



FR. FELICE RUFFINI

Son of Domenico and Filomena Caiazzo

[September 2, 1935 – March 8, 2022]

Felice Ruffini was born on September 2, 1935 in Arzano (Naples, Italy). Later, his family moved to Rome. Fascinated by the Camillian habit - which he met at the Church of the Maddalena where he was an altar boy - he entered the Order on September 20, 1946. He made his first profession on October 7, 1950, and his solemn profession in October 1956. He was ordained a priest on July 6, 1958, and from the following September he was at Villa Immacolata in San Martino al Cimino. In 1960 he was transferred to “Forlanini” in Rome; he served in the San Camillo parish in Rome for a short period as assistant of Catholic Action, and then he returned again to “Forlanini”. Since May 27, 1968 he was the bursar at Villa Sacra Famiglia in Rome.

From May 14, 1974 to 1980 he was the superior of the community at Bucchianico and the Rector of San Camillo Shrine. This was probably one of the most fruitful ministerial periods of Fr. Felice. He was the creator of Radio Alfa, the local radio of the Shrine that had the collaboration of many young people of the time, now adults, still very attached to him and to his enthusiasm. In September 1980, he was appointed superior of the community at San Camillo Hospital in Rome and a provincial councillor. In 1983 he was again a provincial councillor, and was re-appointed as superior of the same community. On January 4, 1986, he was appointed undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Health Care, headed by the late Cardinal Fiorenzo Angelini.

This important and prestigious service rendered to the universal Church made him known and helped him to make known more and more the spirituality and the message of St. Camillus with which he was in love. On February 24, 1988 he obtained his doctorate in Sacred Theology with a thesis titled: “The Marian dimension in St. Camillus”. Since January 1991 he had been a member of the community at Villa Sacra Famiglia in Rome, holding the position of superior several times over the years.

In 2010 he was appointed a Consultor of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and was re-appointed for another three-year term in 2013. Since August 27, 2018, he had been increasingly weak due to a heart attack; however, certain that his survival was due to a divine intervention, he often thanked the Lord for the gift of life, for giving him more time to announce with firmness and joy the beauty of following the Lord.

Of a firm character, and in some ways easily irascible, perhaps due to his basic shyness, Fr. Felice was an enthusiastic promoter of the figure of the young Camillian, now Venerable, Nicola D'Onofrio, and supporter of the process of his Beatification and Canonization. A passionate journalist, "serial" researcher of news, events, curiosities and stories, he was always a skilled and imaginative writer, updated on the means of communication and dissemination. Numerous are his publications and articles on the history and life of our Order, the Founder, and the Camillian Saints and the Blessed.

After having contracted Covid and coming out negative, he was hospitalized at the Santa Giuseppina Vannini hospital in Rome, on February 4, 2022. Assisted by the Daughters of St. Camillus and several confreres, after days of suffering, he returned to the House of the Father on March 8, 2022. The funeral will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., at the church of Villa Sacra Famiglia. His remains will be laid to rest at the Verano Cemetery in Rome. The funeral chamber has been set up at the Community of the Daughters of St. Camillus at Vannini Hospital.

We are certain that he will be received among the blessed of the Father, and will be greeted by the Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Love, our Holy Father Camillus, and Nicolino's smile. We remember him in our prayers.

Rome, March 08, 2022