

SETTANTA VITE IMMORTALI



Olgiate Olona - 26 giugno

June 29, 1959: funerals in Busto Arsizio

Summary of the event as reported in the *Almanacco della famiglia bustocca*

Our Basilica of St. John never received such a large number of caskets at the same time, among the touching and silent pilgrimage of a huge crowd. In the Basilica transformed into a mortuary chapel and in the square crowded with thousands of people eager to give their final respects to the victims, during the solemn and impressive funerals the officiating auxiliary Archbishop Mons. Pignedoli expressed everyone's pain with these high and consoling words:

«We bow our heads in humility. The boundary of life and death is unknown. Mortal life has boundaries that must lead to limitless horizons, for ever and ever. The voice of the Prophet still echoes today – Voice of one saying: Cry! And I say: What should I cry? All mortals are like grass and all their glory is like the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. – We bow our heads in humility, we accept life and death's law, its hours, its unexpected and decisive moments. We pray for Them who have left us in the solitude of love... You were certainly there, oh Lord, close to each one of them. Now listen to our supplication: accept these souls that you created in your peace without sunsets and night... We pray for all those who loved them and now, for the affliction, they have the heart and the word rendered almost powerless to express themselves. Fill, oh God, their emptiness!... We would tell them: They are there, your loved ones, with the Lord who comforts. They are waiting for us: we all will come!... And we mourn with you and pray. We pray almost putting the words of David on the lips of those who have left us: - I walk with my eyes looking towards the summits; from where the rescue will arrive? From none other than the One who created the heavens and the earth. When you leave and when you return God will watch over you now and forever.»

(taken from: *Almanacco della famiglia bustocca*, 1960).