Brother Antonio RONTAUROLI  
(1934 – 2014)  

 Died 18 August 2014, in Redona-Bergamo (Italy)  
 aged 79, with 60 years of Religious Profession.

Antonio Rontauroli was born on 3 October 1934 in San Giovanni di Querciola, in the commune of Viano (Re), a small village spread over the Emilian hills. His vocation came to light during the course of a mission preached by Father Pasquale Buondonno in the region of Reggio Emilia. At 21, he joined the Montfort Missionaries and after a few months of postulancy was admitted, on 19 March 1952, to the novitiate of the coadjutor Brothers, in Castiglione T. (To), where he made his first vows on 8 September 1953. There, and in the apostolic school in Redona, he carried out the tasks asked of him and continued the path of his formation in the consecrated life. On 8 September 1958, in Castiglione T. (To), he made his perpetual profession.

During his first years of religious life, Brother Antonio carried out the simple but precious tasks of cook and door-keeper in the parish community of the Via Cori in Rome, in Naples and especially in the apostolic schools in Reggio Calabria, Redona di Bergamo, Arbizzano (Vr), and in the novitiates in Barzizza (Bg) and Roncà (Vi).

Still in Redona (1970-1971) and especially in Arbizzano (1972-1976 and 1979-1982), he was assistant to the “Apostolini”. He followed their human and spiritual growth with a passion, and infused their recreations and moments of relaxation with creativity. So many youngsters in this environment found in him a fine example.

His formation commitment was mingled with a desire for the foreign missions. Brother Antonio nourished this during the years he spent in the Mission Procure in Caravaggio (1971-1972 and 1976-1979). His dream was fulfilled when, in October 1982, he left for Peru, having received the crucifix from the hands of Monsignor Amari, the Bishop of Verona. He wrote in the Apostolo di Maria: “I am happy to leave to be evangelised and to evangelise, to give and receive, in an availability to God and my neighbour that is not easy, but that is worth the pain, so as to build the Kingdom of God.” Thus there began 28 years lived for the most part in Huanuco, in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, except for a brief interruption at the Visitation in Lima and in Huaycán. He took charge of the domestic chores and opened himself to the missionary life, joining the communities of Sierra. He presided at celebrations of the Word and catechism classes, prepared people for the Sacraments, visited the sick, and took care of families, and was a member, among other things, of the Legion of Mary. Brother Antonio had an inner richness that he was not always able to communicate, or that he did not always want to communicate. Though he seemed to be silent and closed in on himself, nevertheless he made himself loved by his frankness and his human consistency.

For health reasons he returned to Italy between 2007 and 2008, and then decided to leave Peru permanently. In 2010, obedience summoned him to the Villa Montfort. As far as his ailing heart would let him, he sought to be, in the new community, useful to the sick and...
elderly confreres, speaking by his very silence… And in silence he left us on 18 August 2014, at the age of 79. Now he rests in the cemetery in Bergamo, waiting to encounter Jesus and Mary, whom he served in the footsteps of Saint Louis Marie, going out to the world’s margins.