FR. GIOVANNI RIZZI (1927-2021)

Fr. Giovanni Rizzi was born in Cavizzana (province of Trento) in Italy on December 28, 1927. He entered Camillian Order on October 1, 1939, in the minor seminary of Besana Brianza. He began his novitiate on September 7, 1944, in the community of San Giuliano at Verona, and made his temporary profession on September 8, 1945. He made his solemn religious profession on April 24, 1949 at Mottinello in Rossano Veneto, and was subsequently ordained a priest on June 22, 1952, in the community of Mottinello.

Fr. Giovanni Rizzi's two brothers, Fr. Lorenzo Rizzi and Fr. Dario Rizzi, were also Camillian religious.

In September 1952, he was sent to the minor seminary of Besana Brianza for one year as teacher and assistant to the young aspirants. On December 14, 1953, he was transferred to the community of *San Camillo* in Milan in preparation for his mission.

On January 30, 1954, he set sail from Genoa for Taiwan together with Brother Cirillo Pozzi and fr. Vellenari Adelino; his destination was the Pescadores Islands. He arrived in Makung on March 14, 1954, and began studying Taiwanese language. On December 13, 1957, he was transferred to the mission house in Lotung, as the director of the aspirants.

He began his new ministry as the parish priest of Lotung parish on October 5, 1958. There, he was appointed the first novice master, on January 27, 1959. On January 30, 1961, he was transferred to Wanshan, to the formation house that functioned also as the reception of the sanatorium. On May 30, 1963, he was appointed superior of the community in Wanshan and the master of novices.

After ten years in Taiwan, he left for Italy on April 1, 1964, for a period of vacation. On January 21, 1967, he was appointed provisional representative of the superior of the mission, since Fr. Aldo Antonelli had fallen ill. He was appointed superior of the mission in Taiwan, on May 21, 1968.

He participated as a delegate in the special General Chapter of the Order held in Seiano, between January and March 1969. At the erection of the Camillian mission in China as a vice-province, he was nominated vice-provincial superior, on October 4, 1969. Thus, besides participating in the chapter of the Lombardo-Venetian province in April 1971, he participated in the General Chapter of the Order celebrated in Vienna.

In 1971, he was elected councillor of the vice province; then appointed master of the seminarians, master of novices, director of postulants, and delegate in-charge of the community in Lotung parish, with the authority of superior.

On May 13, 1974, he was nominated superior of the community in Lotung Parish, and was confirmed as master of novices. In the summer of 1977, he was transferred from Lotung Parish to the community of St. Mary's Hospital, and was appointed bursar of the hospital for the three-year period 1977-1980. He was subsequently confirmed in the same position for the three-year periods 1980-1983 and 1983-1986.

He was elected first councillor of the vice province on May 8, 1980 for the three-year period 1980-1983, and was reconfirmed in the same position for the following three-year period 1983-1986. On April 3, 1986, he was nominated vice provincial superior of the vice province of the Far East, and was reconfirmed for the triennium 1986-1989.

On May 14, 1986, he was appointed superior of the community of St. Mary's Hospital for the three-year period 1986-1989, and was reappointed to the same position on September 9, 1989 for the following three-year period.

In 1987, he participated in the meeting of the General Consulta with the Major Superiors of the Order held in Brazil; in 1988, he participated in the same meeting in Vienna, and in 1989 he participated as a delegate in the General Chapter of the Order celebrated at Bucchianico.

On September 9, 1989, he was appointed superior of the community of St. Mary's Hospital. In 1990, he attended a three-month CPE course at Mackay hospital in Taipei.

On July 1, 1992, he was appointed superior, bursar and assistant director of St. Camillus Hospital in Makung for the three-year period 1992-1995. He was elected *ad hoc* master of the novice Paul Han, on March 18, 1994, and the General Consulta designated the community of Makung as his novitiate house.

On June 28, 1995, he left for a period of vacation in Italy and returned on September 1. In the meantime, he was elected first councillor of the vice province for the triennium 1995-1998. On September 12, 1995, he became the superior of the community of St. Mary's Hospital, also serving as bursar for the three-year period 1995-1998. In the summer of 1998, he was reappointed to all the three offices for the three-year period 1998-2001.

On January 24, 2003, he, along with his confreres Fr. Pastro, Bro. Marinello, Fr. Antonio Didonè, and Bro. Petrin, received the PARC (Permanent Alien Residence Certificate) from the Republic of Taiwan.

On July 1, 2003, the date of the canonical erection of the Philippine Province, he was elected delegate of the Taiwan delegation until the end of the three-year term. In May 2004, he was confirmed as delegate of the Taiwan delegation for the three-year period 2004-2007, and was then appointed director of St. Mary's Hospital for the same three-year period. On August 1, 2007, he was appointed superior of the house in Taipei for the three-year period 2007-2010. On June 21, 2010, he was appointed the parish priest of Lotung, where he was the only resident religious.

In all these years, wherever he lived, Fr. Giovanni Rizzi was always the punctual editor of the chronicle, and thanks to his intelligence and passion, many events did not fade into oblivion.

In 2017, he was nominated superior of the community of *Sacred Heart* and chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital.

Fr. Giovanni Rizzi died on April 18, 2021. The funeral will be celebrated on April 24, 2021, at the Camillian parish in Lotung at 10 a.m. His mortal remains will be buried at the Catholic cemetery of Lotung, near the tombs of many other Camillian religious, who lived and served the sick for several decades in China and in Taiwan.

R.I.P