

fr. Alessandro Donati



Born in Trento, Italy, he is a Discalced Carmelite of the Venetian Province. He continued his studies in preparation for the priesthood in Catania and Brescia. Ordained a priest in 1993, he was invited to Brussels to earn a licentiate in moral theology from the Jesuit Institute of theology.

After several years of teaching at the "Giovanni della Croce" Theological Institute of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers in Brescia, in 2002 he began his mission in Rome, in a Carmelite parish, dedicating himself particularly to youth and family ministry.

During his time in Rome, he cultivated a passion for photography, which he had started since childhood, accompanying his grandfather on his photographic trips.

Since the end of 2015, Father Alessandro has returned to Brussels, to the community of the Carmelite Fathers, on Avenue de la Toison d'Or.

His priestly ministry covers various areas: pastoral care in collaboration with the Missionaries of Charity, chaplaincy in various retirement homes, catechism, and leading pilgrimages to Israel.

In the fall of 2018, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination, he dedicated a photography exhibition to Brussels, the city that welcomed him on his first steps as a priest ("When in Brussels and Autumn").

In 2019, in collaboration with the spiritual and historical center of his Carmelite community (the Carmelites of the Venetian Province), he presented a new photography exhibition on Venice ("Serenissima").

In 2022, after the long and sad period of the Covid pandemic, Brother Alessandro offered his photographs to the public with an exhibition on the city of Amsterdam ("Amsterdam").

His passion for drawing dates back to childhood. His father, Adriano, gifted with an excellent hand for portraiture and a keen capacity for psychological introspection, passed on to him what he possessed, instilling in him the desire to continue his personal artistic pursuits.

The prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, without distracting him from his pastoral and community commitments, gave him more time to pick up his pencil again. Far from the faces of his friends and faithful, he embarked on a unique spiritual and cultural journey to discover the human face.

During this period, numerous portraits of "Saints" were created and made available to the faithful in the church on Avenue de la Toison d'Or.

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of his priestly ordination, as a sign of gratitude and trust in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Father Alexandre felt the desire to draw "mothers" from the five continents of the planet.

Of these, he selected 40, displaying them to visitors to the Carmelite church under the biblical title "Sicut Mater consolatur" (Isaiah 66:13; "as a mother consoles").

On the occasion of the Jubilee Year of Hope (2025), 1700 years after the great Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, Father Alessandro presents to the public "Pères de l'Eglise" (30 portraits of saints from the early centuries of the Church), accompanied by a brief biographical and theological profile.

Fr. Alessandro is working on the preparation of two upcoming exhibitions: one of photographs, featuring the marvelous Cappadocia; the other, of drawings, dedicated to the "Mysteries of the Life of Mary of Nazareth."