

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

Rome, January 10th, 2024
Prot. TV/24.02 – MG 3/24
MLOsg 01/24

**Dearest Brothers and Sisters
and Lay people of the Orionine Charismatic Family,**

*«In the Most Holy Name of the Almighty God, One in the individual Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, and of the Immaculate, Blessed and ever Virgin Mary, **great Mother of God!**»*
(Writings 52.4).

With these same words from Saint Luigi Orione, written in 1900, we are writing to you today to announce that the General Councils of the Sons of Divine Providence and of the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, together with the General Responsible for the Orionine Secular Institute, the *Mary of Nazareth* Secular Institute and the Orionine Lay Movement have decided the realization of the

ORIONINE MARIAN YEAR

for the whole Orionine Charismatic Family, from February 11th to November 20th 2024, in response to what Don Orione once wanted: *"Let the year be consecrated to Mater Dei and let a tender and filial devotion to Our Lady be intensified in us and in others, especially in our Brothers and employees."*

This event arises from the fact that next 30th July 2024 will be the centenary of the date on which Don Orione announced the "Mater Dei" as the proper title for our Lady for the Little Work: *"Our Congregation wants to be and entirely is a matter of Mary. (...) And why? Because She is the Teotókos, the Deipara, the Mater Dei, the Immaculate Mother of God. Here, therefore, our task: to associate Mary with Jesus Christ in every religious act and confess His divinity (...). We want to always confess, even in the devotion to Mary, the divinity of Jesus Christ, as our heart, our mind and our faith believes, loves and adores him (...). **After many years of praying, I came to the decision to venerate Our Lady in our homes with the title of Mother of God.** (...) This is what I wish: we must get used to seeing Jesus, in Mary's womb. (...) We want Our Lady with Jesus, we want her with Jesus-God. Mary is the Mother of God!"*. (see Writings 56,215-221) **"Our Lady of Divine Providence is the Mater Dei, the omnipotent by grace"** (Meetings 65).

We therefore ask all the Superiors, brothers and sisters, members of the Secular Institutes and of the Lay Movement - in particular the responsible and lay people involved in our Marian sanctuaries - to organize the realization of this Marian event. The first thing to do, certainly, is to make Marian worship more intense and experienced, especially in the light of the Marian theology of Don Orione, deepening its knowledge among religious and lay people. Then, to start or strengthen some work or charitable activity in line with what was suggested by the Founder when he wanted to celebrate the fifteenth centenary (at those times) of the proclamation of the dogma of Mater Dei: *"To study (...) the possibility that each House may open, infra annum, a festive Oratory as an institution that commemorates the Centenary of the proclamation of the dogma of Mater Dei."*

Furthermore, this Marian Year can put us, more intensely, in communion with the desire of the Holy Father Pope Francis to title the year preceding the Jubilee 2025 as the "Year of Prayer".

The General Curia of the Sons of Divine Providence has already taken action to create a sign of communion with the desires and gestures of the Founder. It is known that after the announcement of 1924, Don Orione took care to supply the Houses of the Congregation, even abroad, with reproductions of the painting of Mater Dei. Therefore, the Sons of Divine Providence have taken it upon themselves to renew this gesture of the Founder and will provide the entire Charismatic Family with the image of the Mater Dei in three sizes: a larger one for larger spaces such as churches (70cmx50cm); a medium size for religious houses (45cmx30cm); and a smaller size (14cmx20cm) for lay houses, for example. They will soon arrive at the Provincial or Delegation headquarters for local distribution.

We ask you to welcome this gesture as done by Don Orione: *"I have brought you an image of the Mater Dei as a gift... and I ask you to spread it among the souls and inculcate devotion to it in the hearts of those who are in our Houses, and to open them to the most tender and filial devotion to the Most Holy Mary, venerated under the greatest and sweetest title of Mother of God. I warmly ask you to spread it as widely as possible to increase devotion and love for Our Lady everywhere, according to the spirit that you know it is proper of our Congregation."* (15 August 1929).

Holding the image in our hands, we can feel in communion while officially enthroning the painting in our religious homes and in those of our lay people on May 16th, 2024, when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Canonization of San Luigi Orione. And then, *"Forward in the name of Mary, invoked under the title of Mater Dei! Let us walk with our Madonna, let us walk in the light of her immaculate nature. By doing so, we will follow the path marked out for us by Providence!"*

We greet you all in the joy of having our Saint Luigi Orione as Father, a true Marian soul.

Fraternally,



P. Tarcisio G. Vieira
Sons of the Divine Providence



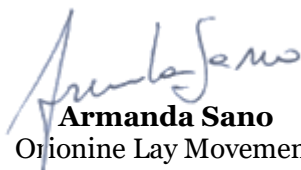
Sr. M. Alicja Kedziora
Little Missionary Sisters of Charity



Rosita Dore
Orionine Secular Institute



Dina Guardini
Secular Institute Mary of Nazareth



Armanda Sano
Orionine Lay Movement