



Father Alfonso LIBRALATO
(1931 - 2014)

*Died 7 July 2014, in Redona-Bergamo (Italy)
aged 82, with 64 years of Religious Profession.*

Alfonso Libralato was born in S. Anna Morosina, a part of S. Giorgio in Bosco (Pd), on 10 August 1931, into a numerous family. Apart from his parents, there were seven brothers and sisters, of whom one other was to become a Montfort Missionary, Father Ivo. He entered the apostolic school in Redona in 1941 for his secondary studies and the first college cycle. He then continued his formation with one year of novitiate in Castiglione T. (To), which ended with his first vows on 8 September 1949. Then he went to Loreto (An) where he did his studies in philosophy and theology. In this young man, who seemed in certain ways timid, with a character that could sometimes appear dry, there lay hidden a reflective person, endowed with a perspicacious intelligence and a great taste for music. He was ordained priest on 5 March 1955 in the Basilica of the Holy House.

After a few months in Arona (No), obedience called Father Alfonso to the apostolic school in Redona, as an educator and teacher. In 1966, he was appointed to Arbizzano (Vr) where he was the superior of the new apostolic school for six years. Afterwards, in 1972, he took up residence in the community near the church of Saints Severino and Sossio. He attended the Theology Faculty of Southern Italy and there obtained a degree in Biblical theology.

After the Neapolitan interlude in 1975, he returned to the Montfortian seminary in Redona as the professor for the first two college years. In 1978, he was appointed superior of the scholasticate in Rome in the Via Prenestina. For six years, Father Alfonso dedicated himself with generosity to the task of formation, animated by a great desire to ensure its quality. If on the one hand there was no shortage of work, on the other hand the many young men who succeeded to the priesthood in those years were for Father Alfonso a source of satisfaction and of intimate joy.

Having completed this experience, Father Alfonso chose to immerse himself in the field of pastoral care. These years were characterised by frequent changes of community: Reggio Calabria -*Casa della Madonna* from 1984 to 1988, Ravenna from 1988 to 1991, followed by two years in Ginosa (Ta) as assistant parish-priest in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, then Naples as parish-priest of *Santa Maria di Ogni Bene ai Sette Dolori* from 1993 to 2000. Everywhere he sought to live deeply the Montfortian ideal, both in the spirit and in his style of pastoral activity, where there was no lack of opportunities to try out new forms of organisations.

In 2000, feeling more and more the weight of responsibility and a fatigue brought on by a state of health that was becoming precarious, Father Alfonso left Naples. He continued his pilgrimage towards "God Alone" in the community of Fiesso d'Artico (Ve), from 2000 to 2002, in Treviglio (Bg) from 2002 to 2005, and finally in Redona-Villa Montfort. There he died on 7 July 2014.

His funeral was celebrated in the church of Mary Queen of All Hearts, the same church that welcomed him at the age of ten. Now Father Alfonso awaits the Resurrection in the cemetery of Bergamo.