



Father Leonello Signorati [1932 – 2025]

He was born on 24 December 1932 in Quinzano (Verona) to his father Silvio and mother Maria Righetti. He entered the Seminary of Villa Visconta, in Besana Brianza, on 11 August 1943. In 1946, he moved to the Seminary of Marchirolo for two years of secondary school. He entered the novitiate on 7 September 1948 in Verona S. Giuliano, which he completed with his profession on 8 September 1949. He continued his classical studies in Verona, achieving excellent academic results. In October 1952, he went to Tournai, Belgium, to study theology and learn French. During that period, he made his solemn profession on 1 January 1954. On 27 September 1955, he returned to Mottinello and completed his theology studies. On 17 December 1955, he was ordained a deacon and, on 17 June 1956, a priest by the Bishop of Padua,

Monsignor Girolamo Bortignon.

He began his priestly ministry on 1 July 1956 as chaplain at the hospital in Rovigo, as a summer replacement. On 1 October 1956, he was appointed teacher and assistant at the seminary in Marchirolo (VA). On 30 July 1963, he left for Canada and became chaplain *at the Hotel-Dieu* in Sherbrooke (Quebec). On 1 September 1965, he was appointed superior and parish priest at the S. *Michel Archange* hospital. From 1968 to 1971, he studied theology at Laval University. From 1971 to 1987, he served as bursar of the Canadian delegation and returned to his position as chaplain *at the Hotel-Dieu* in Sherbrooke. On 31 October 1972, he began his clinical pastoral training with two courses and received the academic degree of *Maîtrise Théologie Pastorale* from Laval University. In 1973, he enrolled in *the Social Service programme* at the University of Sherbrooke, graduating with a bachelor's degree on 10 June 1978.

On 9 September 1983, he was appointed superior in Sherbrooke and confirmed for the following three years, but from June 1987 until 1989, having resigned as superior, he assisted the Peruvian delegation as chaplain in *Neoplasticas*, Lima. From 1989 to 1992, he was appointed provincial delegate of the Canadian delegation. From 1991 to 1999, he was chaplain in Québec at *l'Enfant-Jésus*, in Lévis and at the Hôpital Lavai. From 2000 to 2008, he was assistant parish priest at the parish of *Notre-Dame-de Rocamadour* (Québec), with the priority of visiting the sick at home. With the suppression of the Canadian delegation, while remaining *in situ*, he was added to the community in Mexico. Now over ninety years old, still self-sufficient, he ended his Canadian adventure by returning to Italy on 3 May 2024, where he was welcomed into the community of S. Giuliano in Verona. He died in the religious house at 6 p.m. on 29 December 2025. The funeral was celebrated on 2 January 2026, and his ashes were buried in the monumental cemetery of Verona, in the tomb of the Camillian community.

Father Leonello, a serene person with a cordial character and a lover of good company, has worked with love and passion for 40 consecutive years as a pastoral animator for the health of the sick, hospital staff in different hospitals, and volunteers, also as regional chaplain coordinator. He has been particularly concerned with the spiritual and ethical formation of both hospital staff and volunteers. He specialised in palliative care and promoted courses for the spiritual and human accompaniment of terminally ill patients.

For several years, he also offered his services as spiritual animator for two *Cursillo* groups, *the Équipe Notre-Dame* and the Association for the Blind, not to mention the services he offered to the two Italian communities in Sherbrooke and Québec, as well as the animation of two groups of the Lay Camillian Family of Québec.

His motto was: "Serve God, present in every person, with passion, joy and love".

May the Lord welcome him into the blessed and nourished ranks of the children of St. Camillus.