

"DONARSE TODAS A DIOS,
PARA SER TODAS DEL PRÓJIMO!"

«CAŁKOWICIE ODDAĆ SIĘ BOGU,
BY BYĆ CAŁKOWICIE DLA BLIŹNICH!»



"DONARSI TUTTE A DIO, PER ESSERE TUTTE DEL PROSSIMO!"
PSMC: discepole-missionarie, testimoni gioiose della Carità, nelle periferie del mondo

"DOAI-VOS TOTALMENTE A DEUS,
PARA SERDES TODAS DO PRÓXIMO!"

«SE DONNER TOUTES A DIEU, POUR ETRE
TOUTES DU PROCHAIN!»

**"TO GIVE ONESELF COMPLETELY TO GOD,
TO BE COMPLETELY GIVEN TO THE NEIGHBOUR!"**

2nd RELEASE ON THE XIIth GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE LITTLE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF CHARITY (PSMC)

After arriving in Rome, the capitular sisters left for their "native land", in Tortona, to begin there their XIIth General Chapter, at the feet of Our Lady of the Guard and Don Orione.

They left Rome on May 1st and the morning of the following day was dedicated to the process of integration of the group and to the reflection on the text "Announce", published by CIVCSVA (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life), in order to focus the point on our evangelization, and to analyse the tuning of life and teaching of Don Orione and Pope Francis.

In the afternoon, the Sisters went to Pontecurone to make a short tour of Don Orione's Birthplace and parish where he was baptized, and then to the Oratory of Saint Francis, to meet the devotees of the Saint and listen to their testimonies. The meeting, which took place in a very familiar climate, led by Prof. Maria Luisa Riccotti and Claudia Nalin, made it possible to create an even closer bond with the compatriots of Don Orione, feeling ourselves "fellow citizens" of the Saint, an honorary title received last year by Mother M. Mabel Spagnuolo, our Superior General, on behalf of all the sisters. During this meeting, some people wanted to show their closeness and support to our missions by adhering to the project *"One liter of milk, an hour of school"*, consisting of "adopting" a camel at Laare mission in Kenya .

On May 3, in the morning, the Sisters lived a spiritual experience reflecting on the Founder's words extracted from the statement "Bonds of the charity", meditating and sharing their impressions in the context of the photographic exhibition set up at the House of the 400£. At the end, they met with some of the 50 elder sisters who live in the Mother House, to hear their testimony of life and their message/wishes for the Chapter.

Finally, after this moment lived together in fraternity, reflection and prayer, at 18.00 the Holy Mass of the opening of the XIIth General Chapter began in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Guard, presided by the Bishop of Tortona, Vittorio Viola. During his homily, he said: *"The world will see God alone in us if, through the fire of the Spirit, we let ourselves turn into Christ, who is the visibility of the Father's face"*. Addressing to the sisters he added: *"You are this fire of love, from the heart of Don Orione who invites you to be rooted, grounded, deeply united to God, which is the source of love. (...) Remember what you are: Little Missionary Sisters of Charity. Little: because you cannot serve without being small, which is the path that the Word made to reach each one of us through the incarnation. Sisters: to live in mutual charity among you, which is the communion where the Spirit speaks to you. Missionaries: called to go to the world to announce in charity that He is alive. Charity: showing to God the works of that love which has saved us"*.

At the end of this deep reflection, the Bishop raised a prayer of intercession to the Lord: *"May these days be truly days of the Spirit, delivering us in extreme docility, being small, being in communion, being used as an instrument."*

At the end of Mass all the sisters walked in procession to the urn of Don Orione. Sr. M. Gemma Monceri, Secretary General, called the roll of all the Capitulars to verify their presence. After that, Mother M. Mabel declared the XIIth General Chapter officially open, and addressing to the sisters, she said: *"We are in this house, the house of Our Lady, the house of Don Orione; we have walked in procession from the House of 400£ depicting the words that the Sacred*

Heart said to Don Orione: 'From here my Mercy and my Glory will begin', this same mercy and glory that the sisters now represent from all the places where we are present, spreading charity and mercy from the Heart of Christ. " After the words of the Mother General, the Chapter was entrusted to Don Orione by saying the prayer of the XIIIth General Chapter.

Deo gratias et Mariae!

Secretariat of Orionine Communication (SCO), May 4th, 2017

