

**PICCOLA OPERA
DELLA DIVINA PROVVIDENZA**

(Don Orione)

VIA ETRURIA, 6 – 00183 ROMA RM – ITALIA


DIRETTORE GENERALE

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“Let us place our heart in God’s Heart!”

Abiding in the Heart of Christ in order to be enkindled in charity

As the Jubilee of Hope draws towards its completion, let us allow a word from our Founder Father to become for us both criterion and programme for the new year. It is an appeal born close to the closing of the Extraordinary Jubilee of the Redemption in 1933, and for this reason it has the tone of a spiritual gesture: as though Don Orione was leading us to the Holy Door and, was asking us to make a decisive inward passage, before it is shut again.

“The Jubilee year is about to end: let us close our life in the Sacred Heart of Jesus before the Pope closes the Holy Door. I commend prayer to you; you know the reasons, you sense them. Place your heart in God’s Heart. Let us imprint Jesus Crucified upon our love, and let us seek to be crucified on the Cross with our Lord. Let us invoke the help of the Most Holy Madonna... and let us begin a new life in the name of the Lord.” [1934] (Parola VI, 88).

These are not words merely to remember: they are words to be celebrated with life. Before the Holy Door is closed, let us close ourselves within the Heart of Christ, and let us place our heart in God’s Heart. This is the spiritual act our Father proposes for *“beginning a new life”* in 2026: an act of abiding and offering, of trust and conversion, of call and sending forth. Concretely, it is an invitation to welcome and to respond with our lives to a moving passage of the Gospel, in which Jesus says: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [...] Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your life”* (Mt 11:28–29).

To **“close our life in the Sacred Heart of Jesus”** means to enter the dwelling of Love that precedes us and saves us. It is not to withdraw from history or from reality: it is to safeguard our vocation and our charismatic identity in the place where every fear is put into perspective and every weariness finds breath again. It is to allow ourselves to be gathered by the Lord so that our days may not spring from urgency, but from the “first hour” with the Lord; not from calculations, but from Providence; not from reactions, but from faith. Don Orione desired this for each of us with a burning image: *“May your breast be an apostolic breast and a sea of charity... like the Heart of Christ.”* [1932] (Scritti 65, 65)

To **“place our heart in God’s Heart”** is to entrust to Him the centre of our choices, so that our freedom may be unified in His will and charity may become decision, style, witness, and closeness. It is to imprint within our love Jesus Crucified, with His love without end, and to allow ourselves to be conformed to Him. Thus we can pass through time without losing our way and without hardening; we can truly *“throw ourselves into the fire of new times”* without being consumed: with a heart at peace and fraternal, poor and ardent, able to stand *“in the midst of the people”* and to heal their wounds, bringing to all not ourselves, but Jesus Christ, the heart of the world. This is the school of charity that Don Orione sums up with clear radicalness: *“We must let our heart rest upon the Heart of Christ... raise the edifice of love upon the ruins of every egoism, of every self-love: then everything becomes Jesus.”* (Scritti 79,341)

The theme of the heart — the fragile and thirsty heart of every person, the great and magnanimous heart of Don Orione, the pierced and merciful Heart of Christ — is the most fitting key for living this turn of the year in an Orionine spirit. It is the key of thanksgiving for 2025: so that we may recognise, in Providence, the graces received and place in the Heart of Jesus even what has remained unfinished, burdensome, or wounded. And it is the key for the beginning of 2026: because, if our heart rests in the Heart of Christ and allows itself to be placed in God's Heart, then hope will not be a passing feeling but a choice; charity will not be only an impulse but fidelity; mission will not be noise but witness. Thus, in the name of the Lord and under the gaze of the Most Holy Madonna, we shall be able to enter 2026 making our own the words with which Don Orione, in a page of apostolic ardour, unveils his deepest desire: *"I feel an immense need to throw myself upon the Heart of Our Dear Lord Crucified and to die loving Him and weeping with charity... and to embrace all souls and save them all, all... To run across the whole earth and all the seas; and it seems to me that the immense charity of Our Lord Jesus Christ will give life to the whole earth and to all the seas, and all will call upon Jesus Christ."* (Scritti 115,142)

2025: the year of two Popes

For the Church, the year 2025 has been the year of two Popes: Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV. In April we received, with great sorrow, the news of Pope Francis's death. We were deeply saddened, yet our hearts were full of gratitude: for twelve years the Lord gave us Pope Bergoglio. Through him we came to understand, in a new and more profound way, many words of our Founder, for there were not lacking points of contact between them. He truly was an "Orionine" Pope: a heart without borders, set ablaze with love for God and for humanity. He brought the joy of the Gospel back to the centre of Christian life and, with his teaching and above all with his gestures, he taught us to look to the peripheries as a privileged place of encounter with Christ. He was the Pope of simple people, of the last and the marginalised. For him, no one was discarded by God: "In the most wretched of men the image of God shines forth."

A few months before his death, he handed to the Church a text that many consider his spiritual legacy and a key for reading his pontificate: the encyclical *Dilexit nos*, on the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ. If over the years Pope Francis powerfully urged us, with evangelical force, to go towards the peripheries, to recognise Christ in the little ones and to leave no one at the margins, *Dilexit nos* brings us back to the source from which every apostolic passion is born: not the anxiety of doing, but the love that precedes and renews. In a "liquid world", it invites us to return to where life becomes unified and matures: *"In this liquid world it is necessary to speak once again of the heart"* (DN 9). When the heart is devalued, relationships and encounter are impoverished; when, instead, the heart allows itself to be reached by the Heart of Christ, charity regains meaning and mission regains truth.

For this reason, as we enter 2026, we welcome as a proposed path the words our Founder gives us: *"Let us place our heart in God's Heart!"* It is an itinerary that calls for an interior act and a daily choice: to abide in the Heart of Christ in order to be enkindled in charity. And it is here that the Pope's voice is translated into concrete indications: *"In some way you must be a missionary, as the apostles of Jesus and the first disciples were... this is also your mission"*; and he adds that "Jesus deserves it" and that, if we have the courage, *"He will enlighten you, accompany you and strengthen you"*: it does not matter if we do not see results immediately, because we should *"leave that to the Lord who works in the secrecy of hearts"*, yet we must not cease *"to live the joy of trying to communicate the love of Christ to others"* (DN 216).

Habemus Papam! With joy and deep emotion, on 8 May we gave thanks to the Lord for the new universal Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV (Robert Francis Prevost). His election was for us an occasion to renew, with filial affection, the bond that our Constitutions recognise as an essential trait of the charism: “*We consider the first and most important aspect of our charism to have unconditional love, humble adherence and most faithful service to the Pope, Vicar of Christ, recognising ourselves as pledged to give him our heart, mind, strength, blood and life, to defend his authority and Magisterium, by every possible means*” (Cost. 6). For this reason, we intensify our prayer and translate Orionine fidelity into concrete gestures: active charity, love for the Church and, above all, real attention to the poor, the afflicted and the humble, the Lord’s cherished treasures. And we entrust Pope Leo to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, and to the intercession of our Saint.

A particularly significant gift, just a few months into his pontificate, was the publication of the apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*, in harmonious continuity with *Dilexit nos*. If Pope Francis’s encyclical led us back to the Heart of Jesus as the source of the love that renews us, Leo XIV’s Exhortation shows how that love, received and safeguarded, becomes a concrete choice of closeness to the poor. The Pope himself says so, explaining that the text gathers up a project begun by Pope Francis, so that all may perceive “*the strong link that exists between the love of Christ and his call to make ourselves close to the poor*” (DT 3). And the title — “*I have loved you*” (Rev 3:9) — orients the whole perspective: care for the poor is not an accessory chapter, but a place where the love of Christ becomes perceptible and credible, even through “*a gesture of help that is simple, very personal and close at hand*” (DT 121).

After reading Pope Leo’s first Exhortation, the most natural reaction of a son of Don Orione is to allow oneself to be set alight by the invitation that, through time, the Founder continues to address to us and that sounds like a programme of life and a rule of the heart: “*Let us therefore go with gladness and the love of Christ to find Jesus in our poorest brothers and sisters: holy is love for the poor. To care for the poor is to care for Jesus; to serve the poor is to serve the suffering members of Jesus Christ... And he cannot love or serve Christ who does not love Him and serve Him, as far as he can, in brothers and sisters who are in misery and abandonment. Love for Christ in the poor is superhuman love... It is Jesus who has kindled upon this cold and darkened earth this divine flame of charity and most noble life. May this life live in us!*” (Scritti 86,182). With his unmistakable passion, Don Orione also hands on to us the paradox that safeguards the unity between contemplation and action: “*I want to hide myself and be consumed with love of God and neighbour, but of the poorest and most abandoned; I want to remain hidden in the Heart of Jesus Crucified, yet go through the streets and squares with the fire of charity*” (Scritti 70,329). This is our road: hidden in the Heart of Christ and, precisely for this reason, visible among the people, to kindle the flame of charity and bring to all not ourselves, but Jesus Christ, so that every person may feel reached by his simplest and most decisive word: “*I have loved you!*”

Verification Assemblies

In 2025 we were called to live what our Norms prescribe in no. 176: “*Three years after the General Chapter, the verification assembly shall be convened... to evaluate the implementation of the dispositions of the General Chapter and to relaunch their fulfilment.*” After the assemblies at provincial level in the first months of the year, the Congregation gathered in Argentina, in Claypole, for the General Verification Assembly from 24 October to 2 November. There were 33 of us religious, together with 7 representatives from the other branches of the Charismatic Family.

One of the most significant moments of our gathering was the charismatic day lived at the Little Cottolengo of Claypole and, in particular, the encounter with the relic of Don Orione's Heart. Before that Heart, kept in the Shrine, the members of the Assembly did not merely admire it; they felt within themselves the desire to be transformed: to have a heart like his, broader, more capable of loving "*all, all, all,*" especially the last. In that prayerful silence, many confided that they had asked the Lord to renew their heart, to enlarge it, and to return to living the vocation of Sons of Divine Providence in a more radical way, moved by passion.

To be before the Most Blessed Sacrament, in the Sanctuary of the "Corazón", with some residents of the Little Cottolengo beside us, meant rediscovering the centre of our charismatic identity: Christ and the poor. On that day we understood that Don Orione's Heart continues to beat whenever someone chooses to be consumed in charity for the good of the least. In that "remaining before", we felt that devotion to the Heart of Christ does not close us into an intimist piety, but sets us back on the road towards the people.

Our Father had said it forcefully in 1918, in a historical hour marked by wounds and unrest, and his words seem written for today: "*Humanity, afflicted by so many evils, needs to be refreshed in faith: it needs the Heart of Jesus Christ. Let us go to the people and bring them Jesus Christ...*" (Scritti 52,221). It is a charity that does not defend itself from reality, but seeks to pass through it with the strength and tenderness of the Gospel.

As in Don Orione's time, history challenges us today too; and therefore, "*It is not possible to remain further on, sadly watching ourselves: we must make the sign of the Cross and throw ourselves into the fire of new times, for love of Jesus Christ, of the people...*" (Scritti 31,21). We cannot spend our life "watching ourselves", commenting, complaining, defending our comfort zones, waiting for better times: we must "*make the sign of the Cross*" and set out again. In this sense, I hope that the Acts of the Assembly — recently distributed in the Communities — together with the proposals for relaunching the Chapter, may help us respond to Don Orione's appeal: "*Let us not wait for the post-war period: Caritas Christi urget nos*" (Scritti 75,242).

New openings and missionary frontiers in 2025

The year 2025 was marked, for our Religious Family, by new openings and significant steps of missionary discernment. In response to the orientations of the XV General Chapter, the Congregation sought to listen to the Church's call in various nations, opening simple presences rooted in the reality of the people.

Asia: In **India** the Orionine presence was established in Jamshedpur (State of Jharkhand), in a house set within a popular context, with initiatives of concrete charity: support for young people in their studies and attention to the integral promotion of women. It is the first opening in India promoted entirely by Indian confreres who come from the region and speak the local language, Hindi, a sign of a concrete inculturation of the charism. In the **Philippines**, the Delegation "Mary's Immaculate Conception" launched an exploratory mission in the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay, on the island of Palawan, taking on pastoral care of a Missionary Area with 15 chapels in a rural zone. It is the first opening outside the large island where the other Orionine communities are: Payatas, Montalban and Lucena.

Latin America: The Province "Nuestra Señora de la Guardia" opened a new missionary presence in San Ramón de la Nueva Orán, in North-West **Argentina**, on the border with Bolivia; the Community will be inserted in a working-class neighbourhood, alongside a chapel, with two pastoral priorities: mission in the peripheries and accompaniment

of persons with problems of chemical addiction. In **Brazil**, the Congregation continues to advance into the Amazon region, where on 12 March it took on the Parish of “São Lazaro” in the capital Manaus. Moreover, after many years of service to the Cathedral Parish of Tocantinópolis, the Congregation departed to take on a parish within the diocese, in São Miguel de Tocantins.

Africa: In **Kenya**, we arrived at Kongoli, in the Diocese of Bungoma, situated on the route towards Uganda, for pastoral service to the Parish of “Our Lady of Fatima”; in Sobea, in the Diocese of Nakuru, the formation house for aspirants was opened; and in Makutano–Mwea, Diocese of Murang’a, in a rented house, the Novitiate for the year 2025–2026 was opened. In **Madagascar**, the Congregation accepted to take on the mission of Antsiraraka, in the Diocese of Morondava, where the Community of Beroboka is already present, strengthening the Orionine presence in the area, so that the religious do not remain isolated. In **Cameroon**, beyond our presence in Djoum, this year the possibility of opening a Community in Edéa is being evaluated, to guarantee continuity to the work of charity begun by the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. In **Mozambique**, the opening of a Community in Beira, in the diocese of the same name, was consolidated, for pastoral and charitable service to the diocese; in the capital Maputo the Province “Nossa Senhora da Anunciação” – South Brazil, built in Tsalala the seminary for the Missionary Region and the House of Novitiate for Mozambicans was established.

A significant development in Morocco: Although it is not a “new opening”, the Orionine presence in Casablanca deserves mention among the missionary frontiers of 2025. The Community, entrusted to the Province “Notre Dame d’Afrique”, is taking shape as an outpost of charity at the service of migrants. The work, without property of its own, has been able to weave strong relationships with the local Church and is orienting itself towards the establishment of a specific healthcare service for sick migrants.

The prophecy of presence: Special note should be made of the Congregation’s presence in Ukraine, where the confreres, in Lviv and in Kyiv, live in closeness to the people, sharing their desire for a just and lasting peace. Even in a context of war, this year we had the joy of opening the novitiate in Lviv for the young Ukrainian Oleksandr Serov. It is also worth recalling the presence of our religious in Venezuela, particularly in Barquisimeto, where countless difficulties are making daily life and the witness of Don Orione’s charism arduous.

The witness of holiness

Don Gaspare Goggi: On 21 November we received the news of the ecclesial recognition of Don Goggi’s heroic virtues, and of his being declared Venerable. Thus the ardent desire of Saint Luigi Orione is fulfilled: he considered him a true “*little saint, without reservations*” and used to say: “*That one takes us all on board.*” Having died at only 31 years of age, on 4 August 1908, Don Goggi—buried in the crypt of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Guard in Tortona—shines today even more as a model of humility and trust in Divine Providence for the whole Congregation.

Relics of Blessed Francis Drzewiecki in the Basilica of Saint Bartholomew: At the conclusion of the Jubilee of the Charismatic Family, the Province “Madonna di Czestochowa” solemnly placed a relic of Blessed Francis in the Basilica of Saint Bartholomew on Isola Tiberina (Rome), within the Shrine of the New Martyrs of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, where testimonies of numerous martyrs from every part of the world are already preserved.

Jubilee of Hope

In 2025, in harmony with the Jubilee of Hope and on the centenary of the Jubilee lived by Don Orione in 1925, the Orionine Family celebrated three great jubilee events.

First, the **Jubilee of Orionine Young People**, lived in two stages: in Tortona (19–27 July), in the places of our charismatic origins, and then in Rome (28 July – 3 August), in communion with the universal Church. It was a pilgrimage of faith and family, engaging young people and leaders in moments of prayer, formation and fraternity.

Next came the **Jubilee of jubilarian religious**, from 20 to 30 August, with a pilgrimage to Tortona, coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of the Guard, and then to Rome. In particular, the confreres who in 2025 were celebrating a jubilee of consecrated life or priesthood took part, being offered the opportunity to return to Orionine “holy ground” to renew their “yes”.

Finally, from 21 to 23 November, in Rome, the **Jubilee of the Charismatic Family** was celebrated on the theme: *«One hundred years after Don Orione’s Jubilee (1925), the Jubilee of the Orionine Charismatic Family (2025)»*, with the participation of more than 500 members from the different branches. It was a great event of communion and gratitude, allowing us to experience the joy of being one single Family, “members of the one People of God, whose head is Christ and whose law is the new commandment of love, as Christ has loved us” (Cost. 3).

Deo gratias!

Looking back on 2025, we recognise with gratitude the many signs of life that the Spirit has raised up within our Religious Family. Priestly and diaconal ordinations, religious professions, renewals of vows and jubilees of consecration tell a story of calls welcomed, persevering fidelity and availability for mission. What follows gathers, in concise form, the principal events that marked the year for our religious and for our Family.

They received the sacred order of the presbyterate 21 Religious: Naveen KERKETTA (14/01); Junior SILVA DE ALENCAR (25/01); Diego DE LIMA DIAZ (01/02); Rimish PANNA (08/02); Grzegorz Marek GICALA (07/06); Przemyslaw PIECHOWSKI (07/06); Horacio Manuel Berque CHICO (28/06); Carvil Franck KANGA (05/07); Jean Paul Marie Boukaré SAWADOGO (05/07); Harrison Nyaga KARIUKI (11/07); Olivier Laridja KOMBATÉ (12/07); Jacques Hèzouwé AGAO (02/07); Hilaire Mbégna ALOU (12/07); Frédéric Yina KETAWA (12/07); Patrice Kinansoa LARE DAMGOBINE (12/07); Stéphan Jean Guy RANDRIANJAKARIVO (26/07); Evans Ombongi NYABUTO (09/08); Kenneth PINEDA (21/08); John Carl Angelo SARIO (21/08); Dritan BOKA (11/10); Anilson ALVES DE OLIVEIRA (13/12).

They received the sacred order of the diaconate 17 Religious: Jaider Geraldo DE ASSIS JUNIOR (15/03); Anilson ALVES DE OLIVEIRA (15/03); Alexandre DE MAMAN (23/08); Reynato II DOMINGUEZ (07/10); Evelio BONARES (07/10); Jay ESPINA (07/10); Jared Otieno AWUOR (07/10); Salvatore LATINA (15/11); Déada Yannick OULAI (06/12); Séraphin Roland-Roslain Ebia NOGBOU (06/12); Laurent Faneva RAFANOMEZANTSOA (08/12); Igualdino DA SILVA TAVARES (08/12); Jean Félix TAHINJANAHARY (08/12); Dhiraj CHINNABATHINI (08/12); Sebastián Antonio VEGA SELAIVE (08/12); Ferdinand Solonirina RANDRIAMILISOA (14/12); Davidasoa RANDRIANANTENAINA (14/12).

There are 17 young Religious who have made the perpetual profession: Jean Félix TAHINJANAHARY (08/03); Dhiraj CHINNABATHINI (08/03); Sebastián Antonio VEGA SELAIVE (08/03); Reynato II DOMINGUEZ (15/03); Evelio BONARES (15/03); Jay ESPINA (15/03); Jared Otieno AWUOR (15/03); Elisio Mario CHEIRO CHOE (16/08); Déada Yannick OULAI (29/08); Séraphin Roland-Roslain Ebia NOGBOU (28/08); Gito João JORGE (06/09); Rubens SOARES SIQUEIRA (06/09); Laurent Faneva

RAFANOMEZANTSOA (08/09); Igualdino DA SILVA TAVARES (08/09); Patrick MARTINELLI PRETTI (29/09); Ferdinand Solonirina RANDRIAMILISOA (13/12); Davidaso RANDRIANANTENAINA (13/12).

34 young people have made their first profession: José Guilherme Augusto FERRARESI (12/01); Bruno Cordeiro GUEDES FILHO (12/01); Gleison DE SOUSA FURTADO (12/01); Leandro LOPES SILVA (12/01); Samuel Leandro DOS SANTOS (12/01); Wesley OLIVEIRA BARBOSA (12/01); Peter Sifuna BARASA (15/08); Terensio Bapia Bagayowia REZIGI (15/08); Januario NDYOMUGABE (15/08); Richard NGABIRANO (15/08); Ambrose TUMUSIIME (15/08); Christian J. CLAVERIA (15/08); Ajaya NAYAK (15/08); Sandeep POLUMARI (15/08); Weslen DE SOUZA LIMA (16/08); Evariste N'GUETTA (08/09); Emmanuel Koffivi ATSA (08/09); Jonas Douti KOLANI (08/09); Augustin Pakindame KOMBATE (08/09); Irénée Tibé LARE (08/09); Victor Mamouna PASSAI (08/09); Bernard Kossi SEBENAGNON (08/09); Armand Ezzo-Kpewam SIM (08/09); Gilbert Thècle Dêdêwanou ZINSOU (08/09); Fidel Augusto JOÃO (08/09); Leonel Florindo Henriques LOPES (08/09); Paulo Aniva MAPENGUE (08/09); Aurélio Marcelino MÁRIO (08/09); Konrad WIDERA (08/09); Stel Elivah RANDRIANIAINA (08/09); Callisto TANTELARIMALALA (08/09); Jean Rolland RAKOTOARIMALALA (08/09); Jean Aimé RANDRIANARISON (08/09); Roland Herison Lapa SETRAMIAMINA (08/09).

There are currently 31 novices in the Congregation.

During this year 10 Brothers died: Sac. Renzo VANOI (01/01); Sac. Almarinho Vicente LAZZARI (04/01); Sac. Jacinto ROJAS BARRIOS (05/02); Sac. Severino DIDONÈ (26/03); Sac. Fernando MIÑONES (12/08); Sac. Angelo Primo GIROLAMI (24/08); Sac. Mario Giovanni GHIO (31/08); Sac. Gernaldo CONTI (12/10); Fr. Paweł Sławomir DYMIŃSKI (27/11); Sac. Pánfilo ORTEGA RIOS (25/12).

11 Little Missionary Sisters of Charity have died: Suor MARIA LAETITIA CRUCIS (29/07); Suor MARIA GIOVANNA (01/08); Suor MARIA MATILDE (03/09); Suor MARIA KATARZYNA (05/09); Suor MARIA ADELAIDA (05/09); Suor MARIA AGNIESZKA (16/09); Suor MARIA (24/09); Suor MARIA ENI (28/10); Suor MARIA PRISCILA (02/12); Suor MARIA DILMA (25/12); Suor MARIA MIRTES (29/12).

Three consecrated members of the Secular Institutes have died: Sig.ra Aleksandra KRÓLIKOWSKA (ISO) (15/01); Sig.ra Eleonora SAURO (ISO) (27/03); Sig.ra Lurdes ALVES MARINHO (ISMdN) (15/09).

Several relatives have died, including the FATHERS of: Sac. Rosario BELLI (01/02); Sac. Gregorz SIKORSKI (11/02); Sac. Emmanuel KUEVI (05/03); Sac. Pedro Júnior PEREIRA VILA NOVA (19/04); Fr. Zbigniew SMĘTEK (24/05); Sac. Graziano CASTELLARO (14/06); Sac. Patrice N. KONTOGOM (17/07); Sac. José Maria DA CUNHA (17/07); Sac. Anibal Manuel QUEVEDO (03/09); Sac. Umberto Ruiz Diaz RIVEIROS (05/11); Sac. Kevin KRAHIBOUÉ (18/11/2025); Ch. Djakéra Isidore BAMERMANOUA (17/12).

The mothers of: Sac. Ricardo PAREDES ESPINOZA (31/01); Sac. José MACIEL (09/02); Sac. Bartélémy HIEN (19/03); Sac. Miguel Angel BOMBIN GONZÁLEZ (07/05); Sac. Abbe Sidoine Evraud AMON (05/12).

The brothers of: Fr. Ianus COBZARU (09/02); Sac. Roberto SIMIONATO (02/03) pre-morto; Sac. Eric Crepin Kossonou AFRIM (05/03); Sac. Ivaldo BORGOGNONI (14/03); Sac. Vincenzo ALESIANI (01/05); Sac. Gaetano CERAVOLO (17/08); Sac. Giuseppe MEDDA (15/11).

The sisters of: Sac. Fernando MIÑONES (26/02); Sac. Luigi PASTRELLO (16/03); Ch. Evans Emmanuel Ajobi ALLE (25/04); Sac. Bruno LUCCHINI (29/05); Sac. Geoffroy Essognozam LIMDEYOU (06/06); Sac. Achi Stanislas GBEISSAY (06/06); Sac. José Carlos DE REZENDE (27/07).

Some Benefactors and friends of the congregation: Sac. Luciano FELLONI (02/02) Ex Confratello (Filippine); Sac. Gianalberto VALDETERRA (03/02) Ex Confratello (Italia); Sig. Miroslaw DRABINSKI (11/02) Benefattore delle case in Polonia; Sig.ra Janina KAMZOL (18/02) Amica e collaboratrice nella Casa di Zdunska Wola (Polonia); Sig. Stanislaw JANISZEWSKI (23/02), Artista e Amico della Congregazione in Polonia; Sig. Renato SPADONI (01/03) Ex allievo; Arch. Giovanni NOBILE (05/03) Presidente degli Amici di Don Orione a Lopagno (Svizzera); Sig.ra Maria Luigia CRISTOFORRETTI (22/08) Benefattrice dell'Opera (Italia).

Planning the year 2026

In 2026 our Congregation will live a year particularly rich in memory and grace. We celebrate, in fact, the centenary of certain events of 1926: the inauguration of the Colegio San José in Victoria (Argentina), born for the Christian education of youth (11 February); Don Orione's courageous letter to Benito Mussolini, with the appeal to heal "the bitter and disastrous rift that exists between the Church and the State" (22 September); and the blessing and laying of the first stone of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Guard in Tortona (23 October).

It will be the year of a particular centenary: " 'Year of illnesses', thus 1926 was defined by the Sons of the Congregation. Don Sterpi was continuously and painfully with ailments, often confined to bed and hindered in movement and in visits to the Houses..." Then it will be Don Orione's turn to cause anxiety in the Congregation when he was struck by a severe pneumonia. On 11 November, having returned late in the evening to the Motherhouse after a journey to Turin, he went straight to bed: the doctor diagnosed a serious form, with worsening episodes such as to make one fear even danger of death.

To these anniversaries is added also the third centenary of the canonisation of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (1726), which we shall celebrate in Rome on 21 June, according to Don Orione's vow.

It will also be an occasion to give thanks for three important missionary jubilees: the 50 years of the Orionine presence in Paraguay (Province "Nuestra Señora de la Guardia") in August; the 50 years of the Orionine presence in Madagascar (Delegation "Maria Regina del Madagascar") in November; and the 50 years of the Don Orione Hospital in Araguaína (Brazil) in July—concrete signs of a charism that continues to take root among peoples of different latitudes.

During the year, some appointments are already entered in the calendar:

- **14 February:** Holy Mass at Sant'Anna in the Vatican in honour of Don Gaspare Goggi;
- **8–14 March:** Charismatic itinerary for clerics in traineeship at Paterno;
- **26 March – 5 April:** Charismatic itinerary for Brothers and Hermits (Tortona and Rome);
- **3–5 June:** Conference of the Orionine Study Groups (online);
- **July:** Charismatic programme for young people at Paterno;
- **22–30 August:** Charismatic itinerary for the "jubilarian confreres" at Paterno;
- **10–17 September:** Charismatic itinerary in preparation for perpetual profession at Paterno;
- **19–23 October:** International Conference of Educational and Care Works of Charity in Montebello della Battaglia;
- **15–22 November:** Week of the Orionine Charismatic Family.

We entrust these appointments to the intercession of the Mother of Divine Providence, to Saint Luigi Orione and to our Saints of the Family, that they may help us to live 2026 as a true itinerary of the heart: to place our heart in God's Heart, to abide in the Heart of Christ and be enkindled in charity.

Dear Confreres, as he did at the close of the Jubilee of 1933, Don Orione—even today—wishes to take us by the hand in the concluding passage of the Jubilee of Hope, so that we may live it in depth: “*let us close our life in the Sacred Heart of Jesus*” and “*let us place our heart in God’s Heart*”. This is the proposal of a concrete way also for crossing this turn of the year: to return to the source, to rediscover the centre that unifies, to “*begin a new life in the name of the Lord*”.

In Don Orione, as we well know, there is a clear secret: a love received and returned. He is in love with Jesus Christ; he desires to respond with his whole life to the gratuitous and saving love that the Lord allowed him to experience. And at the same time, he feels that this love cannot remain closed in: it must expand, reach the poor, reach us, warm a land often marked by sufferings and disorientation, crossed by ideologies that promise salvation and instead impoverish the heart.

“My children, let us live in Jesus, lost in his Heart, set aflame with love, little, little, little: simple, humble, gentle. Let us live of Jesus like children in his arms and on his Heart, holy and blameless under his gaze; plunged into the love of Jesus and of souls, in limitless fidelity and obedience to Him and to his Church! Let us live for Jesus! All and everything for Jesus; nothing outside Jesus, nothing that is not Jesus, that does not lead to Jesus, that does not breathe Jesus!” (Letters II, p. 154).

These words—written at Epiphany 1935 from Buenos Aires—are a small manifesto of his spiritual identity. They reveal the logic of a life “taken”, conquered by the Beloved, and therefore transformed: to live in Christ, to live of Christ, to live for Christ.

In the light of this teaching of our Father, here is a concrete proposal for the new year, simple and practicable, which helps us translate into life what we celebrate. Karl Rahner reminds us that devotion to the Heart of Jesus is not learnt from outside like a technique, but is welcomed from within as an experience: “*Devotion to the Heart of Jesus cannot truly be taught from the outside. Each person must seek to draw near to its mystery, trusting the Church and her Spirit; in the bright or dark hours of life, he must try once to make this prayer: Heart of Jesus, have mercy on me. Such a prayer, perhaps, must be attempted repeatedly in the manner of the ‘Jesus Prayer’ of the Russian pilgrim, or else used on the model of a mantra of Eastern meditation. Above all, however, one must make, vitally, the experience that what is most improbable, most impossible and, consequently, most evident, is that God, the Incomprehensible, truly loves us and that this love has become irrevocable in the Heart of Jesus.*”

To make this living experience our own, let us allow the invocation of our Holy Founder to become the breath of 2026:

“O Jesus, open your Heart to us: let us enter, O Jesus, because only upon your Heart shall we be able to understand something of who You are; we shall be able to feel your charity and mercy.”

On behalf of the entire General Council and the members of the General Curia Community, I extend best wishes for the New Year. **Hail Mary—and forward!**

*P. Tarcisio Vieira - Don Maurizio Macchi - P. Fernando Fornerod
P. Assamouan Pierre Kouassi - Don Fausto Franceschi - Don Walter Gropello*