



Father Eugenio Sartore

(1943-2019)

Eugenio Sartore was born on 7 December 1943 in Cittadella (PD) to his father Antonio and his mother Erminia Scapin. An inhabitant of Mottinello Nuovo, the Camillians lived next door to his home. He entered the seminary of Villa Visconta of Besana Brianza (MI) on 25 September 1954. After two years of secondary school he entered the novitiate at Verona S. Giuliano on 25 September 1959. This ended with the profession of his temporary vows on 26 September 1960. He ended his classical studies and engaged in his studies in philosophy and theology at the seminary of Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI) where he took his perpetual vows on 10 January 1965. The group of young clerics in the meantime was transferred to Verona to go to the nascent *Istituto Teologico S. Zeno*. He was ordained a deacon on 29 October 1967 at the Church of St. Leonard by Msgr. Maffeo Ducoli and was then ordained a priest on 23 June 1968 in Mottinello by Msgr. Antonio Mistrorigo.

He was made responsible for formation. From 22 July 1968 onwards he was an assistant of novices at Mottinello and from 1 October onwards he was vice-master of clerics of theology at Verona S. Giuliano. On 1 July 1975 he began his experience as a hospital chaplain at the Hospital of Borgo Trento. On 16 June 1980 he returned to formation as Superior of the community of Mottinello di Rossano Veneto and was also the director of aspirants for two three-year periods, becoming a member of the Provincial committee for formation as well. On 17 July 1986 he went back to pastoral care in health because he had been appointed the Superior for two three-year periods at the Hospital of Borgo Trento of Verona. On 16 June 1992 he again returned to formation as master of the temporary professed of San Giuliano and Superior of the local community. On 9 June 1995 he was appointed Provincial councillor for a three-year period. On 27 June 1998 he was made the Superior of *S. M. del Paradiso* of Verona, the mother house of the religious Province of Lombardy and Veneto. He held this position for two three-year periods. On 23 June 2004 he was appointed Superior of the Luigi Sacco hospital chaplaincy (Vialba) on the outskirts of Milan, being made chaplain on 1 September and appointed head of the Lay Camillian Family on 13 September. He was also made a member of the Secretariat for Pastoral Care in Health on 30 October 2004. His stay at Milan lasted only a year because of an unexpected need for a series of transfers and on 15 September 2005 he was made Superior and chaplain of the Civic Hospital of Padua. He was re-appointed for the next three-year period and was also confirmed as Provincial spiritual assistant of the Lay Camillian Family and member of the secretariat for pastoral care in health. On 23 July 2010 he was transferred to the community of Venice Lido where he became the first local councillor (28 September 2010) and assistant to the local Lay Camillian Family of Mestre-Venice, a post to which he was re-appointed in September 2013.

In the meantime, in 2012, the first signs of his cognitive decline were noted. They were perhaps due to a stroke in 2008 that had been aggravated by a subsequent legionella lung infection. Diagnosed as having vascular encephalopathy, he was treated at the neuro-psychology department until, because of difficulties with his speech and memory, he had to be released from all activity connected with pastoral care. He was transferred to be nursed at *S. M. del Paradiso* in Verona on 12 July and then, when the centre at Veronetta was closed, at the house of St. Julian on 6 July 2017. A decline in his condition led him to protected admission to the RSA of Cerruti in Capriate S. Gervasio (BG) on 8 June 2019. He died in the evening of 30 October 2019, cared for spiritually and corporeally by his confreres.

Thanks to his rational and vivid intelligence, Fr. Eugenio went through all of the stages of his formation in a brilliant way. An only child, he maintained a certain elegant and aristocratic appearance, with a strong personality and sound self-esteem, identifiable in a firm and precise voice, and an upright and assertive posture, not without a pinch of susceptibility. He loved what was beautiful; he was correct, attentive in attending to his relationships, prudent, respectful, and faithful in his friendships. He was a lover of fine song and did not draw back from having people appreciate his voice singing as a *mezzo tenore*. He engaged in his studies in theology at the fine moment of the renewal promoted by the Second Vatican Council and shaped his homilies and reflections on a theological reading of the human experience. He was always diligent and precise in preparing his papers to groups of voluntary workers, to the Lay Camillian Family or to health-care personnel. He found pastoral care in health more rewarding than providing formation to candidates for consecrated life. Indeed, the best of his talent and passion was

given to the hospital world. His propensity to make a distinct between black and white could only have made him a fan of the Juventus football team, the 'Old Lady'.

Certainly in heaven he has many faces that he knows who are welcoming him, grateful for the words that were received during the sunset of their lives.