

Fr. GIUSEPPE TAUFER

1950 - 2021



Giuseppe Tauffer was born on September 23, 1950, in Mezzolombardo (Trent), Italy, to his father Mario and mother Carmela Tait, sister of Camillian Father Arturo Tait.

On September 28, 1961, he entered the seminary of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza. On September 24, 1964, he went to Marchirolo (Varese) for the high school. He entered the novitiate on September 23, 1966 at Mottinello in Rossano Veneto, where he made his religious profession on September 24, 1967. In Verona, he attended the higher secondary school, and then the Theological Study at San Zeno, where he was particularly interested in the complementary courses of psychology. In 1975, he received his Baccalaureate degree in Theology, and took some time to mature his decision for definitive consecration. In the meantime, he accepted the assignment of educator at the Seminary at Mottinello, where he transferred on September 29, 1975. During the year, he obtained a short-degree in Psycho-diagnostics, which he used for a decade with the boys of the vocational summer camps.

At Mottinello, he made his solemn profession on February 2, 1976, and was ordained a Deacon on July 2, 1976 by Msgr. Antonio Mistrorigo, Bishop of Treviso. He was ordained a priest on October 15, 1978 by Msgr. Carlo Fanton, Bishop of Asolo.

In the Minor Seminary, he personally followed the students of the high school. For several years, the seminarians interrupted their formative programme, as they reached the end of their high school. This led the Major Superior to take the decision to transfer the Minor Seminary to Verona, causing many high school seminarians to leave the seminary. Fr. Beppino ended his formative experience in the seminary with some recriminations, and on September 15, 1982, he was transferred to the Community in Trent, which, after the closure of the seminaries of San Vito and Vigolo Vattaro a few years earlier, had reinvented its Camillian dimension with innovative pastoral activities.

On October 10, 1983, Fr. Beppino was appointed bursar of the house, and he remained there for six years. On May 5, 1985, he became a member of the Provincial Centre for Vocations, and a vocation promoter for Trentino, a land with scarce vocations, with the Diocese itself suspending all forms of vocation promotion activities. His aims now moved in a direction more congenial to him, social work, and he became part of the Camillian Pastoral Centre that was being set up in Verona.

During that year, Fr. Beppino got involved in the management of the new Therapeutic Community of Maso San Pietro, adjacent to the former psychiatric hospital at Pergine Valsugana, and he was the director of it for 35 years.

On June 16, 1992, he became Superior of the community in Trent. In October 2004, he became a member of the Social Works Secretariat of the religious Institute. Around 2007, he found himself battling with an oncological disease, which would accompany him with ups and downs until his death on January 7, 2021.

With a trait of shyness, introversion, and sensitivity, with a perceptive, imaginative, and critical intelligence, and not without a certain ambition and supported by a strong will, Fr. Beppino did his best in the work he started at Pergine Valsugana, facilitating psychiatric assistance to the patients of the territory. He was always attentive to the training of health workers and volunteers, and was committed to organizing conferences in 1999 and 2008 on psychiatric rehabilitation. At the beginning, he had to face the perplexities, fears, and reservations of professionals; but the increase in referrals of patients by psychiatrists required the opening of another centre called "Maso Tre Castagni", within the same campus after five years.