

Message to the Orionine Charismatic Family

Rome, 6 June 2019

Dear brothers and sisters of the Orionine Charismatic Family:

The International Conference of Orionine Study Groups (GSO), celebrated in Rome, was concluded. It was held at the Curia of the Sons of Divine Providence from 3 to 7 June, with the theme "With Christ, always young (Don Orione); young people in the Orionine charism".

The representatives of the GSO presented the results of the research work, which lasted almost a year, elaborated in the communities and in the different Provinces.



The goal of these studies and insights is to contribute to the celebrations of the "Orionine Year of the Youth" started right in this month, and to the "Orionine World Youth Day" to be held in Tortona from 1 to 5 July 2020 for the 125th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Don Luigi Orione.

Before publishing our research in the magazine *Messaggi di Don Orione*, we wanted to share with you the first fruits of these days as a community development of thought and sharing of charismatic experiences.

Synodality, dialogue and listening

God always wanted to meet each man. He always wants to enter into dialogue with us. Today listening to his voice takes time but above all implies the synodality of discernment, that is the ability to know how to recognize the voice of God precisely from dialogue with man, with the Church and with all other peoples.

It is therefore necessary to refine three sensitivities: listening to the Spirit in its novelty, discernment between grace and temptation (eg. between truth and deception) and listening to the impulses that drive us forward.

We are the Church called to listen deeply to every man, a Church that, not only disciplines but that primarily accompanies, so that the voice of the Friend Jesus is recognized, every man can put his desire for the infinite in touch with the unconditional friendship that the Lord offers.

The present situation

To understand the youth of today and the transformations in our time, we need to know their psycho-anthropological identity. For this reason, we have tried to understand the meaning of the identity of the youth in general from philosophical and theological perspectives.

The social context, ideologies and the economic situation seriously interfere in the process identity of each youth group.

The interposition of communication technologies has produced virtual culture and cyberspace where humanity is immersed and its contradictions generate a strong fragmentation of identity in the youth of our times.

The different ways of using virtual messages cause different positions of use. So we'll use this magnificent tool to unite, liberate and evangelize young people.

The historical charismatic look

On the third day of the Convention, the historical charismatic dimension was reflected on, starting from the paternity of Don Orione towards young people. He was a man extraordinarily capable of fatherly relationships, passionate, intelligent and engaging, creating a style and a method that he called the Christian-Fatherly Method.

The personal relationship of Don Orione was evaluated through a great deal of correspondence with some young people who met him and were fascinated by his life and conquered by his charismatic holiness as, for example, Cesare Pisano, Paolo Marengo and Pier Camillo Risso.

We wanted to document Don Orione's ability to follow young people personally by revealing them special psychological sensitivity to understand their inner world, their aspirations and their existential difficulties, revealing to them his paternal heart with maternal features full of firmness and tenderness.

In the Orionine family, the Christian-Fatherly Method was continued by his sons and daughters who were able to accompany young people in human and Christian growth.

Pastoral proposals in the charismatic family

The themes that can give a pastoral proposal to the reality of young people in various countries have been addressed.

We were presented with the situation of India and a methodology for working in a youth reality which is intercultural and interreligious.

Members of the Orionine Secular Institute introduced us to their ways of discernment and orionine spiritual accompaniment in view of a free response to the call of the Lord.

Two concrete pastoral proposals were presented: the experience of visiting and volunteering among the young people in the works of charity and the great importance that the Oratorios (Sunday Schools) have represented from the beginning in the congregation.

We accepted the invitation addressed to us by Father Tarcisio Vieira at the beginning of our conference, to privilege the language of "story" as the right choice to talk to young people, and also to motivate the Congregation to a methodology for dealing with them.

Finally, we want to encourage each other to talk to everyone, but especially to young people, with a narrative and engaging language that leads us to overcome a conceptual and abstract approach.

This new approach, based more on testimony, will allow us to tell our own history, to keep our identity alive and to strengthen the sense of belonging to the family and to the Orionine charisma.

Mary, Mother of Divine Providence and our patron saint, may intercede for us from heaven.

International Team of Orionine Group of Studies