

## THE IDEAL

"Many young people around the world are busy working hard on books. They give up many things, they do many sacrifices to reach a set goal. They sacrifice everything for the ideal. And we don't have a goal to reach? We are here to be saints and if we don't reach the goal we become ridiculous to us and to the world. But, what is this love that we must show to God?

Love is an inclination of the soul towards good. When God created man he placed in his soul the intelligence to know the good and the will to love it. Therefore we by creation could go back to God to love him, but then with original sin everything went upside down. Now we fail to go back to God and stop only at appearances which are only a glimpse of the infinite perfections of God.

We stop at creatures as the point of arrival while they should be the starting point.

Why should we love God?

Because He first loved us. If it is true that "love with love is paid" is a duty of gratitude.

But how is one to love God?

Therefore, spending all energies in the service of God and neighbor is the greatest ideal that man can conceive.

To love each other we must help each other with prayer and good example.

How can we love God if we don't love each other?

How can we love God if we do not love our neighbor since these two precepts are similar and complement each other?

"I want to love you,

I want to make you love!"

*Nicola D'Onofrio*

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*We bless you, Father,  
as far as the Spirit of Your Son  
worked in life  
of the venerable Nicola D'Onofrio.*

*Its existence,  
enlightened of the Gospel  
and tried by suffering,  
arouse in us the ardent desire  
of a radical and joyful following  
of Your Divine Son.*

*His intercession,  
if it is according to your will,  
obtain for us the grace  
that we now ask of you (...)  
Amén*



**Camillian Religious  
Roman Provincet**

For requests for material,  
endorsements of graces,  
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*Let us praise the Lord with joy  
for this great gift!*



# NICOLA D'ONOFRIO

Venerable

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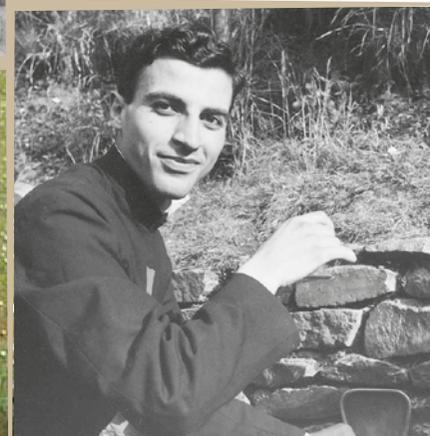
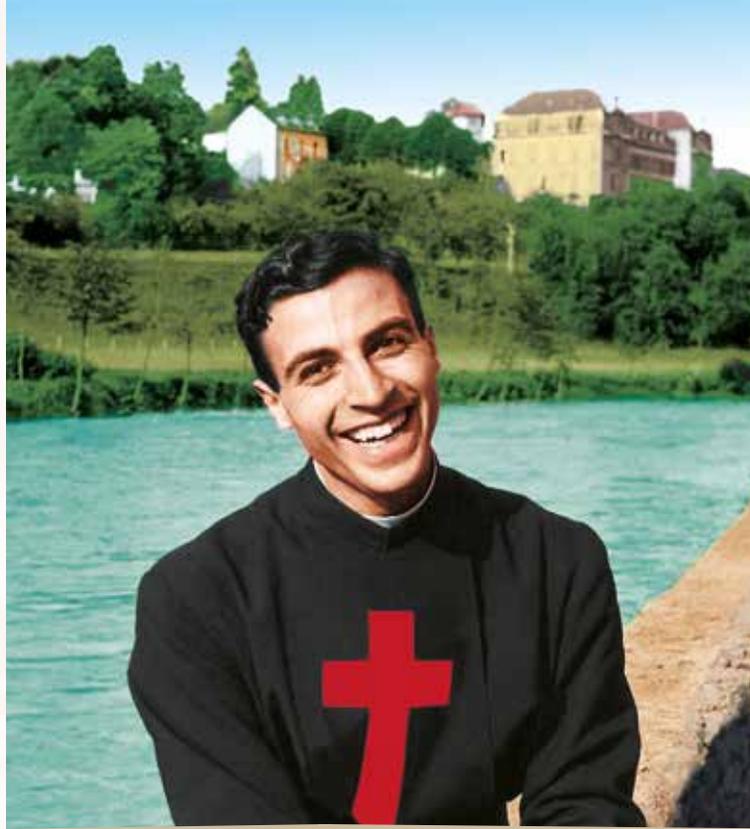
(Villamagna, 24 march 1943 - Rome, 12 june 1964)

## THE VOCATION

At an early age, Nicholas providentially met a Camillian student and was fascinated by his "Red cross" that distinguishes his dress. This meeting does not generate in him the enthusiasm of the moment but the desire of God who calls him to follow among the Ministers of the Sick. His parents, of granite faith, initially they are not compliant with him and only after several insistences of the son they indulge his desire to enter the seminary.

The Camillians' charism and lifestyle excited him to the point that he notes these reflections: "Our vocation is really great. We are entrusted with the poor sick, the pupils of God. What a beauty it must be to arrive in the evening tired of having served the sick (...) A Father used to tell me that for him the best rest was precisely conversation with the sick. It must be really true."

He not only has the desire to become a Camillian but above all that of becoming a saint in this path of life; here is his program of life: "What an easy method to reach God! Almost all the saints were poor and yet, what happiness! So why don't I also do like the saints? "



## THE ILLNESS

At the age of 19, the first symptoms of the tumor appear. He does not lose the joy of living, his own smile and his faith - even if tried - never fails. "I am very happy to be able to suffer a little bit now that I'm young, because these are the best years to offer (something) to Lord".

Nicola is so strong and lucid in his illness that he is the one who encourages others. To his parents he writes: "Dear parents, pray you too so that the Lord will make me regain strength, so I can to become a Priest and still work a lot for souls. But if the good Lord wanted something different from me and you, blessed be the Lord because He knows what He does and what is best for us".

## THE MESSAGE

Nicola's life may appear to be the linear path of a young man called and cut short by disease. In reality, his life goes far beyond and leaves a very clear message to those who approach to him. First of all, it offers a clear example of life lived to the full in following Jesus. To this adds her spiritual link with the saint of Lisieux: "Saint Therese is the saint I like best because she looks a lot like me. She too fell ill when she was just over twenty, she suffered a lot and a twenty-four years he died."

At the school of Saint Teresina, Nicola lived the little way: abandoning himself blindly to God as a child and doing the little things of ordinary life with great love.

The twenty-one years of Nicola's life are all condensed in these words: Jesus I want to love you,  
I want to make you love!