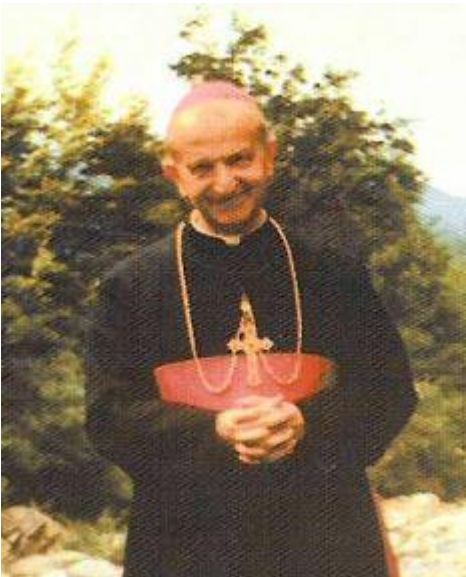


**FATHER BERNARDINO M. PICCINELLI**  
**(1905-1984)**



Father Bernardino was born Dino Piccinelli at Madonna dei Fornelli in San Benedetto Val di Sambro on January 24, 1905. His parents were Agostino Piccinelli and Adalgisa Marsigli.

In 1906 Signora Piccinelli was widowed when Dino was less than two years old. She married again in 1909 to Giuseppe Laffi. She had four children with her first husband and another two with her second husband.

Signor Laffi found work in the Bologna arsenal and the family moved to the capital city of Emilia. They took up residence in the neighborhood of the Servite church – Santa Maria dei Servi. It became their parish church where Dino was an altar boy.

At the age of twelve Dino sought admission to the Order of Servants of Mary and was accepted as a candidate at the priory in Montefano (Macerata) and there pursued his secondary studies and made his novitiate (1917-1921).

Dino was given the religious name Bernardino when he was clothed in the Servite habit. He did the first year of philosophy in Bologna (1921-1922) but then was asked by his superiors to help Father Benedetto M. Marconi, the student master, and teach fourth grade elementary in the school at Ronzano. He did the second year of philosophy at the Santissima Annuziata in Florence (1923-1924). Fra Bernardino then went to Rome where he studied theology for four years (1924-1928). He was ordained to the priesthood on February 5, 1928 and was given doctorate in theology in June 1928.

Father Bernardino spent the first year of his apostolate in Reggio Emilia at the city's shrine: La Madonna della Ghiara. From 1929 to 1936 Father Bernardino was assigned to the community in Ronzano. Initially he was the assistant master of postulants (1929-1932). He was then appointed master of postulants (1932-1936).

After another year spent in Reggio Emilia (1936-1937) the 1937 Provincial Chapter named him pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Ancona. He was to replace his cousin, Father Giovanni M. Rossi, who had been elected Prior Provincial. For the next 47 years, until the day he died, Father Bernardino was a member of the Sacred Heart community.

From 1937 to 1968 he was the pastor (31 years) and often the prior of the community.

In 1966 he was named Auxiliary Bishop of Ancona and became Vicar General of the diocese. He had special papal permission to remain as pastor of Sacred Heart until the end of 1968.

In 1980 he reached the age of seventy-five and offered his resignation as Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop. His resignation as Vicar General was accepted in 1980. His resignation as Auxiliary Bishop was accepted only in 1983 when his health began to fail.

On October 1, 1984, Father Bernardino Piccinelli left this life. He was mourned by all – including the civic authorities. Everyone recognized his great virtue and merits.

The diocesan inquest for beatification began on March 16, 1996 in Ancona and concluded on October 8, 2006. On November 20, 2007, the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints issued a decree recognizing the validity of these proceedings. We are currently preparing the *Positio super virtutibus*.