



Father Antonio Casera 1933-2019

Antonio Casera was born on 1 April 1933 in Termeno (BZ), to his parents Giuseppe and Giuseppina Mosca. He was the last child of a religious and very numerous family that lived in Egna (BZ). Following in the footsteps of his siblings, Antonio also felt a vocation to join the Order of Camillians and he entered the seminary at Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MI) on 28 September 1946. He entered the novitiate on 11 October 1951 in Verona at the House of S. Giuliano and made his temporary profession on 12 October 1952 and his perpetual profession on 30 October 1955. After his high-school studies,

he went to the house of Mottinello in Rossano Veneto (VI) to study theology, engaging during that period in a special course of study lasting a few months in Münster and Sudmüle to learn German. In Mottinello he was ordained a deacon by Msgr. Gerolamo Bortignon, the Bishop of Padua, and he was ordained a priest by the same prelate on 26 June 1960.

After three months studying German in Vienna, in October 1960 he went to Rome to be the personal secretary of the Superior General at the generalate house. His stay in Rome provided him with an opportunity to engage in specialist studies in the field of pastoral care: in 1960 he enrolled in a two-year course of the Pontifical Lateran University; in 1962 he enrolled in the 'St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross' International College; and in 1963 he enrolled in the Marianum. In 1965 he was sent to Hessenheidhausen to help the Camillian Province of Germany. On 15 September 1966 he became an assistant of the minor seminary of San Vito in Pergine (TN) but on 31 December of the same year the St. Camillus Parish of Padua requested his help. On 7 September 1969 he was made substitute chaplain at the Sanatorium Hospital of Forlì for a few months and on 26 January 1970 he became a chaplain at the Hospital of Borgo Trento in Verona. On 1 December 1972 he went to the Hospital Circolo di Rho (MI). He combined religious assistance with lecturing at the School for Nurses and he also had a regular programme with the local 'Radio Cooperativa'. In the meantime, he became increasingly involved with the OARI and began to publish some general pamphlets.

On 27 December 1983 he was made the Superior and chaplain of the 'E. Morelli' Sanatorium in Sondalo. In August 1989 he went to St. Anne's Hospital in Como. On 27 June 1995 he was appointed the Superior of the St. Camillus community of Cremona where Fr. Enrico Rebuschini had been buried – Fr. Antonio became a convinced publicist of Rebuschini who was beatified at this time. On 2 July 2001 he was appointed the Superior and chaplain of the Hospital of Cà Foncello in Treviso. On 23 June 2004 he became the Superior and chaplain of the hospital of Rovigo. On 16 July 2007 he returned to being the Superior of the St. Camillus community of Cremona. On 1 October 2010 he went back to the province of Como to work at the new St. Anne's Hospital in S. Fermo della Battaglia.

On 9 May 2014 he went to Cremona to engage in religious service at the Church of the Blessed Rebuschini. He did this until 4 January 2017 when a cerebral ischemia changed his life by causing a severe cognitive deficit. On 20 March 2017 he was admitted to the RSA C.C. Bresciani of Verona and on 7 May was transferred to the RSA of Capriate. In February 2018 he had a number of cerebral haemorrhages which markedly worsened his condition and confined him to a wheelchair. He died on 29 January 2019 after receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick surrounded by his community.

In illness, as well, Fr. Antonio never lost his disarming, almost childlike, smile. He was a simple person, enthusiastic about his vocation, perhaps a little ceremonial and ingenuous, but he was always transparent, assertive, correct, sensitive, with a Teutonic *forma mentis*. Very well disposed to the requests of his superiors, he was pained by situations that were present in some of his communities. Always generous in his ministry, from which he never held back, he went round wards with journals and booklets in his hands which he suggested as reading to patients or the health-care staff. In his own way he tried to use the mass media in the best way possible and was always seeking to keep up to date. He was proud of being on the professional register of journalists of Lombardy (1996). He leaves behind him dear memories in his family relatives whom he always visited and whom he greeted with a blessing.