita Peverelli.

To begin with he explored his vocation at the Ambrosian seminary of Via Venezia in Milan but very quickly an injury during a game of football drew him near to the world of suffering, to which, indeed, he felt called. He entered into contact with the vocational community of Castellanza and in September 1987 he became a postulant there.

On 8 September 1988 he became a novice at Capriate S. Gervasio (BG) and made his first religious profession on 9 September 1989. He began his formation for his temporary profession in Verona at the St. Julian Seminary, at the same time as commencing his studies at the theological studentate of S. Zeno. In November 1994, for his pastoral year, he was sent to the 'Comunità Piccolo Gregge' of Castellanza which in the meantime had moved from being a seminary to being a youth centre and which had attached to it a home for terminally-ill AIDS patients. In the spring of 1995 he finished his theological studies and was awarded his baccalaureate. On 15 September 1995 he was transferred, still training for the priesthood, to the chaplaincy of the Sacco Hospital of Milan.

On 10 February 1996 he made his perpetual profession at the religious house of S. Giuliano. On 12 February he was transferred to the religious house of Rho (MI) where he added to his service at the hospital the contribution that he made to the local Caritas. On 14 April 1996 he was ordained a deacon at the cathedral of Verona by Msgr. Attilio Nicora and finally, on 28 September 1996, he was ordained a presbyter at the St. Camillus Sanctuary of Milan at the hands of Msgr. Giovanni Giudici.

On 15 September 1999 he was transferred to Milan, to the St. Pius X Nursing Home, once again providing service in the chaplaincy. On 12 October 2003 he went to the generalate house in Rome after being requested to work as the financial administrator of that religious house. On 20 September 2006 he went to the Hospital of Venice-Alberoni as superintendent of the renovation works of the 'Stella Maris' Nursing Home and on 24 October 2007 he was appointed financial administrator of the same community. On 26 January 2010, lastly, he returned to chaplaincy work at the Hospital of Borgo Trento in Verona where, on 4 October of the same year, he was also appointed financial administrator of the house.

On 15 February 2016, at 23.50, while he was blessing the dead body of a woman in the nephrology department, he died suddenly as the result of a massive heart attack despite the prompt intervention of the reanimation unit.

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Fr. Pasquale experienced twenty years of religious life and the priesthood. Are they few in number? Who knows? During this short period of time, however, he bequeathed to us an outline of himself that will certainly remain. We will remember him as a man of a good spirit, generous, lovable, attentive to people, who when he gave his friendship really gave it, and he made people feel this every day: with a still boyish heart he enjoyed playing with his nephews or with the dogs of his friends and

his mother's cat, laughing like a child at other people's jokes. He was a man who preferred to listen to, and to support, other people rather than to confide to others his own troubles; he was a brother who was always ready to comfort and to support both patients and health-care workers whom, indeed, he invited to go on pilgrimages or to take part in cultural moments or ones involving formation. He was a man consecrated to the Kingdom who was open to the new challenges of pastoral care and who trained himself in the right way, at times with courses on management if he had to work in the administration of a nursing home, and at other times with courses on pastoral counselling in order to improve his ability to listen to sick people. As a man and as a religious he lived the ethic of work: time had to be used and given that in the end there were so many things to do, what always had to be abandoned was sleep.

St. Camillus said: 'just as a sailor dies at sea, so a Good Minister of the Sick dies in a hospital amongst the sick'. Father Pasquale died exactly like that. He was on duty. Called at 23.00 to bless a woman who had just died, while he was speaking the last words of the Hail Mary he was struck down by a massive heart attack and collapsed.

His sister and brother Anna and Giovanni, who loved him greatly and knew him very well, had no doubts about interpreting his wishes and agreed to the donation of those parts of his body that could be of use: these were given to fifteen people.

To see God face-to-face, Father Pasquale no longer needs his beautiful grey-blue eyes.