

Father Anselmo Zambotti

1949-2020



Anselmo Zambotti was born in Pejo (TN) on 9 August 1949 to his father Eliseo and his mother Viola Marini, who was soon made a widow with five children to take care of. Like his older brother Francesco, Anselmo entered the seminary in Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI) on 3 October 1959. On 24 September 1964 he moved to the seminary of Marchirolo (VA) to go to secondary school. He began his novitiate on 23 September 1966 in Mottinello and it was there, on 24 September 1967, that he took his temporary vows. He took his school-leaving diploma in classics and began his studies of theology at the 'Zenoniano' of Verona. On 7 July 1971 with other future priests he went to Dublin, a guest of the Consolata Missionaries, to study English and attend the second year of theology with the Jesuits. He took his vows of perpetual profession at Verona S. Giuliano on 26 June 1972. On 4 September 1972 he left for Taiwan where he continued with his studies in theology which were completed in January 1974 at the Zenoniano of Verona. He was ordained a deacon on 21 June 1974 in Verona S. Giuliano by Msgr. Maffeo Ducoli and he was ordained a priest on 15 June 1975 in Pejo by Msgr. Enrico Forer, the Auxiliary Bishop of Trento and Bolzano.

On 20 July 1975, together with a small group of young religious of the Order, he left for the Philippines and the new foundation in Manila where, on 21 February 1977, he became vice-parish priest at the Parish of Our Lady of Peace in the neighbourhood of Makati. At that parish he animated the 'Friends of the Sick' group of volunteers and attended a number of courses on clinical pastoral education. He attended the same kind of course in the United States of America in 1982.

On 7 January 1983, after returning to Italy, he was assigned to the formation of the temporary professed at Verona S. Giuliano. Contemporaneously, from 1 August 1983 onwards, he was a chaplain at the Hospital of Borgo Trento. On 27 December 1983 he became a member of the formation team of S. Giuliano and he was appointed Secretary of the Provincial Centre for Vocations. On 19 June 1985 he was appointed the head of the House for Vocations of S. Leonardo, in the same city.

On 12 July 1987 he went back to the Philippines as the teacher of the temporary professed at the St. Camillus Scholasticate of Quezon City. On 12 June 1992 he was appointed the coordinator of pastoral care in health at the Archdiocese of Manila and a member of the Council of Priests. On 30 July 1993 he became the Superior and financial administrator of the Chaplaincy of St. Camillus.

At the General Chapter of May 1995 he was elected a member, and the secretary, of the General Consulta, a mandate that ended in 2001. On 5 July 2001 he was appointed the financial administrator of the community of Taipei and on 5 July 2004 he became the Superior of the same community and the teacher of the temporary professed.

On 31 July 2007, after returning to Italy, he became the director in Milan of the Centre for Camillian Missions which by then shared its tasks with the Onluss Pro.Sa. In this capacity from October of the same year onwards he was a member of the Central Commission for Missions and the Secretariat for Missions and Delegations of the Order. On 17 October 2007 he was appointed the first councillor of the House of St. Camillus in Milan.

On 12 May 2010 he was appointed the Superior of the Casa Rebuschini, an institution which in Rome hosts students from the whole of the Order. In those years the problems that he had with his legs because of diabetes increased in severity and this required an operation. In September 2015 he went to Verona S. Giuliano where he provided service at the Church of St. Julian and where on 13 June 2017 he was appointed the Superior. In 2018 he was diagnosed as having cancer and had to undergo chemotherapy. Earlier this year he had an operation that had had to be delayed because of covid-19. In the afternoon of 17 August 2020 he had a devastating cerebral hemorrhage that led to an ongoing vegetative state and then to his death, which took place at 19.00 on 19 August after the suspension of resuscitation.

A man with a robust constitution, Fr. Anselmo is remembered by his confreres as a religious who was very willing to help and a dynamic figure. His intelligence was more of a practical than abstract kind. He was emotional at a psychological level and a little anxious; he was generous in sacrificing himself, bold in launching himself into new frontiers of his apostolate, and he wanted to be able to leave a mark. He was meek in obedience but disturbed by tasks or responsibilities that were not clear. He loved company and was immediate in making his contribution to a group or community. He was direct and sincere with those to whom he provided formation.

After so much activity and commitment, may he now rest in the peace of the Lord!