



**Father Vito PAGNONCELLI**  
**(1926 - 2014)**

*Died 14 November 2014, in Bergamo (Italy)  
aged 88, with 68 years of Religious Profession.*

Vito Pagnoncelli was born in Chignolo d'Isola (Bg) on 12 June 1925. He entered the apostolic school in Redona di Bergamo in September 1939. At the end of his first two years of college, he was admitted to the novitiate and on 8 September 1946 made his first vows in Belgirate (No). He continued his formation in Loreto (An), where he studied philosophy and theology. With his joyful and ironic tact, Vito was an affable presence. He took an active part in those initiatives that characterise life in the scholasticate, among them the Marian circle and the missionary academies, and he cultivated a passion for music. During the Holy Year of 1950, he took part with the other students in the International Marian Congress in Rome, and following the Montfortian sessions he had the opportunity to immerse himself in the Marian spirit of our founder. Having completed his studies, he was ordained priest on 8 March 1952 in the Basilica of the Holy House.

For the first ten years of his priesthood, Father Vito was particularly involved in academic pursuits and in teaching. In fact, after ordination, he went to Rome, to the Provincial House in the Circonvallazione Appia and did the first year of a theology degree at the Pontifical Lateran University. Being recalled to Loreto, he taught the two years of philosophy at the Montfortian scholasticate. Returning to Rome in 1955 to finish his specialist studies, he became professor of Scripture from 1956 to 1961 in the Montfortian scholasticate in Loreto.

The move of the major seminary to Rome also marked a passage in the priestly life of Father Vito, who became more directly involved in pastoral activity, first of all, from 1961 to 1963, in Reggio Calabria in the Rosary church, then for a year in Ginosa in charge of the inter-parish oratory, and then again from 1964 to 1968 in the parish of St Louis Marie in Monte Mario in Rome. Posted to Arbizzano (Vr) until 1973, he dedicated himself to the animation of Marian groups in Verona and the province.

There followed a long period spent in the community in Treviglio (Bg), where he spent 40 years with his indefatigable joviality, spending himself in preaching, in popular missions, in hearing confessions, in the service of various chaplaincies and in helping in the parishes. Father Vito did not like to push himself forward; he preferred a simple, hidden way of life. Also, within the community, he was always available for those services that demanded patience and commitment.

Having reached the age when one's strength and independence begin to weaken, Father Vito himself asked to go to the Villa Montfort, the house for elderly and sick confreres. There he finished his earthly pilgrimage on 14 November 2014, aged 88, with 68 years of religious life. His funeral was celebrated in the church of Our Lady Queen of All Hearts in Redona, and Father Vito was laid to rest in the cemetery in Bergamo.