

MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dearest Confreres,

we reach out to you with hearts full of joy and gratitude from Claypole, where our General Verification Assembly has just concluded! We feel a strong desire to share with you the beautiful and fraternal experience we lived, making you participants in the most significant moments that warmed our hearts.

SPIRIT OF FAMILY AND STEPS TOWARD RENEWAL

From the very first moments, we breathed a true spirit of family, both among us participants and everywhere we were welcomed in our Orionine houses in Buenos Aires. We want to say a big THANK YOU for the warm and fraternal welcome we have been given! A dutiful thank you goes to the General Council, which carefully prepared this family event, and to the “Nuestra Señora de la Guardia” Province (Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay) for their generous commitment to hospitality.

The joy was amplified by the richness and freshness that the presence of new Delegations and younger religious people brought. We realize that the Congregation is moving forward: there are many simple and beautiful experiences that express a true renewal and are pushing us ahead!

The entire Assembly was conducted in a very family-like and synodal manner. The way it was organized and conducted—the approach to people and topics, and the climate of dialogue—served as a methodological model that we hope will also illuminate our meetings at provincial and delegation levels.

During these days of work and prayer, we revisited the Dream of the General Chapter, observed reality with a gaze of faith and charity, and identified concrete suggestions to relaunch the Chapter’s directives. The precious contributions received from the Provinces and Delegations allowed us to observe, with gratitude, that much of the Chapter has already been embraced and put into practice. But, on the other hand, a long way still remains to be travelled: thus, we heard the call to commitment resonate for us, loud and clear: to ensure that the burning heart of Don Orión returns to beat with vigor in every one of our works and communities. It is time to resume the path traced with energy, passion, and renewed hope.



THE SOURCE OF OUR LIFE AND MISSION

Each of our days began in the light of the Word of God and in the presence of Jesus (“the first our entirety to God”), with the lectio divina on the entire chapter 5 of Luke, accompanied by the lectio Orionina. Rediscovering in the Assembly the merciful heart of Jesus toward the poor, the suffering, and the sinners has relaunched us into the mission, reminding us of our vocation as “fishers of men.”

We have reflected intensely on our consecration and how it and our adherence to Christ impact the mission and the apostolate. The necessity for our apostolic life to always be nourished at the source, which is the charity of Christ, encountered in personal and communal prayer, emerged strongly.

THE WISDOM THAT COMES FROM THE POOR: DON ORIONE'S HEART IS STILL BEATING!

At the heart of the experience was the voice of the poor, which guided our reflections: we lived charismatic experiences in the communities of the Claypole outskirts (Sacred Heart Parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Itatí Community). The sharing of the Word within the families in that working-class neighborhood was enlightening; there, we allowed ourselves to be touched and illuminated by the wisdom that the Spirit of God pours into the hearts of the little ones and the humble of this land.

An extremely touching and significant moment was the encounter with Don Orione's heart: we perceived it still beating for the little ones and the poor of the Cottolengo in Claypole, gathered around him. Precisely they—the guests, the children, and the simple people—served as a light to guide and illuminate the Assembly's reflections and propositions. They reminded us once again of the beauty of our vocation, which puts us in contact with the simplest, poorest, and littlest people, “who are Jesus Christ”! The beauty of being an Orionine!

The Assembly ended with the encounter and sharing with the representatives of the Charismatic Family: The Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, the sisters of the Orionine Secular Institute, and the laity of the Orionine Lay Movement: together to live and bear witness in its fullness to the Charism Don Orione passed on to us.

IN FOOTSTEPS OF DON ORIONE

On a pilgrimage, following in Don Orione's footsteps, we laid our work, dreams, efforts, and hopes at the feet of the Holy Virgin, visiting the Sanctuary of the “Virgen de Luján,” where our Founder was many times during his stay in Argentina.

Dear Confreres, we hand over to you this simple fruit, but made with the heart, of our assembly work. Our desire is that we may support one another to resume the journey, relaunching the guidelines of the General Chapter, and that the great heart of Don Orione, burning with passion for Christ, the Church, and the poor, may continue to beat in our own chests.

We embrace you with the affection of Don Orione!



CONSIGLIO GENERALE

Prov. “Madre della Divina Provvidenza” (Roma)

Prov. “Matki Boskiej Czestochowskiej” (Varsavia)

Prov. “Nuestra Señora de la Guardia” (Buenos Aires)

Prov. “Nossa Senhora de Fátima” (Brasília)

Prov. “Nossa Senhora da Anunciação” (São Paulo)

Prov. “Notre Dame d’Afrique” (Bonoua)

Prov. “Marie Mère de Dieu” (Lomé)

Vice-Prov. “Ntra. Sra. del Pilar” (Madrid)

Del. “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” (Santiago)

Del. “Mother of the Church” (London)

Del. “Maria Regina del Madagascar” (Madagascar)

Del. “Mary’s Immaculate Conception” (Filippine)

Del. “Our Lady of Good Health” (India)

Del. “Our Lady of the Rosary” (Kenya)

Reg. Mis. “Nossa Senhora da Natividade” (Mozambico)

Già Superiore Generale

Rappresentante dei Fratelli

Procuratore Generale

Tarcisio G. Vieira

Maurizio Macchi

Fernando Fornerod

Assamouan Pierre Kouassi

Fausto Franceschi

Walter Gropello

Giovanni Carollo

Carlo Marin

Sylwester Janusz Sowizdrzał

Marcin Chrzyszczuk

Eldo Musso

Regino Espínola Rodi

Jorge Henrique Rocha

Getúlio Assis Arruda

Rodinei Thomazella

Antonio Sagrado Bogaz

Basile Aka

Blonsky Serge Marius Kouadio

Jean-Baptiste Dzankani

Kokou Fo Edem Paul Assidénu

Miguel Angel Bombin

Teofilo Calvo

Gustavo Adrian Valencia Aguilera

Martin Estanislao Mroz

Luciano Mariani

Jean Clement Rafanomezantsoa

John Castillo

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Fabio Antonelli

