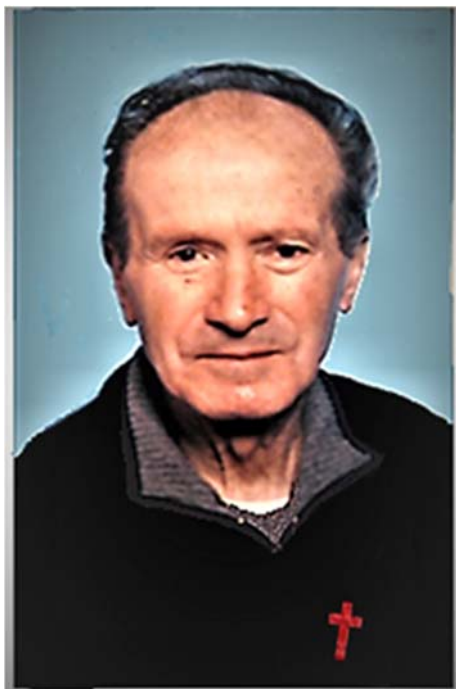


Fr. Lino Baggio (1931-2017)



Lino Baggio was born in Rossano Veneto on 30 January 1931 to Ettore Baggio and Rosa Civiero. He was the third of eight children. Inside his family, which was rich in faith and industrious, was expressed and grew that vocation that would lead him at the age of twelve to the postulancy of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MI) (29.09.43) and from there to the subsequent steps of his formation for Camillian religious life in the priesthood: his novitiate in Verona S. Giuliano (07.08.1948), his temporary profession (08.09.1949), and his perpetual profession (08.09.1952).

During the years of his formation, the young cleric Baggio stood out for the sincerity of his character, the simplicity of his style of life, and his passion in applying himself to his studies, in reading, and in historical research – aptitudes that would accompany him on his journey throughout his life.

His theology studies took him to Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI) where he was ordained a deacon (17.12.1955) and a presbyter (17.06.1956) by the Bishop of Padua, Msgr. Girolamo Bortignon. On the little picture that records this event, Father Lino, a newly-ordained priest, expressed his great esteem for the dignity to which the Lord had called him, entrusting it to the words of St. Augustine: ‘O priest! Who are you? It is not you because you are the servant of everyone. It is not you because you are of God’.

During the first years of his ministry, Father Lino was a chaplain amongst the patients of the city hospital of Padua (1956). He would be a chaplain again at the sanatorium of Sondalo (1959), at the sanatorium of Forlì (1963), at St. Matthew’s Hospital of Pavia (1965) and in Cervia (1968). His Superiors, who always found him ready to help and ready to carry out what he was asked to do, did not hesitate to entrust him with the chaplaincy of hospitals in various cities: Imperia (1979), Padua (1972), Treviso (1973), Verona-Borgo Trento (1988), Rovigo (1992), Padua once again (1994), Predappio (1996), and, lastly, Capriate (1996).

One can well assert that the life of Father Lino was a life totally given to the sick, nearly everywhere, always with generosity and constancy. At our community of Capriate, joking, people said to him: “your Camillian life has truly been a race made of various legs!” Father Lino smiled, amused, grasping the allusion to his passion for ‘two wheels’. Bicycles were for him, certainly, a relaxing hobby and healthy exercise, but they were much more: an opportunity to experience fraternity with his fellow religious (some of whom were keen cyclists like him) and to cultivate friendships from which he obtained esteem and good feeling. It was said that for him this was also a field of apostolate in which to throw good seeds.

Amongst the numerous services engaged in by Fr. Lino during the twenty-one years that he spent in Capriate, we would like to remember some that were especially appreciated by his community, by the staff of the old people’s home, and by numerous people who were his friends and with whom he surrounded himself: daily care for the sick and their family relatives in the department for neuro-vegetative pathologies; assiduous presence with the faithful at his morning Holy Mass on Sunday; his observations or discussions with his fellow religious that were always impassioned but also appropriate and well documented; his parish ministry in Grignano and Crespi or nearby parishes; and his service at the convent of the Capuchin Clarissan Sisters.

At times he referred to some of his perplexities or obscurities in his faith – he defined them as ‘little serpents’ that agitated his heart. However, he knew how to cut them down to size through assiduous participation in common prayer; unflinching evening attendance at the chapel of the community, where he stayed for a long time in front of the tabernacle; and his due respect for the teachings of the Church. A few days before he died, during one of the visits of the Provincial Superior to his bedside, while the Provincial was reciting the ‘Creed’, Father Lino passed away in peace.

When announcing his death to the community, which took place in the early hours of Easter Saturday, one of his confreres wrote: ‘after going down into the tomb with Christ, he is getting ready to rise again with him’.

During the last stage of the journey that leads him to the destination of Eternal Easter, we accompany him in this way, with certainty in our hearts, together with affectionate memories and gratitude.

***His funeral took place on Tuesday 18 April 2017:
- at the church of the nursing home of Capriate at 10.00,
- and at the parish church of Rossano Veneto (VI) at 15.00.***

He was buried in the tomb of his family in the cemetery of Rossano.