



**Father Giovanni MANZONI**  
**(1928 – 2014)**

*Died 10 March 2014, in Redona -Bergamo (Italy)  
aged 85, with 66 years of Religious Profession.*

Father Giovanni was born in Pedrengo (Bg) on 6 August 1928. At the age of 11, he entered the apostolic school in Redona, with the desire to become a missionary. He made his novitiate in Belgirate (No) in 1947, the year of the canonisation of St Louis Marie de Montfort, then made his first vows on 8 September. He went to Loreto (An) for his theology studies and was ordained priest in the Holy House on 28 February 1953. Father Giovanni thus began his missionary journey which he would pursue ever after with a great sense of duty and even with passion.

From 1954 to 1961, he was in the community of Villa S. Maria, in charge of vocations promotion. With his young priest's enthusiasm, he went tirelessly from village to village on his Lambretta. Numerous youngsters were sent to the seminary and several of them became priests. After this, obedience called Father Giovanni to be spiritual director in the scholasticate in Rome (1961-1963) and in the apostolic school in Reggio Calabria (1963-1964).

Then began a new phase, with many years spent in supporting missionary confreres abroad, first of all in Arona (No), from 1964 to 1967, as superior, then procurator, in Caravaggio, from 1967 to 1971 and from 1979 to 1982. This was the time of the missionary fairs for the collection of funds and the provision of merchandise. He returned to the Procure in the years 1988-2000. As well as this, Father Giovanni, from 1971 to 1973, was a curate in the parish of Ginosca. Sent to Treviglio, he then dedicated himself to preaching, and in 1978 received his appointment to the new Montfortian residence in Croce di Menaggio (Co).

In the meantime, new concerns were emerging for Father Giovanni. In the footsteps of Montfort, he had a care for the new poor, in particular for drug addicts, for the homeless and for prisoners. For one year (1983-1984) he lived in a community for rehabilitation in Piona (Lc). He went back there in 1986 for a further two years, after a brief interlude in the community in Genoa, living as a father and brother among the young residents. He established after this the association Opera Buon Samaritano, in a desire to achieve a more organic work of caring in collaboration with lay people. The experience was not without its difficulties.

In the same way over the years spent in the community of Villa S. Maria, from 2000 to 2013, Father Giovanni never ceased to spend himself for others, visiting prisoners, welcoming those released from prisons and detention centres, helping all who were in need. During this time he was also available for preaching, hearing confessions and accompanying pilgrimages. His missionary zeal was not diminished. In particular he helped his missionary nephew in Madagascar, Father Orazio Rossi.

Father Giovanni remained in the Villa S. Maria as long as his health allowed, then he agreed to retire to the Villa Montfort. He passed the last months of his life in serenity, not speaking much, his Rosary always in his hand. He completed his earthly journey on 10 March 2014 at the age of 85. His funeral was celebrated in the church of Mary Queen of All Hearts, and he is now at rest in the cemetery of Pedrengo (Bg).