

**FRA VENANZIO M. QUADRI**  
**(1916 – 1937)**



Antonio Quadri was born in Vado di Setta (Bologna) on December 9, 1916. His father was Giuseppe Quadri, a professional tailor, and his mother was Pia Castelli who wove baskets for a shop in Bologna.

He first met the Servites on September 16, 1926, when he was ten years old. On that day Father Benedetto M. Marconi, the Master of Postulants at Ronzano (Bologna) led his young charges on a hike to the village of Vado to visit the family of one of the boys. Local children – among whom young Antonio – were fascinated by this group of boys, some with tunics, visiting their village.

Antonio was impressed by the boys' high spirits and when they had returned to Ronzano he told his mother he would like to join that group as soon as possible. He was granted his wish on October 3, 1927 when he entered the *Collegio* at Ronzano.

From 1929 to 1931 Father Bernardino M. Piccinelli (today a Servant of God) taught young Antonio Italian, French, History and Geography. Father Piccinelli was also the assistant Master of Postulants. Besides being a teacher Father Bernardino was also his confessor and spiritual director. At school the young boy learned devotion to Our Lady and boundless admiration for St. Therese of Lisieux.

On September 7, 1931 Antonio and six other companions were clothed with the tunic and sent to Reggio Emilia. Father Amadio M. Brighetti, the new Master of Postulants, took them there. In 1931-32 he pursued the studies appointed for fourth and fifth year of *Ginnasio* (middle school).

On August 28, 1932 (the Feast of St. Augustine) he was clothed in the Servite habit and began his year of novitiate – 1932-1933. At the ceremony he was given the religious name of Venanzio. He made his temporary profession on August 29, 1933 and with the Master's permission offered himself as a "victim of love." This is something St. Therese of Lisieux had done.

From 1933 to 1935 Fra Venanzio studied philosophy in Bologna and then went to Rome (1935 – 1937) to study theology. The theology course was four years long but Venanzio died unexpectedly on November 2, 1937. One of his companions, Fra Pietro M. Rizzi, has left us a detailed account of these four years.

Fra Pietro's description of Fra Venanzio's death is one of the most beautiful episodes in the seven hundred-year history of Servite spirituality. The Servant of God's holiness was especially noteworthy at his death. He was devoted to the humanity of the Lord Jesus (a devotion of St. Therese of Lisieux). He was very devoted to his mother and wanted her near him as he died. Fra Venanzio led a wonderful life that ended too soon; a life splendid with spiritual light.

The cause for his beatification began in Bologna in 1957 and concluded in 1967. The *Positio super causae introductione* was finished in 1979 but there was a change in legislation in 1983. There was further documentary research and on February 2, 1996 the *Positio super vita, virtutibus et fama sanctitatis* was presented. Since that time we are waiting for it to be discussed.

This precludes any efforts to demonstrate Father Giochino M. Rossetto's heroic exercise of Christian virtue.