

**PICCOLA OPERA
DELLA DIVINA PROVVIDENZA**

(Don Orione)

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DIRETTORE GENERALE

***Dear confrères, sisters and
Lay people of the Orionine Family,***

I am writing to you from the land of Africa, more precisely from Benin, the last born among the missionary outposts of our family. In Africa everything takes on a different rhythm, a different style, you learn how to appreciate more things, time and people. It is from this beautiful experience, which I am having while I am carrying out the canonical visit, that I desire to send you my best wishes.

This is the second time we celebrate Easter under the restrictions of the pandemic. Last year we thought that staying closed at home, without being able to see the great ceremonies typical of this time, was something unique, but this year, even with fewer restrictions and more participated rites, we realize that we are still far from what we would spontaneously call "normality". But for us Christians, and even more so for us children of Don Orione, there is nothing "normal", just as there is nothing "extraordinary", simply there is the "Divine Providence" at work to spread his graces in the world.

From Argentina, Don Orione wrote: *"Christ is risen! - Brothers let us rise with him! We broaden our horizons, we raise our spirit to all that is a higher life, that is light, that is beautiful, good, true, holy! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"*

Christ is risen! Let us go to Him: He alone has the words of eternal life that regenerate, and that law of love and freedom from which every man, every people can hope for an improvement and salvation.

Christ is risen! - Let us rise again, brothers, let us rise again! I have seen sinners get up, after a holy confession, radiating the face of celestial peace, then resume with a serene soul the ways of honest Christian living, and hurry to regain lost time".

We are called to live in the dimension of the risen one, to testify to the whole world that the resurrection of Christ is not a fairy tale, a myth, nor a simple fact relegated to the mists of time; no! It is a source of a new life for each of us, for the neighbours as well as for those far away, for the "righteous" and for sinners, for believers and for atheists.

Courage, then! To you who suffer, to you who are in doubt, to you who feel alone, to you who feel weak or useless, I say: "Happy Easter! May the risen Lord take possession of your soul, your heart, your life and fill it with all His blessings".

To all of you, members of the Orionine Family, to the religious, to the nuns, to the consecrated women of the two secular institutes, to the laity, in this year that we wanted to dedicate to vocations, I wish, also on behalf of the General Council: *"May the joyful solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ revive the spirit of our Faith, revive the fervour of our holy vocation. May the continuous presence of God comfort us in our work, and may his face always be towards us, his little children, and his grace be with us always, and may his blessed Angels, faithful ministers of Providence of God be our shields."*

yours in the Risen Lord

P. Tarcísio Vieira
P. Tarcísio G. Vieira

