

“Only charity will save the world”

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Introduction

This is the model priest/sisters the world need today somebody who, in his daily life, knows how to harmonize and balance the tension between “meeting the Father and meeting people” in imitation of “Jesus’ style”. This is a fundamental value. In fact, “If we imagine the daily timetable of Jesus, reading the Gospels we can say that most of his time he spent in the street. That meant closeness to the people and their problems. He did not hide. Then in the evening many times he did hide in order to pray, to be with the father. “Only charity will save the world”, “Charitas Christi urget nos”, these are common sentences on the lips of Don Orione, which have become his mottos. Charity, for Don Orione, was the natural outcome of his attachment to Christ, a concrete way to bring to reality his “Instaurare omnia in Christo. The fire of charity which so animated don Orione is our most precious inheritance. “May our spirit be one of great humility, of faith and of charity: May our life be one that is fully entwined in prayer, in pious zeal and sacrifice for the good of souls.

“Only charity will save the world” inspired us to be “Don Orione today”, in our world. It invited us to be enthusiastic about his plan of charity, joyful and credible witnesses of the spirit of don Orione, in love with God and dedicated to our poorest brothers and sisters, convinced that “ *The cause of Christ and of the Church is only served by a great charity of life and of works* ” (*Lettere/Letters I*, 181) .

Don Orione was animated by his strong belief in charity and his desire to serve others, particularly the poor and marginalized. He was driven by a passion for helping those in need and saw it as a way to share Christ's love and bring them closer to God. This passion led him to found various congregations and organizations dedicated to serving the poor, like the Little Work of Divine Providence.

WHAT ARE THE FEELINGS OF DO ORIONE

Every man belong to God because it’s where he originated and is where he need go back “Place Me, O Lord, at the Gates of Hell”. He let himself be led, only and always, by the serried logic of love! Immense and total love for God, for Christ, for Mary, for the Church, for the Pope and an equally absolute love for men and women, for the whole person, body and soul, and for all persons, small and great, rich and poor, humble and learned, saints and sinners, with particular kindness and tenderness towards the suffering, the outcast, those in despair. He announced his program of action as follows:

“Our politics is great and divine charity, that does good to all. This tells us that we need to work with great desire and passion under all cost to save man.”

WHAT DOES THESE WORDS OF OUR FOUNDER MEAN TO US

In his life, Don Oriano made radical changes, but his focus never changed, nor did his desire to save souls; it was precisely this desire that prompted him to make changes in his program and lifestyle.

These words of Don Oriano are inviting the Congregation, community and each member to examine itself/self to understand *what God is saying* to us, what is *our situation*, and the *ways forward*.

As Daughters and sons of St Oriano we take CHARITY as the source and power of our spiritual, community and apostolic life. It is “*the only form of charity that vivifies, builds up and unites people in Jesus Christ and his Church*” (*Scritti/Writings* 59,215; 61,153). Therefore our holiness, our apostolate and our personal happiness, the future of our Congregation and the good of so many souls revolves around charity.

We must love souls and want to save souls and help Jesus to save souls. We should try to save and sanctify our own souls and the souls of our brothers, by self-denial and complete self-sacrifice as pure hosts of Jesus as lambs of Jesus, behind Jesus and all for Jesus,

These words of St Oriano “**Only charity will save the world**” must inspire us to be “Don Oriano today”, in our world. It invited us to be enthusiastic about his plan of charity, joyful and credible witnesses of the spirit of Don Oriano, in love with God and dedicated to our poorest brothers and sisters, convinced that “The cause of Christ and of the Church is only served by a great charity of life and of works” (*Lettere/Letters* I, 181).

We don't look at other than the souls to be saved. Souls and Souls! Here is all of our life: here is our cry and our program: all of our soul, all of our hearts. And thus he exclaimed with stressed lyrics: “Christ is coming carrying the Church on his heart and the tears and the blood of the poor in his hand; the cause of the afflicted, of the oppressed, of the widows, of the orphans, of the humble, of the rejected: behind Christ new heavens are opening: it is like the dawn of God's triumph!”.

“Humanity, afflicted by so many evils, needs to refresh in faith: it needs the heart of Jesus Christ. Let us go to the people and bring them Jesus Christ ... There is an urgent need and duty to throw ourselves into the fire of the new times, for the love of Jesus Christ and the people, as well as the country, since humanity today supremely needs to be refreshed in faith and to come back to live in the charity of the heart of Jesus Christ: charity to the souls of people and charity to their bodies: a charity that will be justice for everyone in society to raise the people to Jesus Christ by beginning to heal their moral wounds with faith and by bringing them to Christian life, but from here go also to the social wounds and help them in every way” (*Scritti* 52,221). For us to deal with the “new times”, we need to have attitude of readiness to dialogue with reality, and his ability to react and answer to his way, with the imagination and strategies of charity. We must be willing to dream his dreams, with his apostolic

ardour and his fidelity to the Church. Always striving to take action in favour of the Church and the poor, despite the complexity of the times and situations that he had to face. It is a question of "throwing ourselves into reality" with a contemplative gaze and with apostolic initiative like our founder. It is urgent to start! and we must go out to bring God's mercy to everyone!

CHALLENGES FACING PEOPLE TODAY

Matthew 19:16-22 tells the story of a wealthy young man who approached Jesus and asked Him how to obtain eternal life. When Jesus responded by advising him to sell his possessions and give to the poor, the man ignored His instructions.

If people were faced with the same dilemma today, many would likely choose to walk away from the church and disobey God's teachings rather than part with their material possessions.

The case of people leaving the church is not just an issue affecting select churches or congregations. It's a global trend that, unfortunately, isn't slowing down anytime soon.

"But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." (Luke 8:13)

As the verse above explains, a deeply rooted faith is vital in maintaining our commitment to the Word of God. But when our faith has no roots, it is easy for temptation to wash it away. Below are some of the biggest faith challenges that can erode the roots of faith or prevent them from taking hold.

In today's world, people face various challenges that can lead them away from their faith. These include **anxieties about the future, culture, the pressure to conform to societal norms, the allure of material possessions, Technology, Today lifestyle(individualism)** and the temptation to prioritize worldly pleasures over spiritual growth. Additionally, challenges like fear of **judgment, feeling out of place sharing struggles**, and **facing discrimination or stigma** can also hinder faith journeys. As followers of Christ, we must understand these challenges—not just for our sake but for the sake of those who we saving and welcoming in our Religious family today.

SUGGESTIONS /PERSPECTIVES

- We need to maintain our commitment to the Word of God, Strengthen our fraternal life. Value more our Vows and Constitutions and Spiritual life as Consecrated people.
- Help the Christians deepen their understanding of God's word through doing Bible studies in the Parishes. (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- Organizing moment of prayers with the youth and children (Matthew 6:6)
- Spread Kindness (Matthew 5:16)

CONCLUSION

“To keep the foundational charism alive is to keep it on the way, and growing, in dialogue with what the Spirit is telling us in the history of times, in places, in different eras, in different situations. (...) A foundational charism cannot be maintained without apostolic courage, that is, without walking, without discernment, and without prayer”.

Brethren, do not let our spirit fall: have faith, more faith! What is a little lacking in all of us, all of us, today, to devote ourselves, in the name of God and in union with Christ, to save the world and prevent the people from turning away from the Church? What do we lack for charity, justice, truth not to be defeated and return to the bosom of God cursing mankind, which refused to bear fruit? We are lacking in faith ! "If you have faith like a mustard seed, Jesus said, they would say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible to them" (cfr. Mt 17,20). Faith my brothers, more Faith! Who among us believes that mountains can be moved, heal peoples, cause justice to triumph in the world, make truth shine in the human spirit, unite in Christ's charity to all the earth? Where are these believers? More faith brothers, it takes more faith! Faith is lacking in those who need to be saved and sometimes lacking - with how much pain in the soul I say this -, faith is lacking or languid in me and also in some of us who want to enlighten and save people, or think we do.