**Fr. Leocir Pessini, MI – Obituary**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of our dear friend Fr. Leo Pessini, who died on July 24, 2019, at the age of 64. Fr. Leo was born on 14 May 1955 in a small town at the southern State of Santa Caterina in Brazil. He made his perpetual profession as a member of the **Ministers of the Sick – the *Camillians***in 1978, and was ordained a priest in 1980. He always cultivated a great passion for the Camillian charism, care for the sick, and service for the Church, through his ministry in healthcare and teaching, especially in the field of bioethics.

Fr. Leo loved to divide his biography into three great trajectories in order to identify three strong and fundamental points in the construction of his life’s journey. The first fifteen years were completely dedicated to service to the sick (1981-1995). For the first thirteen years of this period he worked as a chaplain at the *Hospital das Clínicas*of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo (Brazil).

During the second stage of this pathway, which lasted fifteen years (1995-2010), he held administrative posts as a leading figure in the university world: he was a lecturer, the scientific director of academic journals, and he became responsible for the educational sector of the Camillian Province of Brazil in the *União Social Camiliana*, a body that supports the Camillian university in Brazil. During this period, he concluded his doctorate in moral theology and bioethics at the Faculty of Theology *Nossa Senhora da Assunção* of the Catholic Pontifical University of São Paulo. At the level of civil society, the Church and the government of Brazil, he held the post of national coordinator of pastoral care in health of the Bishops’ Conference of Brazil (2004-2007); he was a member of the national commission on research on human beings of the Ministry of Health of the federal government (2005-2008), and a consultant on bioethics for the Federal Council of Medicine (2010-2014).

The third stage of his life’s journey was characterized by service as a figure of authority for his Camillian confreres (2010-2019). There were two phases in this: first as Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province of Brazil (2010-2014) and then as Superior General of the Order of Saint Camillus.

Before he became General Superior, Fr. Leo was an active member of CTEWC, attending the conferences of Padua and Trent. He was a bright scholar in the field of theological ethics and bioethics. He published 26 books, edited 29, published 67 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 70 book chapters. He worked tireless for the development of theological ethics and bioethics in Brazil, being also president of Brazilian Society of Moral Theology (2010-2016).

After the discovery of his illness in September 2018, he underwent treatment for some months in Rome and in March 2019 he moved to São Paulo. The care offered by the medical doctors, the fraternity of his confreres, and the affection of his parents and his sisters accompanied him and comforted him as he moved towards his encounter with the merciful face of God!

He died at the Camillian community of *Recanto São Camilo* in São Paulo during the night of 24 July 2019. At the CTWEC meetings, he will be always remembered as a colleague who had great enthusiasm and enjoyable sense of humor. We are thankful and grateful to the Lord, for the life and the Camillian and intellectual vocation of Fr. Leo. RIP.