

**Piccola Opera della Divina Provvidenza
- Don Orione -**

**Figli della Divina Provvidenza
Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità
Istituto Secolare Orionino
Istituto Secolare Maria di Nazareth
Movimento Laicale Orionino**

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Dear Brothers and sisters, religious, consecrated and lay people of the Orionine family.

On March 19th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Virgin Mary and patron of the universal Church. It is a celebration full of meaning for the current health emergency situation that humanity as a whole is experiencing due to the spread of the coronavirus. At this moment, we have news that our Orionine family has been hit hard in Italy, especially in the cities of Bergamo and Tortona.

Saint Luigi Orione, as we well know, had a very strong and very special devotion for Saint Joseph. It is he, with his words and his attitude, who inspires us to a gesture of communion, solidarity and trust in divine protection through the intercession of Saint Joseph: to gather together, as the Orionine Charismatic Family, in prayer and unanimously to invoke protection over Italy and the whole world. Here are the words of Don Orione that can motivate us to this initiative: *“The purpose of these special prayers which I called for in all the Houses, is this: to put ourselves ever more in the hands of Saint Joseph so that he will protect us and make us all to be according to the heart of God and the Church. (...) So that especially this year he will make his protection felt on the Holy Church”*.

In concrete terms, our gesture could take shape in every religious community of the Sons of Divine Providence and the Little Missionaries of Charity, in every home of the Orionine laity, **to pray together at least the Rosary at a certain time. If you think it appropriate, the significant moment could be 9:00 pm** when the Bishop of Tortona, Mons. Vittorio Viola, leads a prayer live on the internet, and our confreres from the Sanctuary of the "Madonna della Guardia" in Tortona will be in front of the relic of Don Orione's body. Of course, the strongest meaning is in the meeting in community, considering the 9:00 pm of each nation, without worrying about the different time zones of the Orionine world. Furthermore, in realities where it is possible to participate in the Holy Mass, according to the devotion of our Father, to offer the Holy Communion for the intention of this emergency which, in one way or another, is affecting the whole planet.

For us, it will be a particularly appropriate occasion to remember the confreres and sisters who died in the last few days in Tortona and Bergamo: Fr. Serafino Tosatto (+ February 26), Fr. Gilfredo Buglioni (+ March 7), Fr. Giuliano Baldi (+ March 7), Fr. Andrea Curreli (+ 15 March), Sister Maria Caterina Cafasso (+ 15 March), Fr. Claudio Casertano (+ 16 March), Sister Maria Ortensia Turati (+ 16 March), Superior General of the Little Sisters from 1993 to 2005. Due to the restrictive rules in force in Italy they did not have a funeral celebration, only the blessing of the coffin, privately. This information will intensify our intention to gather in prayer for their souls and our duty, whenever possible, to organize a public celebration in their memory.

Our common intention in every mystery of the Rosary could be:

1st Mystery: We pray for all those who have been affected directly and indirectly by the coronavirus, in particular the members of our religious communities and of the Lay Movement.

2nd Mystery: We pray for doctors, nurses, volunteers and those who work in our homes and are engaged in the foreground in the care of the sick and in the accompaniment of our patients.

3rd Mystery: We pray for all people who are affected in their relationships, from an economic or social point of view due to this emergency.

4th Mystery: We pray for all families who have lost their members because of this epidemic. In particular, for the families of our deceased confreres and sisters. May the Lord comfort them and strengthen them in the Faith that their loved ones live today in the Glory of God.

5th Mystery: We pray for the Rulers and leaders of the nations who have to take decisions to deal with this emergency and for scientists so that they can soon find effective medicines to deal with this disease.

We must also remember to pray for Pope Francis who, with his words and attitudes teaches us to face this emergency wisely and to take this opportunity as a time to be closer to the Lord and to our brothers and sisters. Like Don Orione, the Holy Father has a strong devotion for St. Joseph, as he expressed it in the homily at the beginning of his ministry as Bishop of Rome, on March 19, 2013: "*Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions.*"

Our invitation, therefore, is that, as the Orionine Charismatic Family, we join in prayer and good works on the Solemnity of St. Joseph to invoke His protection on the whole Church and on all humanity.

Truly yours

P. Tarcisio G. Vieira

Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo

Anna Rita Orrù

Antonella Simonetta

Armanda Sano