

... in Jesus and Mary,

Dearest Fr. Fortunato,

I hope you are well, notwithstanding the many works you are doing. But, maybe this is precisely one of your special characteristics, not only now. In fact, ever since you were still a novice, I still remember that even during the outings you did not want to waste time and so you spent it narrating the trip... in verses.

Anyway, let us do everything always for the Lord and for the good of our beloved Congregation, ad maximum consolation Cordis Jesu, for the greater glory of the Rogate. In these days I am reading the article you wrote on the "Saggio sul Rogate". Well done, keep it up! Now I am also reading the Biography of the Founder. The more I read about him the more I fall in love with him and of the greatness of his sanctity. May we all know and imitate him!

With fraternal affection in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Joseph Aveni, R.C.J.

PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES THROUGH FR. AVENI

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gifts you granted to your priest, Joseph Aveni, configuring him to Jesus, the Master who is gentle and humble of heart. With trusting humility he found in your merciful love the joy of his life, the zeal for the salvation of souls, and the light for his service of spiritual guidance. He loved You in his neighbor and his neighbor in You, and dedicated his life to obtain holy workers particularly to the Asian continent.

Glorify, O Father, this zealous priest, for the praise of your Name so that he may be for the Church an effective sign of your Kingdom.

Through his intercession, grant light to the young people, health to the sick who turn to him, and to us, grant the grace we long for (*mention your personal intention here*), so that we may also find our joy in fulfilling your Will. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Copies of Fr. Aveni's prayer cards are available upon request.

LET US PRAY
FOR...



Pascual Jagurin
Mariano Rondael, Sr.
Pilar Solosa Barandino
Rad Garcia
Adely Singuran
Melanie Tijam
Justin Richmond Indonila
Alvin De Guzman
Dante Montajo
Fr. Cesare Bettoni
Jerick Marc Ollesca
Luigi Aveni Limina
Gisella
Elpidio Javellana, Jr.



* for prayer requests
* for copies of Fr.
Aveni's prayer cards...

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Friends of
Father Joseph Aveni

FEBRUARY 2017

Supplementary Flyer for those who do not have access to



Dear Friends,



As we celebrate the World Day of Consecrated Life, we thank the Lord for the ranks of men and women who generously offered their life "for the sake of the Kingdom". We cannot but remember also our dear Fr. Joseph Aveni, who left a shining example of religious and priestly life. Instituted in 1997 by Pope Saint John Paul II, this special day of prayer for consecrated people has a three-fold purpose: (1) to thank God for the great gift of Religious Life to the Church; (2) to promote knowledge and esteem of the consecrated life among all the people of God; and (3) for consecrated persons to celebrate together the marvels the Lord has worked in them

and to discover a renewed consciousness of their irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd, also known as the Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

During the Year of Consecrated Life (2015), Pope Francis reminds that "Evangelical radicalness is not only for religious; it is demanded of all. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way", so much so that they become "men and women who are able to wake up the world". This implies the role of religious that like prophets, they are to hear the Word of God with attention and to announce it to the world with passion.

A Biographical Sketch...

Sacred Orders and First Years of Priestly Ministry

In the course of his theological studies brother Joseph received the minor orders, successively: of *tonsure* on February 1, 1942; of *porter* and *lector* on December 12, 1942; of *exorcist* and *acolyte* on March 19, 1944; of Sub-deacon on December 8, 1944; the sacred orders of Deacon on December 17, 1944. Finally, on July 15, 1945, fourteen years after he entered the seminary Joseph officially became



Father Joseph Aveni. He was ordained by the Archbishop of Messina, Msgr. Angelo Paino, in the Church of Montevergine (Messina).

During the first years of his priestly ministry Father Joseph was assigned to the “Christ the King” Seminary in Messina as Vice-Superior, Prefect of Discipline and Professor until 1947 when he was transferred to the House of Trani as Vice-Superior and Professor.

Formator and Spiritual Master

His Superiors immediately saw in Father Joseph the charism of a formator so much so that, in 1947, though not even thirty years old, he was appointed as Novice Master in Trani. After nine years he was called to Rome to be the Director of the Theology Students; in 1959, he resumed the office of Novice Master in Florence and then in Zagarolo, until 1972, when he was assigned as Spiritual Father in “Christ the King” Seminary in Messina.

He was seriously engaged for many years in his role and responsibility as formator, which he carried out with dedication for a long series of Rogationists generations. For this he was considered by all as the *Father Master* par excellence, a true master of the spirit. He stood out for his scrupulous observance of the rules, the same thing that he demanded from his formands.



As young Master of Novices in Trani, 1951

The life of Father Joseph was spent entirely within the Rogationist communities; all his moments were punctuated by the daily schedule; his existence had nothing particularly extraordinary; his apostolate, characterized by transparency, was as if seamlessly woven in a single piece, in concurrence of time and place; he has not benefited from fleeting popularity nonetheless enjoyed extensive, multiple and intricate relationships. By his exemplary life, Fr. Aveni has conquered the hearts of the simple and all those who have had the opportunity to encounter him during spiritual direction. Even those who just met him occasionally have preserved a high esteem and considered him a commendable person of reference for his evangelical and religious witnessing. Consistency has been and will remain the authentic stamp of his holiness

He was highly esteemed by the Confreres so much so that in the General Chapter of 1974 he was elected Vicar General of the Congregation and Councilor for Religious Life. *(To be continued...)*



As Vicar General on a visit in Zagarolo, Rome, 1975