

OLM
Orionine LayMovement

CHARTER OF COMMUNION

Little Work of Divine Providence

THE CHARTER OF COMMUNION OF THE ORIONINE LAY MOVEMENT

Rome 2002

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The Charter of Communion of the Orionine Lay Movement is the fruit of the Work of the last five years by local and national members. It was approved during the meeting of the representatives of the OLM from various nations which took place at Claypole (Buenos Aires, Argentina), from the 7th to 13th October 2002.

"The lay experience of the Church teaches us that the intimate spiritual unity with the Founder him/herself and faithfulness to that mission, always in keeping with the signs of the times, is the source of abundant life for the foundation itself and the people of God. (...) You are called to participate in the grace received by your founder and to put it at the service of the whole Church. (John Paul II).

AN ADDRESS BY THE POPE JOHN PAUL II TO THE ORIONINE LAY MOVEMENT

To the most Rev. Fr. Roberto Simionato, Superior General of The Sons of Divine Providence.

1. "We want to see Jesus" (John 12,21). With these words a group of Greeks attracted by the person of the Divine Master, one day came to the disciples expressing their wish to meet the Lord.

In the course of the centuries many other people in every corner of the earth have continued to show this singular desire involving men and women who have a special relationship with Jesus.

Among the witnesses of Christ of our time Blessed Luigi Orione, founder of this religious family, has a particular place. His spiritual demeanour struck many people during his life, and still continues to inspire people with admiration and interest. Thus many lay people closely associated with the Little Work of Divine Providence desire also to know in a deeper fashion the spirit of the Blessed founder and to follow in his footsteps more faithfully.

This is the way the Orionine Lay Movement has come to birth with the aim of living the life of Christ in the various lay groups associated with the work of Divine Providence, sharing with the SDP and the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity the Orionine spirit. (charism).

2. After a few years of the birth of the movement there is now a process of confirmation of its journey in its latest developments. This is the reason for this international convention which takes as its title the Pauline motto "*Instaurare omnia in Christo*" (*Restare ali things in Christ*). This phrase was chosen by Blessed Orione for the religious family he founded. We want to offer to lay people the opportunity to deepen this Orionine spirit and to have "Charter of Communion" and to go forward with new impetus in sharing together the new evangelisation in view of the great jubilee year of 2000. As I greet the participants of this meeting I cannot but remember the passionate words of Blessed Orione: "*Instaurare omnia in Christo!*" (*Restare ali things in Christ. We will renew ourselves and ali the world when we live Jesus Christ when we are truly transformed into Jesus Christ*). It was, therefore, a clear conviction of the founder that every authentic renewal is renewal in Christ who is present in individual people, in persons, in social structures and relations between nations. His thirst was to make Christ the heart of the world and to serve Christ in every person especially poor people. In order to bring about his ideas he intended to involve lay people in apostolic activity calling them to be in tune with his own unlimited heart because of his great love of Jesus crucified. In fact he wrote from Buenos Aires to some friends of the Little Work in 1935: "you will all be with me, I am sure, that burning desire to cooperate in the renewal of Christian life - to unite all things in Christ from which the individual, the family and society can expect social renewal. Be courageous in doing good!" (Letters Voi 2 page 291 Italian edition). Aware that this project was already in Blessed Orione's heart, those responsible for the Orionine family have, for several years, already been promoting the lay movement which through this convention would like to be more defined and strengthened in its cooperation in doing what he wanted: "Do good always, good to all, evil to no one".

3. I am very happy in this important meeting to encourage you, venerable brother in the priesthood, and the religious Orionine male and female in becoming "expert guides of the spiritual life and cultivating in the lay faithful the most precious talent" (Vita Consecrata 55). I also invite the lay people who share the charism of Don Orione living in the world to be zealous and generous in offering their "precious contribution to the Little Work. The OLM the Orionine Lay Movement will bring about a spiritual network that goes beyond the frontiers of your congregation deepening their specific mission in the Church and in the world.

4. I would like to offer a special thought to the members of the Orionine Secular Institute which was recently canonically approved as an institute of consecrated life. I know that in these days they are having their own General Assembly to elect their leaders and I exhort them to live with faithfulness and joy their own consecration in the world. May they become true workers in bringing about a new synthesis of closeness to God and His Will whilst sharing in the joys and hopes, the anxieties and the pains of their brothers and sisters shown by Jesus to God the Father. May their lay consecration help them to live the Gospel in the daily task of putting *Instaurare omnia in Christo* (renew all things in Christ) into practise.

Finally, I would like to invoke the protection of Our Lady "Mother and Heavenly Foundress" of the Little Work of Divine Providence and the intercession of Blessed Luigi Orione and my desire that you receive many heavenly graces thus I impart my apostolic blessing upon you and the members of the Lay Movement and the Secular Institute and to all associated with the family of Don Orione.

John Paul II
Vatican City
7th October 1997

HISTORICAL NOTE

- The involvement of the laity in the spirit and in the life of Don Orione and of his Little Work of Divine Providence which today has become the Orionine Lay Movement, has secure and historical roots and reflects the will and deep feeling of the Founder.
- It is to be remembered how the young cleric Orione, in 1890, was already enrolled in two lay associations, the Conference of St. Vincent and the Society of Mutual Help "San Marziano".
- His first little college of "San Bernardino" (1893) was founded as "Fatherly Boarding School", the idea of an association of "Fathers" was begun by an association of "fathers" and it was run by Don Orione with the help of lay volunteers.
- And so at the beginning of the foundation of the Little Work in 1899 at Turin, Don Orione began the project of the first female Association: "Around our Institute are rising Ladies of Divine Providence, an association where all the souls find themselves united in the field of charity, self denial and sacrifice.
- It is astonishing to know that Don Orione already in the handwritten Constitution of 1904 which provided for a form of consecration also for the laity "who are longing with all their heart to follow perfection and would be inclined to make vows, if it was given to them". As soon as the Church in 1947 recognised canonically secular institutes, it was a joy and a necessity to start what, in the Father's desire, would eventually become the Orionine Secular Institute.
- Don Orione had a vision of the ex-pupils "as apostles"; many of them now in secular life, were continuing to be, as lay people, an active part of the Orionine family. Through personal correspondence and the constitution being associated with the Work (1934) cultivated their permanent involvement in the life and in the ideals of the Little Work.
- The way the Founder handled the Friends, made true disciples and co-workers. His habit was to guide and form them in the works of charity, developing in them how to live as apostles. He involved them directly, sometimes permanently, in his activity and encouraged them in their roles in life. This was established in Association in 1940.
- Through these initiatives of the Founder, after his death on the 12th March 1940, many of his numerous disciples began to feel themselves very close to the Church.
- The journey of the Orionine Lay Movement, even though with a young history is presently understood as part of the spirit of Don Orione and in communion with the Little Work of Divine Providence even though in different ways.
- The beginning is clearly visible from Motion 11 of the General Chapter of the SDP in 1992 and the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity in 1993: In order to promote among all the confreres and the various activities of the congregation the lay vocation and the role of lay people within the Church (Cfr Apostolicam actuositatem, Christifideles laici and others) the leadership of the congregation should do all possible to bring about the promotion of the lay vocation and the role of lay people.
- After 2 years of knowing the situation and studying the reality of lay involvement of the congregation in various nations the Superior General sent a letter to all the SDP on the 18th of December 1995 to make a programme for the Orionine Lay Movement; and the Superior General of the Sisters sent the same letter on the 23rd December 1995 to the sisters.
- With the involvement of religious male and female and lay people local and provincial and leadership bodies were set up at Rocca di Papa from 9-12 October in 1997 there was the first International Congress of the OLM which brought the Movement into being and the words of the Pope at that meeting saw the official beginning of the Movement. The 11 th General

Chapter of the SDP in 1998 gave further impulse to the growth of the OLM.

- After the phase of the first Constitution of the OLM the need was seen for a new document to programme lines of formation and organization which was very diverse through the nations and cultures in which it was present. This new document began to be called "The Charter of Communion" and for three years the local provincial leadership bodies met to define the parameters of the OLM. At Ariccia from 28th June to 1st July 2001 during an international meeting of the OLM the text was defined with some touches here and there and was approved during the second International Congress of the OLM at Claypole, Argentina, from 7th to 13th October 2002.

FROM THE CHARTER OF COMMUNION OF THE OLM.

I. IDENTITY

1 Name and Identity

The Orionine Lay Movement is the coordination of laymen and women, in communion with the Church, either in our movement or as individuals, who live Don Orione's charism in their daily lives and share with the Orionine family the mission of "Instaurare omnia in Christo". (Eph. 1,10) 'To restore all things in Christ'

2 Members

The members of the OLM are all those laymen/women belonging to associations or individuals, who, deeply rooted in the Gospel, wish to live Don Orione's charism in the world, in communion with the Orionine family, committing themselves to grow in the exercise of **"charity that restores, edifies and unifies all in Christ and in His Church"**

3 Specific aim

In Agreement with Don Orione's plan to **"renew and unify in Jesus Christ man and society, taking the heart of the humble, of the poor and of the working classes to the Church and to the Pope"** (2) the specific aim of the OLM is to

favour the spiritual dissemination of our Family beyond the visible boundaries of our Little Work, by deepening its charismatic features for a more and more effective accomplishment of its specific mission within the Church and in the world (3). Such an aim can be particularly fulfilled by supporting, encouraging and educating in the charism the members, respecting the story and the type of participation of each.

4 Origins

The movement originates from Don Orione who, for as long as he lived, involved lay people in his spirit and mission to **"plough and sow Christ in society"** (4). The present OLM has a recent history marked by the following dates:

- 1 1992-93: during the Xth General Chapter of The Sons and at the 8th G.C. of the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, the orientation of the Little Work regarding the "promotion of the lay vocation and role" is debated and decided.
- 2 1995: the Superior General addresses a letter to all the Sons of Divine Providence to start the OLM immediately followed by a similar one written by the Mother Superior to the Little Missionary sisters of Charity.
- 3 1997: during the world congress of the OLM at Rocca di Papa, the discussion is focused on the ideas and experiences emerging from the first steps of the movement and there is agreement on some common lines for the future. Such an event, supported by a letter from the Pope, can be considered the official birth certificate of the movement.

5 Relationships within the Little Work of Divine Providence

Since the very beginning, Don Orione had thought of the Little Work of Divine Providence (LWDP)- Sons of Divine Providence, Little Missionary Sisters of Charity and the various lay associations - as a **single tree with different branches**", **"a stream of living waters flowing out into several channels"**, as **"a family united in Christ"** (5)

We together, church and lay people live and propagate the charismatic wealth handed down by Don Orione through a mutuality of gifts within the Orionine Family. The religious, "expert guides of spiritual life", are called to "cultivate the most precious gift of the lay people: the spirit". The laity who have chosen to share Don Orione's charism living in the world, are exhorted to be zealous and generous in offering the LWDP the previous contribution of their secular status and of their specific service" (6).

For a one public image of the Little Work of Divine Providence (SDP, LMSC, OSI, OLM), in communion with the whole Orionine family, we recognize the Superior General, as Don Orione's successor, the reference point of our Father's charism.

6 Seat

The Head Office of the OLM, for an ideal and practical necessity, remains in Rome where there are also the seats of the religious Congregations.

II. INSPIRING VALUES

7 The Orionine charism

Don Orione's charism consists in **"living and spreading the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the Pope, especially among the poor who are the most neglected and the farthest from God"** (7) so that each person may find his own dignity and the freedom in being members children of God. We, lay persons of the OLM, trusting in Divine Providence just like Don Orione, commit ourselves to live his charism and to build a more merciful and righteous world, with a continuous attention to the signs of times, in order to **"Restore all things in Christ"**.

8 Distinctive features of Orionine spirituality

We are the heirs of Don Orione's four great loves: Jesus, Mary, the Pope, Souls.

- 1 JESUS: *"Only Jesus is the living source of faith and charity, able to restore and renew man and society"* (8).
- 2 MARY: who we *"venerate and proclaim our Mother and heavenly Founder of the Little Work"* (9).
- 3 POPE: *"The Pope is the vicar of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the 'Sweet Christ on earth' as Saint Catherine of Siena called him; he is our safe guide, our infallible Master, our real Father"*. (10).
- 4 SOULS: *"Souls and souls! That is all our life, all our cry, all our aim, all our very own soul, our very heart"*. (11).

We acknowledge as distinctive features of our spirituality the commitment to charity, which alone will save the world (12) Active confidence in Divine Providence, love for the Eucharist, for Jesus crucified, for the Virgin, the Church and the Pope. Enhancement and respect for people, with a particular care for the poorest of the poor, the marginalized, the lowest; the spirit of evangelical poverty and our own personal emphasis on poverty; the missionary spirit and the love for ecumenical unity; the optimism in our faith, joy, humility, simplicity, hope, a spirit of sharing and a capacity to work hard; initiative, willingness and promptness for new horizons.

9 Don Orione and the laity

To fulfil the 'dream' of taking the Gospel to all the peoples, Don Orione realized perfectly well that he needed to look for the laity's co-operation and co-responsibility; they could take part in the various activities of the Little Work together with religious, but also go where the latter were unable to go, thus ensuring the presence of the Church in the missionary and apostolic service of love. Don Orione's special, paternal and tender care for the laity can be traced in many of his writings and personal letters where he never missed letting them know the aspirations of his spirit and to help them with his advice.

10 Orionine Apostolic Spirituality

In the Church and in the Orionine family the Holy Spirit is stirring a livelier awareness of the laity's vocation and of their mission to renew mankind and society in Christ. Conscious that the Church is one family that lives sharing mutually, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to live the fundamental values of the laity in the Church:

In order to live our baptismal consecration, drawing inspiration from Don Orione, we joyfully commit ourselves to:

- 1 ***"be like leaven, a peaceful force for Christian renewal"***(13) sowing Christ in the heart of men and women, society and culture, being at the disposal of the youth, and of ***"the poorest of the poor"*** and of the Church;
- 2 build the Kingdom of God on truth through charitable works, respectful of the variety of gifts and of the vocation of each person and community, of each nation and group, becoming one through our Founders charism;
- 3 educate young people and adults to love their religion and their country, spiritual and civil values of freedom tolerance, brotherhood, solidarity and responsibility;
- 4 comply with the Pope's commission to the laity for the third millennium: "carry on in the way of hope and build your future starting from your special Christian vocation. Give witness to the Gospel in today's society, deeply rooted in Christ and supported by the relevant teachings of Vatican Council II" (14).

III. FORMATION

11 Importance and aims of formation

"In discovering and living their own vocation and mission the laity must be prepared for that unity which is the most distinctive characteristic of their being members of the Church and citizens of society". (15).

The OLM, strengthening the sense of belonging to the Church through baptism, helps us to grow in the Orionine charism, which is our special place within the Church and the reason we belong to it. Thus we are ready to offer God's people the unique contribution through which our Lord inspired Don Orione and his Little Work. Formation is a gradual, universal and permanent journey through a life-giving relationship with God's Word, with the Church, after Don Orione's example, with concrete relationships and experiences.

12 Specific contents

We are aware, as Don Orione maintained, that we should **"first renew ourselves in Christ, to be able, afterwards, to renew others"** (16) by a human, spiritual, doctrinal, missionary and charismatic formation.

The specific contents of education in Don Orione's charism are the following:

- 1 a great respect for the human person : *"to serve all men in the Son of Man"*
- 2 Education in universal charity, with a particular care for *"thepoorest of the poor"*, *"do good to everybody, do good always, never do evil to anybody"*. (18).
3. Sense of belonging to the Church and to the Pope: *"nobody shall beat us in loving, with all our strength, the Pope and the Church. Nobody shall be better than us in our love, devotion, generosity for our mother Church and for the Pope"*; (19).
- 4 Ecumenical commitment: *"it is proper to our Institute to help Divine Providence to lead men and women and human institutions to take their rightful place within the Church ... devoting themselves in every possible way and indeed through sacrifices to bring about the unity of the separated brethren."* (20).
- 5 Confidence in Divine Providence that leads to the living of the spirit of poverty: *"perfect joy lies only in the perfect devotion to God and to mankind"*. (21).
- 6 Devotion to the Virgin Mary: *"To Jesus, to the Holy Father and to Souls through Mary"*. (22).

The formation 'project' also provides for:

- 1 the deepening of the knowledge of the Founder, of the Orionine Saints and of the life of the LWDP;
- 2 fostering get-togethers, charitable works, pilgrimages to Don Orione's venues and places, prayer sessions, formation meetings and retreats.

13 Formation Structures

By establishing relationships among different cultural and social projects at a local level taking into account their particular needs, the sections responsible for coordination will develop a formation process. This will support, promote, and develop in each members, an Orione identity which will cover all aspects of life.

14 Coordination team's tasks

Co-ordination teams have a different task according to their area : LOCAL and/or REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION TEAM

- 1 Develop and maintain their own spiritual and apostolic identity through formation meetings, days of spirituality, retreats and pilgrimages;

- 2 encourage participation in occasions of prayer together with the local church community.

TERRITORIAL COORDINATION TEAMS

- 1 create and form traditions to deepen common outlines of work
- 2 nurture educators' formation. In view of this it is advisable to establish a study centre and mixed teams made up of religious and lay people which is meant to promote ways of forming and organizing study sessions;
- 3 organize a retreat of the Orionine family yearly.

AT THE LEVEL OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL TEAM It should come up with a three year plan, in collaboration with the councillors of the SDP, the LMSC and the OLM and a yearly plan which can be adapted to individual nations. Its purpose is formation for all in the Orionine charism.

IV. MISSION

15 Witness and mission

The target of our witness and mission, as Don Orione taught, is *"instaurare omnia in Christo"* 'Restore all things in Christ': that is to enlighten and sanctify souls in the knowledge and charity of God, and afterwards restore all institutions and all other things, even those belonging to secular society". (24).

We will fulfil our vocation by *"seeking the Kingdom of God dealing with ordinary matters and ordering them according to God's designs"*. (25).

All this comes about through personal and group formation, being committed and giving witness in both Church and civil communities.

16 Commitment in spiritual life

We are called to live our lay vocation committed to take part in the threefold dimension of Christ as High Priest, Prophet and King. We want to live the situations of our everyday world: "the worshippers, and especially lay people, are in the forefront in the life of the Church. Through them the Church is considered a vital principle of human society. So they, and especially they, must always be clearly convinced not only of belonging to the Church but to be the Church". (27).

We respond to the call for sanctity in our life situation by personal prayer, by living the Word of the Lord, by the sacraments and by serving Christ in the poor: *"We must be holy, but we must become holy to such an extent that our holiness isn't just the usual piety, just confined to being in church benches. It must transcend that and cast a shining light into the world. It must be a life of love for God and men, making saints of the people and salutary for society"*. (27).

17 Commitment in the life of society

We commit ourselves to be instruments of evangelization and humanizing elements in family life as well as in civil life, through an active participation in popular, political and cultural movements to promote the dignity of human beings and transform social realities.

18 Commitment in the life of the Church

Aware that *"charity unified in Christ and in the Church"*. (29) we commit ourselves to be instruments of unity and communion in Christ, through spiritual and concrete charitable works. We will increase our knowledge and love of the Church by:

- 1 studying and spreading the teachings and the documents of the Church
- 2 taking an active part in parish, diocesan and universal pastoral projects;
- 3 promoting an ecumenical dialogue;
- 4 following Don Orione in apostolic boldness of charity to make everybody experience God's Providence and the Church's motherhood.

19 Commitment in the Little Work

As lay members of the OLM we commit ourselves:

- 1 to encourage communication and communion of all the lay groups - married and single - among themselves and with all the Little Work;
- 2 to offer, with a fraternal and generous spirit, our contribution as laity and our particular service in formation and common projects, mostly through participation in the secretariats and formation activities;
- 3 to represent lay people as one single group within the Orionine family, in the internal and external relationships of the LWDP.

- 4 to co-operate in the unity and vitality of the Don Orione family, to help and to animate, those lay persons who have known the Little Work, who find it appealing and agree with the Founder's way of life, without necessarily belonging to any particular group.
- 5 to educate leaders who are able to give continuity to the activities carried out by the laity, avoiding thus a repetition of role;
- 6 to support, together with the religious male and female, the lay staff who work with us, animating and forming them from a professional, human and spiritual point of view;
- 7 to be elements of communion for lay people; belonging to parish communities; to aid human, formative, and missionary and promotion for people who carry out a voluntary service at our various Works.

V. ORGANIZATION

20 Organizing goals

The Movement recognizes its unifying feature in the adhesion to Don Orione's leading-ideas. In order to achieve its own identity and mission it works within an organized structure which is flexible, dynamic and essential. It carries out the function of co-ordination, animation and formation at various levels - local, provincial and international.

To this purpose it favours:

- 1 the sense of belonging in each member;
- 2 the communion with the Church and Works of Don Orione with a lay role and mission;
- 3 the ability to work in a team within a pastoral group;
- 4 the stability and continuity of projects;
- 5 the participation of the Orionine laity in the life of the Church, of the Work and of society.

21 Local and/or district co-ordination section

The local co-ordination section is the heart of the OLM.

It is made up of representatives elected by the lay groups that are to elect one or more local co-ordinators, and of one or more spiritual assistants.

It has the function of animating and communicating among the various lay associations and groups that take part and/or work on a specific project coordinating them in their group or with the other church-centred and civil activities.

22 Territorial co-ordination section

It is composed of a team of local and/or district co-ordinators, spiritual assistants and the provincial counsellors responsible, who elect one or more provincial coordinators and the steering committee.

It has the task of planning, animating and verifying the results achieved. It establishes common standards for the formation in the Orionine charism; it gives its own lay contribution to the project of the religious province communicating with the various civil and local church structures.

23 General Co-ordination Section

[t consists of territorial coordinators who represent the different linguistic and/or international areas, or of their delegates; in addition there are general counsellors who elect the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It's job is to keep the Movement united.

24 Relationships with the SDP, LMSC and OLM

The OLM, which has its own organized and independent structure, is meant to establish harmony, understanding and trustworthy relations among the different branches of the Orionine family, in order to make co-operation easier and useful. It is hoped that in the Homes where there may be projects involving the laity, that the transferring of religious personnel takes into consideration the projects themselves.

25 Relationships with church and civil organizations

The OLM defines as 'catholic' principles:

- 1 the primacy of holiness and charity;
- 2 the profession of faith in communion with the Church;
- 3 the Christian presence and action within society;
- 4 the communion with the Pope and Bishops.

It establishes and keeps the relations with civil and church institutions, paying attention to and taking an active part in the political and social issues of their reality. It works in harmony with them for the coming of the Kingdom of God, never forgetting the ecumenical aspect and the new evangelization.

26 Financial aspects

Each Co-ordination section, animated by a deep trust in Divine Providence, will look for adequate financial resources, to set up a 'cash in hand' necessary for its function in formation, solidarity aids and secretariat expenses. A clear administration must be granted at every level.

GLOSSARY

ASSOCIATION

By the name of **association** we define the groupings which have a well defined structure in their organisation of the various members who wish to belong to the association.

GENERAL CHAPTER

It is the most important meeting for the life of the Congregation. It is held every six years in both Congregations. It is composed of the General Council and a number of delegates elected during the Chapter held in Provinces, vice-provinces and delegations.

Its aim is to verify the life of the Congregation, to identify large trends, to propose lines of action operative for a period of six years, to elect the superior General, or in the case of the sisters, the Mother General.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

It is a meeting which takes place every six years in both Congregations before the General Chapter. It is attended by the Provincial government and by a number of delegates (men and women) elected by all the religious of the Province.

Its aim is to verify the life of the Province, to identify large trends, to propose lines of action for the future and to elect the delegate to the General Chapter.

CHARISM

It is a gift of the Holy Spirit to a person for the Church's benefit. There is a particular charism called Foundation charism.

Foundation charism means, in a strict sense, the particular experience of the Spirit lived by a Founder, handed down to his followers, religious and lay people, to be lived, kept, deepened and constantly expanded by them.

Don Orione's foundation charism is to be found in his charitable and practical love for the humble and the poor, to bring them to union with the Pope and the Church, **to restore everything in Christ.**

CONGREGATION

It consists of all men and women religious sharing the same foundation charism. They have a common mission and life.

In the code of Canon Law they are defined also as "Institutes of religious life". In the Don Orione family there are two religious congregations: The Sons of Divine Providence (SDP) and the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity (LMSC).

DELEGATION

It is present only in the Congregation of the SDP.

It is the smallest expression of the Congregation, owing to the small number of religious staff and of Works. It is ruled by a delegation superior having the powers delegated to him by the Superior General (e.g. USA and U.K.).

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

It is the term used to indicate the fatherhood of God Creator, Merciful and Providential. In a more detailed context, it refers to the goodness of God who watches over every single creature and who cares for and looks after his children.

DON ORIONE FAMILY

It is the term expressing the unity in one body of all branches of the Little Work of Divine

Providence: SDP, LMSC, OSI, OLM.

SDP: SONS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

It is the male religious Congregation founded by Don Orione in 1903. It is composed of religious brothers and priests. It includes also a branch called the Hermits.

GROUP

"The aggregates of different kinds characterized by freedom of belonging, freedom of self-organization and by rather small numbers are named **groups**". (29)

INSTAURARE OMNIA IN CHRISTO

It means "**to restore everything in Christ**". It is St. Paul's motto (Eph.1,10) that Don Orione deeply embraced. It expresses the wide ideal vision of the project of the Little Work of Divine Providence.

OSI: ORIONINE SECULAR INSTITUTE

It is the female secular institute, officially established in 1997, which draws its inspiration from Don Orione's charism. Its members live their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, not in a community but in their normal environment.

LAITY

They are all the baptized, male and female, who live their Christian vocation in the world, animating from within society, politics and culture.

MOVEMENT

The feature characterizing a movement is not an institutional structure, but the whole belonging to leading-ideas and a common spirit.

OLM: ORIONINE LAY MOVEMENT

It is a movement made up of lay people who want to share Don Orione's charism and spirituality.

Its members are: the association of Don Orione **Friends**, the association of **Ex-pupils, Oblates, Volunteers, parish workers**, all the **groups and associations** of Orionine inspiration, **benefactors, individual supporters, employees** sensitive to the charismatic aims of the Little Work.

OBLATES

Oblates are lay people who, with an act of oblation, intend to give their participation to God and the congregation through an interior life, stability and being in communion with the congregation.

LWDP: LITTLE WORK OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

It is the name under which Don Orione gathers all the foundations, secular and religious, originating from his charism.

Some foundations started during his life, others began later.

The Sons of Divine Providence (SDP), the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity (LMSC), the Orionine Secular Institute (OSI), the Orionine Secular Movement (OSM) belong to the Little Work of Divine Providence.

LMSC: LITTLE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF CHARITY

It is the female Congregation founded by Don Orione in 1915.

It includes also the two branches of **"Non-seeing Sacramentine Sisters" and "Sisters contemplative of Jesus Crucified"**.

RELIGIOUS PROVINCE

The Orionine male congregation is spread in 30 nations all over the world; the female one in about 15. To be well governed both Congregations are divided into religious provinces which include a considerable number of Works and religious. The Province can correspond to a nation or to a part of it; or it can spread out in various nations. For example, the Province "San Marziano" (of the SDP in Italy) with its seat in Tortona, includes most of Northern Italy and stretches into Romania, Switzerland, France, Madagascar and Ukraine, where it has missions.

The Province is governed by a Father Provincial or Mother Provincial together with a Council. Each of them acts in communion with the General Council which has its seat in Rome.

RELIGIOUS

They are the baptized, male and female, who choose to follow Jesus more closely, consecrating themselves by the three public vows of **poverty, chastity and obedience**. **They live within a religious community and obey the Rule** which is the expression of their Founder's charism.

The Sons of Divine Providence (SDP) express their charism also by a fourth vow of **loyalty to the Pope**.

The Little Missionary Sisters of Charity (LMSC) also express their charism by a fourth vow of **charity**.

THE PRIESTS

They are the baptized who received the sacrament of **sacerdotal ordination** which qualified them for the service of guidance and leading the community of believers.

TRA NOI (Among Ourselves) MARY OF NAZARETH

Fr. Sebastiano Plutino, a priest of Don Orione, founded two lay movements and called one Tra Noi, a lay movement and the other Mary of Nazareth, a secular institute that had as their spirit "the spirit of welcome".

VICE PROVINCE

It is present only in the SDP Congregation.

It is a part of the Congregation, smaller than the Province, and is governed by a vice-provincial and by his council (e.g. Chile, Uruguay, Africa).



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