



Father Ambrogio GANDOLFI
(1938 - 2014)

*Died 22 May 2014, in Redona-Bergamo (Italy)
aged 75, with 50 years of Religious Profession.*

Ambrogio Gandolfi was born on 4 June 1938 in Ponte San Pietro (Bg). In 1959, aged 21, he gave up his career as a barber and joined the Montfort Missionaries. After three years of secondary studies, when he began the college course in 1962, he was admitted to the novitiate in Rome, where he made his first vows on 28 September 1963. He continued his formation course with college studies, and then theology at the Pontifical Lateran University. He made his perpetual profession on 29 September 1970, and was ordained priest on 6 March in the scholasticate church in Rome, under the patronage of St Louis Marie de Montfort.

As a young priest, Father Ambrogio was appointed to the community in Treviglio (Bg) for preaching, and he remained there until 1976. Afterwards, obedience called him to Naples, first of all in the community attached to the church of Saints Severino and Sossio, then in the parish of *Santa Maria di Ogni Bene ai Sette Dolori*.

In 1979, after a sabbatical year spent in the Capuchin Fraternity of Santa Margherita Ligure (Ge), Father Ambrogio returned to Treviglio (Bg). He entered into the Neo-Catechumenal experience and as an itinerant catechist preached the Gospel with a team of lay people in Sicily and Sardinia. In the years that followed, Father Ambrogio did not fail to make his joyful contribution to the *Cammino*, finding in this the possibility to respond to his aspirations as a Montfort Missionary.

In 1983, he joined the community in the Via Cori in Rome. In the parish of *Santa Maria Mediatrix*, he dedicated himself in particular to the pastoral care of the Sacred Heart area. When the Congregation left the parish in 1989, Father Ambrogio received an obedience to the Montfortian Marian Centre. Afterwards, in relationship with the community of Bianco (Re), he took on the pastoral responsibility for the parish of Plati (Rc) for one year (1993-1994), then returned to Rome to the community of *Regina dei Cuori*.

Father Ambrogio carried out his ministry in various Italian dioceses, either in itinerant preaching, or in support of the Montfort Missionaries' works. He loved contact with people, and knew how to make himself loved by them. Despite a rather unusual personality, style of life and apostolic work, he succeeded, thanks to his way of being simple and joyful, in transmitting the love of God, devotion to Mary and trust in divine Providence.

In 2008, due to health problems, he was welcomed into the community of Redona-Villa Montfort. There, somewhat unexpectedly, he finished his earthly pilgrimage on 22 May 2014. His funeral, celebrated in the church of Our Lady Queen of All Hearts, was noticeable for the participation of numerous confreres and a significant representation of the Neo-

Catechumenal community. He is buried in the cemetery of his native village of Ponte San Pietro (Bg).