

**Dear confreres, sisters, friends, benefactors of
the Orionine Charismatic Family,**

Don Orione arrives in Morocco!

Following the invitation of the Archbishop of Rabat, Cardinal Cristobal Lopez Romero, tomorrow, September 11, 2023, Don Orione arrives in a new African nation, Morocco, through the presence of the two first missionaries of the Province "Notre Dame d'Afrique":

Fr. Claude Michel Goua and Fr. Anthime Kaboré.

The presence of these confreres for an exploratory mission was anticipated by the presence in Morocco of His Excellency Monsignor Giovanni d'Ercole FDP. A few months ago the General Councilor in charge of the Missions, Fr. Pierre Assamouan Kouassi, and the Provincial Director, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Dzankani visited the country to learn about the environment and start the first negotiations on the spot. Now, the two missionaries are accompanied in their first steps by the Provincial Bursar, Fr. Riccardo Zagaria.

In motivating his invitation, even before our Chapter, the Cardinal had written to me: *"The diocese, rather than asking you, offers you the possibility of incarnating the Orionine charism in such a particular context as the world of Islam. A presence in this Muslim environment is stimulating and challenging for the whole congregation and for each of the existing communities. For this reason, the Cardinal concluded, "We are more interested in what you are and live than what you can do and organize."*

Divine Providence wanted Don Orione to arrive in Morocco just a few days after the terrible earthquake that struck, in particular, the area of Marrakech. I sent, on behalf of the whole Congregation, a message to the Cardinal who replied in a WhatsApp text: *"Thank you very much for your interest and prayer. On Monday the Orionines arrive. We'll see what you can do to help."*

Initially, according to the instructions of the Cardinal, the confreres had to settle in Casablanca with a threefold commitment: to know the diocese and the country, to help in the pastoral care of the parish of Casablanca especially on weekends, to attend a course for inculturation in the new reality based on dialogue between cultures and different religious expressions. Then – this was the program – to enter into a work of charitable reception of migrants, many of them arrived from a tiring crossing with the marks on the body even of some violence.

Now, with the earthquake, we will see what can be done to help, as the Cardinal mentioned in his brief message. For this reason the words that Don Orione wrote to Don Adaglio, in 1915, following the earthquake of Marsica, are precious and must serve as inspiration for a charity of "first aid": "I send you a few orphans - Tonight around 6 pm they will bring beds and cots with mattresses and pillow for everyone. Now I'm going to buy sheets and blankets - You think about making us make dinner: what you spend will be given to you - Soup bread and a few little things." But above all these words that spiritualize every gesture, however small, of charity: *"Courage, let us do good in the name of God, and let us think that these poor people of the recent earthquake are the same person as Jesus Christ Our Lord."* (Writings 4,75)

Claude **Michel Goua** is 60 years old, 25 years of profession and 21 years of priesthood and a very rich experience of apostolate, in recent years, in the area of the three borders in Mallanville (Benin, Nigeria and Niger); a predominantly Muslim area and above all a place where many cultures meet and mix. **Fr. Anthime Kaboré**, on the other hand, is 33 years of age, 9 of profession and 3 of priesthood; he lived his first years of priesthood in Akpassi (Benin) in a community of essentially educational profile. Both have experience of opening new communities, since they participated in the opening of the two communities of Benin: one in Mallanville and the other in Akpassi.

In referring to these confreres and thanking them for their availability, I launch a missionary appeal for Morocco. Because of the cultural and historical particularities of Morocco, the Cardinal asked me, whenever possible, to include in the Community also confreres from other nations, so as to constitute an international and multi-ethnic community. The Arabic language is not a necessary condition, more necessary is the knowledge of the French language, but, for working with migrants, English is also useful. However, there is room for everyone in the mission!

Finally, **I ask the Provincials, the Vice Provincial and the Superior Delegates to ensure that Holy Mass is celebrated in all our communities, parishes and chapels on Monday, 11 September, for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and for the Orionine Community that begins its presence in that nation.** Therefore, it is to send this letter to all confreres and to ask for the celebration of Holy Mass also through the fastest means, such as WhatsApp.

This is the way to unite ourselves spiritually with the Moroccan people and our confreres. Fr. Claude and Fr. Anthime: *"Courage we do good in the name of God, and we think that these may the poor of the recent earthquake be the same person as Jesus Christ Our Lord."*

Faternally


Fr. Tarcísio Vieira
General Manager

