



FR. CRESCENZO MAZZELLA (1935-2021)

P. Crescenzo was born in Ischia (Naples, Italy) on January 1, 1935. On September 23, 1947, he entered the Seminary of “Villa Lellia” in Turin. On October 7, 1951, he entered the Novitiate in Imperia in the House of “Villa Immacolata”, where he made his temporary religious profession on October 8, 1952. On September 10, 1954, he moved to the new Seminary of “Stella Maris” in Borghetto Santo Spirito (Savona). On October 10, 1955, he began his Theological studies at the Seminary of Albenga. On January 8, 1956, he made his solemn profession of vows at “Stella Maris.” He was ordained a deacon on July 21, 1958, and a priest on March 22, 1959, by Mons. Raffaele De Giuli, Bishop of Albenga.

On September 19, 1959, he began his ministry at “Villa Immacolata” in Imperia. On October 14, 1961, he was transferred to “Stella Maris” to assist and teach the novices. On June 2, 1962, he returned to Imperia, but on October 2, 1963, he was again at Borghetto Santo Spirito. On July 5, 1965, he was appointed Master of the professed, a task he did not fulfil because of the decision to transfer the novitiate to Verona in October. On October 8, 1965, he was appointed assistant to the Postulants in Imperia. On October 11, 1969, he was transferred to Cavallerleone (Cuneo) as Bursar of the Community, and on January 3, 1970 he was appointed superior there. On July 5, 1971, he was appointed Superior of the house of Imperia, and also Provincial Councillor. He completed his mandate on May 3, 1974, but continued to stay in the same house.

On May 26, 1977, he was nominated Provincial Superior, and he moved to “Villa Benso” in Turin. His appointment was confirmed for the following three years. On June 27, 1983, he was appointed Superior of the House of “Villa Benso”, as well as Provincial Councillor for Formation. On October 1, 1988, he was appointed chaplain at the Hospital “San Luigi” in Orbassano (Turin). On May 19, 1989, he was again nominated Provincial Superior and returned to Turin; on July 22 of the same year he also became the local Superior. His appointment as Provincial was confirmed for the following three years.

On May 24, 1995, at the end of his mandate, he remained at “Villa Benso” as head of the Pastoral Care Centre and Animator of the Laity. On October 1, 1996, he was appointed chaplain at the Regina Margherita Hospital in Turin, joining the hospital community of “Salus Infirmorum”.

On January 1, 1999, he moved to Port-au-Prince in the Mission of Haiti that had started about four years ago, where he was appointed Superior and then Rector of the Seminary; he remained in office until 2010. On July 27, 2007, he was appointed Delegate and Bursar of the Delegation of Haiti, and his appointment was confirmed for the following three years.

On May 23, 2016, he returned to Italy for medical treatment, and remained there, because on December 15, 2017, he was placed in the *Comunità Madian* of Turin. He was admitted in the CTO hospital in Turin due to COVID infection, and he breathed his last on the night of April 20, 2021.

An authentic islander, reserved, simple, humble, welcoming, a man of few words and a good character, Fr. Crescenzo went through and lived a little of all the tasks that a Camillian can assume in service: the formation of candidates for religious life as well as of lay people, spiritual assistance to the sick, and administrative roles both at the local and provincial levels. These three services and the acquired experiences he finally put at the disposal of the newly founded mission in Haiti, a very

poor land with many difficulties. At that moment, he was 64 years old, the age at which his Founder St. Camillus - with whom he also shared a nagging leg problem - ended his run. He died of contagion, in contact with those assisted by the *Community of Madian*; and as a Camillian, now it remains for him a medal to be pinned on his chest, next to the red cross. We will be left with the memory of his profound humanity.