



Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità
(Opera Don Orione)
Casa generale
Via Monte Acero, 5 – 00141 Roma
www.suoredonorione.org



Prot. MG 15/24

“Ad Jesum per Mariam”

Dearest Sisters,

during this Year of Grace dedicated to Mary “*Mater Dei*”, with my heart full of joy, I would like to thank you for the several initiatives carried out in the various Orionine realities, especially the presence of the painting of the “*Mater Dei*” in our Communities and Works, as the Charismatic Family had proposed. Our gratitude is extended to our dear Founder for his filial love for Mary. By doing so, he gave us the opportunity to celebrate this Jubilee Year. One hundred years ago, on July 30th, 1924, Don Orione announced that “*Mater Dei*” would be the proper title of Mary venerated in the Little Work of Divine Providence.

My dearest, Saint Luigi Orione used to write: “*Ad Jesum per Mariam*” that is, Mary brings us to Jesus. And it is exactly like this: Mary takes us by the hand, she nourishes us with her motherly love, she protects us under her Mantle, she makes us grow, she brings us to unity in universal brotherhood and closer to Jesus.

We have reached the halfway point of this Orionine Marian Year, and we are approaching the day of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, the main feast of the Virgin Mary, the Marian solemnity *par excellence* of the liturgical year.

It is a very special day, which invites us to look once again at Mary and reflect ourselves in her life filled with holiness, generosity, charity, openness, service and even glory; in Her we can always rediscover our vocation and renew our will of following Christ in the footsteps of Don Orione.

Returning to the writings of our holy Founder and reading again the story of his entrustment to Mary at the closing of the first Oratory, I recalled this gesture of his, which changed his life and which, lived again today by us with all our heart, will certainly renew our consecration.

Let us remember some of his words: “*Dearest and most venerated Mother, oh my Mother, who has never abandoned anyone, oh do not abandon this last child of yours! (...) Come, oh dear Mother, come and do not delay! Come, oh Mother, come to save us! (...) Come, oh Mother, come to take care of us! ... Here you are, take the key of the Oratory. I am giving you the key! Come to console and do not abandon your orphans... come, oh Mother, come! Into your arms I abandon myself, into your hands I deliver the souls of the countless dearest little brothers, boys and all young people and I am offering you the Oratory. From now on you are our mistress.... you are our Mother! O Mary, save your children!*” (Writings, 70, 217).

Dearest sisters, as daughters of Don Orione, who wanted us to receive the name of Mary as our first name during our first profession, **I come to invite you all to renew your consecration to Mary, on the feast of the Assumption of Mary, next August 15th.**

Each one of us is cultivating in her heart her devotion to the Virgin Mary; we already have our act of entrustment. On this day, after a heartfelt preparation, let us renew our consecration. Let us also do that as a community, entrusting our fraternity and our apostolate to the Most Holy Mary.

In this act, we are inspired by the words of Don Orione addressed to the Sisters: *“Make yourselves saints and make saints all the souls you may meet on your path. And how could I end this speech without invoking the Most Holy Madonna? She is my Mother, She is your Mother, She is our Mother, She is our protector, She is our true and one and only heavenly Foundress. Let us cling to Our Lady, let us consecrate ourselves to Our Lady!”* (Word II, 157; August 15th, 1930).

May this Marian Year be for all of us a year of grace and of better preparation for the Jubilee to testify that “hope does not disappoint” (Rm 5:5) for those who entrust themselves to Mary the Most Holy.

Pope Francis wrote in the Jubilee Bull: “Through Juan Diego (of Guadalupe), the Mother of God brought a revolutionary message of hope that she continues to bring to every pilgrim and all the faithful: ‘Am I not here, who am your Mother?’. (...) I am confident that everyone, especially the suffering and those most in need, will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children and who, for the holy people of God, is ‘a sign of certain hope and comfort’” (24).

With Sr. M. Irma I am continuing our canonical visit to the Delegation *“Mother of Divine Providence”*. I thank you for your prayers and from here I greet you with much love on the behalf also of the Sisters of the General Council.



Sr M. Alicja Kędziora
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Superior general

Tabora (Tanzania), July 30th, 2024