

Father Mario Zambiasi

1930 - 2022



He was born on 1 June 1930 in Mezzolombardo (TN) to father Amedeo and mother Rachele Cervo. Following in the footsteps of his elder brother Luigi, he entered the Seminary at Villa Visconta di Besana Brianza (MB) on 1st October 1942, for the Middle Schools; from October 1945 at Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI) for the IV Gymnasium and in 1946 again at Besana for the V Gymnasium. On 15 October 1947 he moved to Verona San Giuliano for the Novitiate, concluded with Religious Profession on 17 October 1948. In the house of Mottinello at the conclusion of his Theology, he entered the Order of the Diaconate on 19 December 1954 and the Presbyterate on 19 June 1955, at the hands of Bishop Gerolamo Bortignon of Padua.

After the summer as a substitute chaplain at the Cremona Hospital, in October 1955 he was assigned to the Seminary of Marchirolo (VA) as a teacher and adjunct assistant, to be transferred the following year, on 1 October 1956, to the Seminary of Besana with the same duties. In April 1957 he received the special assignment of vocational promoter, but on 1 August 1958 we find him at Sondalo Hospital as a general nurse, and from 1 October he was appointed chaplain of the 2nd Pavilion of the Sanatorium.

For these frequent changes of destination he would one day ironically call himself 'the man with the suitcase in his hand every six months'. After four years, he resumed his vocational activities in November 1962, based at the Apostolic House in Castellanza (VA), driving his Lambretta around Varesotto, Valtellina and Trentino. On 9 October 1965 he was again appointed chaplain, this time at the Civil Hospital of Verona B.go Trento, but it was short-lived, because on 28 March 1966 he was transferred to the Predappio Preventory as assistant to the in-patients. On 8 February 1967 he was appointed chaplain at the Umberto I Hospital in Mestre (VE). On 10 October 1968, he was transferred to the Sanatorio della Grola, near S. Ambrogio di Valpolicella (VR), part of the Verona S. Maria del Paradiso community. Since that facility was closed, on 15 September 1970 he went temporarily to the Civil Hospital of B.go Trento in Verona, and was then appointed chaplain at the Sanatorium of Galliera Veneta (PD). He remained there for four years, because from 6 November 1974 he asked and obtained permission to assist his seriously ill parents. On 1 September 1977 he was appointed bursar at the Seminary of San Vito in Pergine Valsugana (TN), and when the seminary was closed on 31 December 1980, together with the entire community he was transferred to the Deaf-mute Institute in the city of Trent.

In the meantime, he was commissioned by the bishop to work as assistant parish priest in the small parish of Covelo, Municipality of Terlago (TN), which allowed him to curb some personal problems with the religious community, which convinced him that he was better suited to a diocesan status. On 26 August 1981 he requested and obtained a decree of exclaustation, was accepted *ad experimentum* by the Tridentine Diocese, and was appointed parish priest in the two tiny communities of Ranzo and Margone, hamlets of the municipality of Vezzano (TN). On 1 January 1985, when the indult expired, he joined the community of Rossano Veneto (VI) as chaplain at the Sanatorium of Galliera Veneta (PD) and as assistant to the two chaplains at the Hospital of Cittadella (PD), where he remained in an official capacity from 1 November 1990.

On 18 July 2002, he found his way back to Lombardy, being placed in the community of Besana Brianza (MB), where he lent himself to the various local ministerial requests, but also accepting emergency substitutions in other locations, as was the case at the Sondrio hospital. He remained at Villa Visconta for the last twenty years of his consecrated life: he stopped being the man with the easy suitcase.

After a few months of health problems, for which he was admitted to the local Camillian nursing home, he died on Saturday, 15 October 2022, a season of the year for him always at risk of being transferred, the last this time and to other eternal shores.