

## FATHER GIACOMO MESCHINI



Father Giacomo Meschini was the son of Vito Meschini and Teresa Cerri. He was born in Albe (L'Aquila) on 7 July 1923 and died in Bucchianico on 21 June 2019. Father Giacomo entered the Order of Camillians on 28 October 1934. He became a novice on 31 October 1939; he made his temporary profession on 1 November 1940; and he made his perpetual profession on 16 November 1944. He was ordained a deacon on 22 December 1946 and was ordained a priest on 5 April 1947.

From that moment onwards, in a spirit of obedience and readiness to help, a rather long series of pastoral services began in various communities of the Province of Rome. He was at the Parish of St. Camillus in 1947 and was then the Director of Aspirant Brothers at *Villa Sacra Famiglia* (1948) before becoming a chaplain at the Hospital of St. John and the Hospital of St. Camillus in 1949-1953. He was in Viterbo at the *Crocetta* in 1953-54 before being a chaplain at the Hospital of St. James for a few months in 1956. From 1956 to 1986 he worked at the Parish of St. Camillus. As the promoter of vocations, he was at Soro in 1986. In 1992 he went to the community of Bucchianico at the then Institute of the Sacred Heart (today the Nicola D'Onofrio Centre) before being a vice-parish priest in Bucchianico (1995). From September 2004 onwards his home was the Nicola D'Onofrio Centre. During the last years of his illness he was treated and looked after at the *Casa Sollievo San Camillo* of the Daughters of St. Camillus in Bucchianico.

Father Giacomo was a religious of extraordinary charity, dedication and simple stubbornness. In a simple, tireless and always joyous way, he knew how to be at the side of very many sick people and health-care workers but even more of very many generations of young people whom he met over the years at the Parish of St. Camillus in Rome and in Bucchianico.

An adventurous character, for our epoch also perhaps a little reckless, a lover of mountains and the beauty of the Creation, he bore witness through the Word and the example of charity of our Founder to following Christ on the way of consecration to religious life or married life.

Truly with an existence full of Graces, during his time of illness as well, which was accepted with full readiness to obey the will of God, in recent years especially he was a daily offering for our Province and for the 'conversion of the many', while awaiting the coming of Christ who called him on Friday 21 June 2019.

For all of us there remains the witness of a priestly and religious life which should be kept in our hearts as a spiritual heritage for our Province of Rome, for which, certainly from heaven, as a man who loved young people and the promotion of vocations, in this special year dedicated to prayer for vocations, he will certainly not fail to pray.

His funeral will take place on Monday 24 June 2019, at 12.00, in Bucchianico, at the Sanctuary of St. Camillus. Father Giacomo will be laid to rest in the chapel of his family in the town where he was born, Albe (L'Aquila).