

DIRETTORE GENERALE

**Dear Brothers,
Sons of Divine Providence**

Habemus Papam!

From the Apostolic See has resounded the announcement that fills our Orionine spirit with joy and emotion: *Habemus Papam!*

“Suddenly, the large window on the façade of Saint Peter’s, where the Pope usually appears to give blessings, was seen to open. A large drape was lowered and then there was applause. It was not yet known who he was or what name he would assume. (...) Finally, the cross with the Cardinal Deacon appeared on the balcony... The whole of Saint Peter’s Square was as one head... The Cardinal Deacon then began to speak and said: «Habemus Papam».” (Don Orione, 07/03/1939)

The universal Church once again has its Supreme Pastor, the 267th successor of the Apostle Peter in the Roman See. With hearts of sons and exultant spirits, we welcome the Holy Father Robert Francis Prevost, who has taken the name of Leo XIV.

“Then the new Pope appeared amidst a delirium of applause... he gave the first blessing, ample, great! It was a moment of great emotion. You too will have heard the Pope’s voice in giving that first blessing.” (Don Orione, 07/03/1939)

Dearest Confreres, with joy and gratitude we welcome the new Holy Father, an Augustinian religious, whom God has chosen to guide His Church in this time of challenges and hopes. We have prayed with trepidation, invoking the Holy Spirit to illuminate the discernment of the Cardinals. Now with renewed faith, we reaffirm our commitment to be humble instruments in the hands of the Pope, to serve the Church and the neediest among our brothers. Don Orione taught us that our love and devotion are not directed towards a name, but towards the Pope, as the representative of Christ on earth. *“We do not look at whether it is one Pope or another, nor at the name he bears, nor at his past. It is always the Pope whom we see in faith; it is always the Pope whom we love; to Him we owe our veneration, our obedience as disciples and as children.”* We know well the profound love and unwavering devotion our Founder had for the Successor of Peter.

In this spirit, we wholeheartedly welcome Pope Leo XIV. To Him goes, from this moment, our unconditional obedience, our profound veneration, and our most sincere filial love. We recognise in Him the sure guidance that Christ Himself gives us in these times.

Our commitment, as Sons of Divine Providence, is renewed in this solemn moment. We must have, according to the exhortation of Don Orione, *“a heart that beats and make thousands and millions of hearts beat around the heart of the Pope.”* This means intensifying our prayer for his person and for his ministry, and above all, living our lives with commitment and practicing active charity, bringing especially the poor, the afflicted, and the humble, who are the *“true treasures of the Church of Jesus Christ”*, to the heart of the Holy Father.

We know well how many obstacles the Holy Father will have to face in his ministry. The modern mentality is increasingly seeking to reduce the influence that the Pontifical Magisterium has on people. But our charism and the Fourth Vow commit us to fight alongside him.

In the year of the General Verification Assembly, whose main objective is to relaunch the Chapter, we particularly take up Line of Action No. 13 of the XV General Chapter: “**How to live fidelity to the Pope in the current context.**” We renew our adherence to the dream of a Congregation that is a “*builder of communion and peace around the Pope*”: «*The primary purpose of our Congregation is to live out love for the Pope, and to spread, especially among the little ones, the humble, and the people, the sweetest love for the Pope, and full and filial obedience to His word and to His desires. Above all our foreheads should be written and borne high the name of the Pope; on all our hearts should be engraved the blessed name of the Pope; our lives must be consecrated to the Pope and to the Holy Church of Jesus Christ.*» (Scritti 52, 110)


This same Line of Action, animated by the fire of our charism, proposes that we translate our profound and filial fidelity to the Pope into concrete actions, offering practical ways to embody this love in the dynamism of the current context:

- With the careful gaze of the Provincial Councils, let us ensure that our apostolic initiatives, in their planning and execution, are a reflection of the charism of ecclesiality and papal fidelity that Don Orione has left us as a legacy. The tool to be used are the charismatic indicators in the various apostolic projects. (cf. XV CG, 91)
- It is the vital task of the Major Superiors and the Community Superiors to keep alive the flame of our profound love and our unwavering fidelity to the Pope and his Magisterium. This ardour should be expressed with creativity and renewed impetus, seeking ever new ways to bear witness to this devotion. The Weekly Prayer for Fidelity to the Pope and the Feast of the Pope should continue to be eloquent and moving signs of our Orionine identity in the world. (cf. XV CG, 92)
- Following in the footsteps of Don Orione, an unsurpassed master in drawing near to those who considered themselves distant, including those whom the currents of the time would have wished estranged from the Church (the modernists), becoming himself a living bridge of union, we Religious make this style our own. We commit ourselves wholeheartedly to a constant attitude marked by the sincere and patient search for communion, rejecting every form of sterile opposition, in order to be authentic builders of unity in the ecclesial body and in society. (cf. XV CG, 93)
- Animated by a strong desire to grow in the understanding and following of the Pontifical Magisterium, we commit ourselves to know, deepen our understanding of, and make our own the riches of the Pope's thought and his directives. And with apostolic zeal, we propose ourselves as convinced proclaimers of his Magisterium, using with creativity and passion all the tools at our disposal to carry his voice as far as possible. (cf. XV CG, 94)

Brothers, may our fidelity to the Pope be a luminous sign in the world, bearing witness to the cohesion and vitality of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit through its visible Pastor. History reminds us how many holy Popes have illuminated the path of the people of God; we too are called, in our small way, to contribute with our holiness of life to this glorious succession.

Let us therefore raise our supplications to the Lord for Pope Leo XIV, entrusting his most high ministry to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, and to the protection of our Founder, Saint Luigi Orione.

United in Christ and in the charity of Don Orione, with filial devotion to the Holy Father, fraternally,


P. Tarcísio Vieira
 General Director

