

Father Bruno Vettori

1923-2019



Bruno Vettori was born in Sover (TN) on 5 October 1923 to his father Giovanni and his mother Amabile Battisti. On 29 September 1936 he entered the seminary of Besana Brianza (MI) to attend middle and secondary school which he then finished at Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI). On 7 September 1941 he went to the house of S. Giuliano in Verona for his year of novitiate which came to an end on 8 September 1942 with his first profession of religious vows.

At the same house he continued his school studies at a classical lyceum and these studies came to an end in 1944-1945 at Valle Colorina (SO), safe from the dangers of war. After being moved to the major seminary of Mottinello, on 8 September he made his perpetual profession and then began his theological studies. On 1 November 1948 he was ordained a deacon by Msgr. Carlo Agostini, the Bishop of Padua, and on 2 April 1949 he was ordained a priest by the same prelate.

A part of the community of S. Giuliano, he began his Camillian ministry at Verona as a spiritual assistant, to begin with at an emergency health centre and then from 22 August 1949 at the sanatorium of Chievo. On 5 November 1952 he was sent as a chaplain to the INPS sanatorium of Arezzo. On 14 September 1956 he went to Castellanza (VA) as the spiritual father of the apostolic school for aspirant 'brothers'. On 12 July 1958 he was admitted to the *Pineta di Sondalo* (SO) Sanatorium. After being discharged on 1 February 1959 he became a chaplain at the *Villaggio del Sanatorio*. On 9 October 1963 he was moved to the minor seminary of San Vito di Pergine Valsugana (TN) and became its financial administrator and spiritual father, but on 11 October 1965 he returned to Sondalo to provide service. At this community he was also appointed its financial administrator on 23 October 1971. His period here was also marked by a car accident while he was a replacement chaplain at the hospital of Sondrio which left him with a limp given that an ankle operation was not able to restore him to normality. On 16 January of the next year he was moved to the new chaplaincy of the S. Anna Hospital of Como where he spent the rest of his ministerial life, faithfully visiting the patients of its wards but also taking part in the world of voluntary work: in 1978 he became a spiritual assistant for the local AIDO association and in 1987 he became the spiritual assistant of the local group of the AVULSS association for social/health-care voluntary work. On 10 October 1983 he was appointed the financial administrator of his local community.

Finally, on 31 May 2011, at the age of 88, deserved rest arrived for him as well, and he decided to live in the community of Capriate which was near to a nursing home to which he had to be moved some years later when his neurological condition deteriorated. Despite the decline in his cognitive condition, he loved to be taken to the places of animation of the RSA to sing songs of the good old days and to welcome his confrere who looked after him when he brought him an ice cream.

Father Bruno was not what one might call a lion, perhaps due to the fact that he lost his father when he was young because of a sad event. However, he had the fidelity and the tenacity of a shepherd dog. He respected authority, he needed to understand roles, he obeyed, and when he embraced a cause he pursued it with determination, albeit according to his own abilities. He assumed the responsibility of accompanying two of his nephews who had become orphans as a guardian, and he followed them as they grew up as young people and adolescents. He learnt from his erudite and updated confreres about new pathways of ministry and in his own way he followed them with conviction. He learnt, for example, that it is very worthwhile to emphasise the positive aspects of things and every time that he met someone, whether a sick person, a confrere or a professional, these qualities were immediately evident in him. Illumination of the Spirit? Insight? A simple cut and paste? The fact remains that this approach made him pleasant, agreeable and at times...surprising. One thing is certain: those compliments came from the heart and from a desire to create harmony around him. He had his own numerous group of faithful who asked prayers, advice and a presence from him. His post-prandial was made up of ministry carried out on his mobile telephone, despite his marked deafness. One place was for him pure oxygen: a periodic visit to the 'house of his mother', in his beloved Val di Cembra, even when his mother had been dead for a long time.

Cuore allegro ciel l'aiuta...Sursum corda! These were some of his typical beloved phrases. Well, keep your spirits up, Father Bruno. The dark roads and fears of your life have come to an end. Now it only falls to you to enjoy the beautiful and reassuring face of the Father.