



**TERTIUS ORDO REGULARIS SANCTI FRANCISCI
SECRETARIUS GENERALIS**

May 17, 2016

Prot. N° 28/2016

**Subject: Death notice of Fr. Vincenzo Vecchio, TOR
Province of Saints Joachim and Anne, Sicily**

On the morning of the 10 October 2015, after a period of illness comforted by his faith, at the convent of *Santa Maria del Giglio*,



FR. VINCENZO VECCHIO, TOR

completed his earthly pilgrimage, at the ripe old age of 93, of which 76 were lived in our Order.

He was born in Linguaglossa (CT) a town on the slopes of Mount Etna, on 28 February 1922. He received a Christian education from his parents, Salvatore and Annunziata. He entered our Seraphic Seminary in Calvaruso on 27 September 1933.

He spent his novitiate-year in Sciacca, at the convent of *Santa Maria del Giglio*. He made his Temporary Profession on 27 August 1939 and his Solemn Profession in Rome, at the convent of *Saint Paolo alla Regola*, on 25 March 1943. In Rome, he finished his philosophical and theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, where he obtained the Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He was ordained a deacon on 21 December 1946 and to the priesthood on 22 March 1947 at Pontifical Basilica of St. John Lateran.



During the Provincial Congregation in 1948, he was elected provincial secretary and bursar and continued to exercise his priestly ministry as Master of Postulants in Calvaruso. On 26 June 1953, when the location of the novitiate was moved from Sciacca to Calvaruso, he was nominated and installed as Master of novices, with the exemption “*ratione aetatis*” from the Holy See. In 1963, after Father Pietro Giorgianni’s death, he served as Provincial Minister.

On 6 October 1966, he was transferred from Calvaruso to Naples where he was local minister and provincial economo. In the Congregation of 1969, he was elected Provincial Minister (1969-1972), a service executed in Messina at the convent of *Saint Andrea Avellino* and in which he was confirmed until 1976. Later, for a four-years-period, he returned to our convent in Calvaruso where he dedicated himself to the pastoral care of the Sanctuary and he looked after young Indian seminarists.

During the Congregation of 1980, he was transferred to Sciacca where he spent the last 34 years of his life. He continued to work as local minister, member of the general definitory and Master of the novices. In 1986 he was member of the commission for the revision of the TOR Constitutions.

In Sciacca, he is remembered for his novena homilies on the twelve Saturdays in preparation for the Celebration of the Immaculate Conception, and on the Marian devotions during the month of May. His obedience to the will of the Lord, which he gradually learned to accept firmly and faithfully, were blessed by copious spiritual fruits.

He was a dedicated confessor, becoming a reference point for the Christian Community of Sciacca. The Christian faithful remember him for his authentic faith, for his priestly fervor, for his listening skills and his soul-enriching and encouraging words. He spread and introduced the Spiritual Union of the Perpetual Intercession founded in 1931 by Father Salvatore Vecchio TOR.

A few years before the death, he suffered from a cerebral stroke, which during the last period of his life, prevented him from his apostolic outreach. He offered his own suffering in order to get peacefully ready for his meeting with the Risen Lord. During the time of his suffering he was fondly assisted by the community of friars at the convent of *S. Maria del Giglio*, by Father Paolo Raviotta and also by many faithful.

The funeral was celebrated on Monday 12 October 2016 at the Church of *S. Maria del Giglio*, crowded with the faithful, brothers, sisters and many Christians in the Basque Country, including the ordinary diocesan clergy. Cardinal Francesco Montenegro, sent a message of condolences and closeness in prayer from Rome, while he attended the Synod of the Family.

On Tuesday 13 October 2016, a funeral service was held at the Holy Mother Church in Linguaglossa officiated by the Provincial Minister, the Very Rev. Father Filippo Todaro TOR, with the participation of several brothers, friends, the local faithful and relatives who wished to pay their final respects to Father Vecchio, and accompanied his mortal remains to the local cemetery. May he rest in peace.



May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Please offer the suffrages for the repose of his soul according to articles 61-67 of the *General Statutes*.

Fraternally,



fra Danijel Gornik

Fr. Danijel Gornik, TOR
Secretary General