



FR. CRISTIANO LESO TINAZZI

(1938-2019)

Cristiano Leso Tinazzi was born in Erbezzo (VR) on 14 February 1938 to his father Giovanni Battista and his mother Rosalinda. He was the second of seven children – four sons and three daughters. In October 1950 he entered the seminary of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MB). On 25 September 1956 he went to the house of San Giuliano in Verona for his year of novitiate which ended with his first profession of religious vows on 26 September 1957. He took his perpetual vows on 9 April 1961 and was ordained a priest on 19 June 1965 in Mottinello di Rossano Veneto (VI). Shortly afterwards he was sent to Colombia to support the new Latin American foundation of the Order and arrived in Bogota on 15 October 1965. He was sent to the community of Medellin on 28 December 1965 to be a chaplain at the Leo XIII Clinic where he stayed until the end of January 1970. He was made a chaplain at the Central Military Hospital in early February 1970.

In March 1971 he was entrusted, together with another religious of the Order, with founding a new Camillian community in Barquisimeto (Venezuela) where he became the chaplain of the ‘Antonio Maria Pinedo’ Civil Hospital.

In 1974 he returned to Medellin and became responsible for the chaplaincy of the ‘San Vincenzo de Paoli’ Hospital until 24 March 1975. He was then transferred to the community of Barranquilla and became the parish priest of the ‘San Paolo’ Parish and the chaplain of the ‘Terminal Maritimo’ Clinic. On 28 May 1977 he left Barranquilla and returned for the third time to Medellin where he was made the chaplain of the Leo XIII Clinic. He also dedicated himself to the promotion of vocations, managing to form a ‘small’ seminary connected to the house of the community with about fifteen young men.

In response to an invitation of the Provincial Delegate of the Delegation of Colombia and Peru, he moved to Peru on 20 September 1989 where he was a member of the community of Arequipa. He was made the Superior of the community and the parish priest of the large parish of ‘Nostra Signora del Pilar’. He remained there until November 1992 and after staying for some months in Bogota on 1 March 1993 he was called to begin a new Camillian foundation in the city of Trujillo. He became a chaplain at the ‘Belén’ Hospital and the parish priest of the ‘Vergine della Medaglia Miracolosa’ parish which would become the ‘St. Joseph’ community in 1995.

On 14 February 2008, after his seventieth birthday and at the end of his term as chaplain at the ‘Belén’ Hospital, he continued to be active in providing pastoral care in health in the local Church. He was also a confessor at the Cathedral of Trujillo and closely followed the activities of the Lay Camillian Family.

In February 2015 Fr. Cristiano accepted the invitation of his Superiors and was moved to the community for formation of the religious house of Buenamuerte in Lima, offering his service as the chronicler of the house, as a chaplain at the St. Camillus Clinic, and as a provider of support to the community in various initiatives.

Always ready to help and always smiling, Fr. Cristiano faithfully helped the sick and the elderly. On 20 June 2015 he celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a priest at the Church of St. Mary of the Buenamuerte surrounded by his confreres, by representatives of the Great Camillian Charismatic Family and by very many friends and acquaintances from Lima and Trujillo.

Because of an accident during his stay in Trujillo and the problems natural to his age, his state of health underwent a steady and intense decline as the months went by. Admitted on a number of occasions to the St. Camillus Clinic and the Luigi Tezza Clinic (run by the Daughters of St. Camillus), following a conversation with the Delegate of the Vice-Province he decided to return to Italy for good in February 2019.

On 14 February of that year he celebrated his eighty-first birthday surrounded by the faithful of the Church of Buenamuerte and by a number of confreres. A few days later the Vice-Province of Peru celebrated a solemn Eucharist of thanksgiving for the life and witness of Fr. Cristiano, with a large participation of confreres, women religious, seminarians and lay people, who came from the city of Trujillo as well. The next day Fr. Cristiano left for Italy for good.

He lived the last days of his life at the 'Bresciani' nursing home of San Giuliano (VR), looked after and helped by the religious of the community, by the health-care workers of the home, and by his family relatives.

Fr. Leso Cristiano died on 9 October 2019. His funeral took place in Verona on 14 October and he was buried in the tomb of the Institute in Verona.

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During his religious life Fr. Cristiano on various occasions was entrusted with beginning and supporting new foundations and he gave an open and admirable demonstration of obedience to, and love for, the Order. He always worked with humility and great dedication to serve the sick, demonstrating that he was a true son of St. Camillus. Everywhere he exercised his ministry, people always liked him and felt affection for him.

Our confreres overseas remember him and say farewell to him in the following way:

‘His example remains in our minds and hearts. We are certain that like all those who preceded him and are waiting for him with open arms before the Good God, he will receive the prize that is given to the faithful and merciful servant...’

‘All of your confreres and friends of Peru thank you, Fr. Cristiano, for everything that you have done for our Vice-Province and for the good of the community, the sick and all those who will remember you with affection and gratitude’

Descansa en PAZ, P. Cristiano.

Tus hermanos de la Vice Provincia del Perú