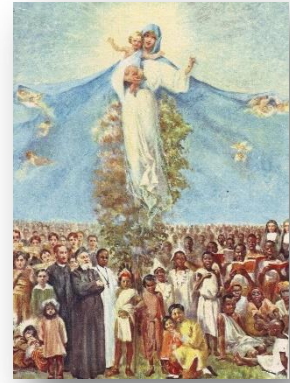




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Prot. MG 12/24

Dearest Sisters,

the experience of the Canonical Visit in the two Latin American Provinces: “Our Lady Aparecida” and “Our Lady of Guadalupe” is still alive in our hearts. It has been an intense time of meetings, of mutual knowledge, of brotherhood and prayer. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your serene and generous welcome and for your openness of heart, searching for the “possible step” to improve things. For this time lived together: *Deo gratias et Mariae!*

In the context of the Marian Year, we are now celebrating the 109th anniversary of our foundation and we are feeling with more awareness that Mary is our Mother and Foundress. In fact, her maternal intervention at the closing of the first festive Oratory in 1893 and the vision of an international family gathered under her blue mantle, represents a true “conception” for us. Under her mantle the cleric Luigi Orione had seen us too, and “in the hour of God”, that is in other words, in the particularly painful situation of the First World War and the earthquake in Marsica, he became a docile instrument to give life to our birth in the Little Work of Divine Providence.

Mindful of this experience, in his first circular letter (1916) he wrote to us: *“Your Institute is under the wings of Divine Providence, like a chick, and under the mantle of the Heavenly Mother, Most Holy Mary: so live and trust in the Lord!”*.

In this same letter he encouraged his first female aspirants: *“Be fervent, good daughters of the Lord, be fervent in devotion to the Most Holy Mary who is the Mother who gave us Jesus himself, the Mother of our little Institute and of each of you personally. Be assured that with devotion to your Mother everything will be fine for you, and we will all go to Heaven”* (Scr. 67,187).

In this time of great uncertainty, between the risk of another world war and the desire for peace on a personal and global level, we feel our hearts are a little lost and, together with others, we are experiencing an institutional crisis. That’s why we are entrusting ourselves to the Virgin Mary, in order to help us realize with more prophecy our vocation and mission in the Church.

We were founded on June 29th, on Pope's Feast, and the words of Pope Francis pronounced to the participants of the XIIIth General Chapter are still enlightening us today: “When Saint Luigi Orione founded the first of your communities, he gave you the mission of ‘making people experience God’s Providence and the motherhood of the Church’. That is, he called you to incarnate the merciful action of God and the Church in a maternal spirit. To do this he then indicated three fundamental ways: *to be united to Jesus, close to your brothers and sisters and active in service*” (May 25th, 2023).

In this year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee of 2025, we ask the Mother of God and our Mother for the grace to be ever more united with Christ, who is the root of every activity of ours. Pope Francis explains: “It is a matter of making Jesus' way of life our own, letting Him act in us more and more, abandoning ourselves to Him, to the point of being able to say, like Saint Paul: ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me’ (*Gal 2:20*); and again: ‘Caritas Christi urget nos’, ‘The love of Christ controls us’ (cf. *2Cor 5:14*).

Don Orione was aware of this reality when he stated that ‘to conquer God and grasp others we must first live an intense life of God in ourselves’, a faith that burns within and shines around us. And so,

let yourselves always be conquered first of all by the Lord, by his living presence in the Eucharist, in his Word, in yourselves, thanks to the Holy Spirit. Remember that, as mothers, the greatest gift you can give to the children that God entrusts to you is that of transmitting to them *your tender and impassioned love for Jesus*, of teaching them to love him and to know him as you know and love him, and of making them sharers in your faith in him”.

Keeping in mind these words of Pope Francis, let us accompany with our prayers Mother M. Mabel Spagnuolo and the Councillors of the Province "Mater Dei", together with Sr. M. Carità Hareźlak and the Councillors of the Province "Our Lady of Częstochowa", who are beginning their three years of service. We wish them docility to the voice of the Spirit, which continually renews his Church.

Finally, I want to conclude by entrusting our profound desire for interior renewal to Mary Most Holy, our heavenly Foundress, and to Saint Luigi Orione. May their intercession help us to be humble and joyful, confident and enterprising instruments in the hands of God, in order to respond to our mission in the Church: "To live Christ and to make the whole world live of Christ".

I greet you from the bottom of my heart, also on behalf of the Sisters of the Council.



Sr M. Alicja Kędziora

Sr M. Alicja Kędziora
Superior general

Tortona, June 29th, 2024

Feast of SS. Peter and Paul