

CURIA GENERALIZIA MARIANISTI
Via Latina 22 - 00179 Roma, Italia
Tel. (39-06) 704 75 892 - Fax (39-06) 700 0406
E-mail: gensecsm@smcuria.it

November 29, 2012

Death Notice No. 30 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of Italy, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **ANTONIO MASSA**, of the Santa Maria Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 22, 2012 in Rome, Italy, at the age of 88 with 72 years of religious profession.

Antonio Massa was born August 8, 1924, in a simple and numerous family in Trino, a village in the Province of Vercelli at the center of a vast area where good Italian rice is cultivated and not far from the equally beautiful region where one can enjoy Italian wine.

His father Francesco worked as a delivery boy and his mother as a housewife. They had a large beautiful family: seven children whom they educated into the holy fear of God and guided into the service of the Church. In fact, they consecrated three of their children to the Lord: Antonio and his brother Domenico Maria consecrated themselves to God in the Society of Mary and one sister made her vows in the religious Institute of the Sisters of Loreto.

After his first studies in his native village, his father Francesco wrote: “Having learned about the best school, I humbly ask that my son Antonio, age 12, be accepted as a student.” That was in October 1936, and Antonio was accepted into the Apostolic School of Pallanza.

He entered the Novitiate, also in Pallanza, and made his first religious profession on September 12, 1940. In spite of the precarious situation caused by the war in those years and ever having to seek shelter from the bombing (as he wrote to his superiors), he was able to complete his studies, obtaining the Maturità Magistrale [diploma of secondary school] in Rome in 1943 and the following year the Maturità Classica [diploma of secondary school in classics]. He joined the community in Rome the same year and started teaching with enthusiasm.

The judgments of his superiors were always very laudatory: “Character a bit noisy and impulsive: he does a lot of good and the students are happy with him, as are also the families. An active person, he is interested in new pedagogy and teaching methods, and wants to participate actively in the teachers’ meetings...” In September of 1951 he was called to be a teacher of the young postulants in the Postulate of Brusasco in the Province of Turin and there he remained for two years; then he was recalled to Rome in 1953, to dedicate himself to teaching in the Elementary School.

He was given the opportunity to attend the Second Novitiate at Villa Chaminade in Rocca di Papa (Castelgandolfo) near Rome and then return to teach at Santa Maria.

In the 1960’s a section of the Elementary School was opened near the Parish of the Most Holy Name of Mary in Rome. Antonio Massa undertook the direction of it and on this occasion he demonstrated

again his gifts as a teacher: “Active and capable...if he were more interested in keeping up to date he would be perfect. He is not afraid of work.” In the academic year 1965-66 he returned to Brusasco as director of the Postulate, but left there after one year because of its merger with the Postulate of Giove.

From 1966 he would remain uninterruptedly in Rome, in charge of the Elementary School as teacher and as director until 1989. We can reproduce the *Motivazione della benemerenzza* [Reason for award of merit] as a snapshot of our Antonio: “In both roles he has given the best of himself to the students, encouraging them to prayer, to neatness in dress and to the use of books, to respect for one another, to the obligation to help the poor and missionaries. His frankness in relations with the families and with his colleagues is ‘proverbial’ and he remains always an outstanding example of moral uprightness without compromise and without paralyzing doubts. As a brother, his availability for the service of the poor, of the sick is a title of merit.”

In 1989, as he was leaving the direction of the school, he wrote: “I have never floated the idea of retirement, but have mentioned changing functions in educational work. So I shall continue, if my collaboration is desired, to help in the Elementary School...and to be of a little help to the poor, in the office of the missions and in pastoral ministry...”

Only when his health, and that only a few months ago, confined him to bed did he retire to the infirmary and slowly, because of his illness, he died on November 22, 2012, in the arms of his brother Domenico, also a Marianist religious, who had returned from Albania to be lovingly at his side. R.I.P.