



Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità
(Opera Don Orione)
Casa generale
Via Monte Acero, 5 – 00141 Roma
www.suoredonorione.org

News from the Mother House and the world n. 15 (last release)

Dear Sisters!

We are now at the end of the month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this month, we have invoked Him with love and faith, so that He may instil in us His own feelings. May He, who is *"meek and humble"*, bring relief, hope and health to this suffering humanity in this time of pandemic.

On June 29, in spiritual communion, we also celebrated the 105 years of the Foundation of our Congregation. Through the video message that I sent you directly from the Mother House, you were all able to see our Sisters for whom we had been praying so much, the Sanctuary, the heart of the Orionine Family, *the House of the 400 lire*, the cradle of the LMSC, such a significant place for all, where the words addressed to Don Orione by the Sacred Heart are still becoming true: *"from here my mercy and my glory will depart!"*... From here, in fact, let us start again today with faith, with great hope and with ardent charity to the boundaries of the world.



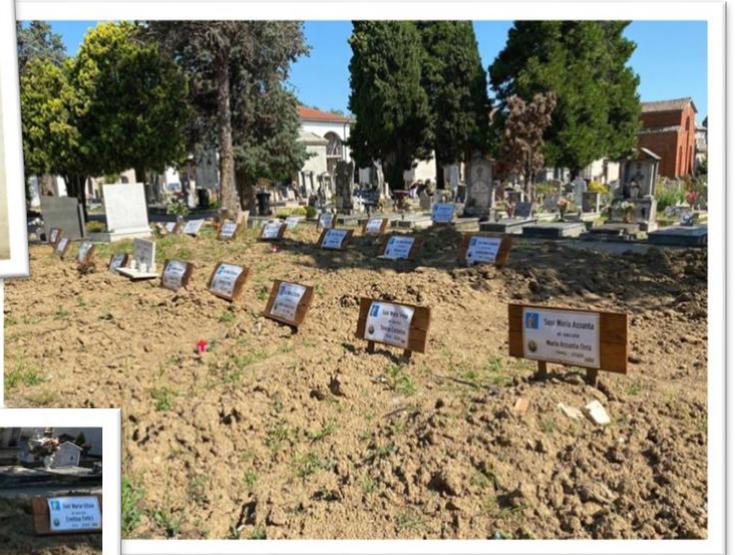
After the long weeks of lockdown, as soon as the borders between the Regions opened in Italy, I went to Tortona together with the General Councillor Sr. M. Rosa. Our aim was to meet "in person" our sisters who had lived personally the dramatic effects of the pandemic...

We experienced some mixed emotions: the joy of seeing each other again and the pain of emptiness of the sisters who left us ...; the gratitude for having overcome the days of darkness and sickness and the discomfort for the things that will no longer be as they were ...; the emotion of being able to see each other again and the despair of not being able to embrace ourselves notwithstanding being so close...

But everything, everything can be summarized in a THANK YOU to the Divine Providence who, through the path of suffering and death, made us feel more sisters, more supportive among us and with all humanity, more loved by God and others.



Accompanied by Sr. M. Eliodora Vetturini and Sr. M. Teresa Vila, we went to pray on the grave of the Sisters who left in heaven during this hard time... It was a very strong moment of prayer, silence, meditation, thanksgiving for how much these eleven Sisters have meant for the life and mission of the Congregation. In front of their tombs I also prayed on behalf of all of you who have followed the events of Covid-19 in Italy, with much prayer, with such love and delicacy...



We visited the community of Piccolo Cottolengo in Tortona and shared a moment of fraternity. Lastly we paid a brief visit to the Community of the Sacramentine Sisters at Villa Charitas, Tortona.

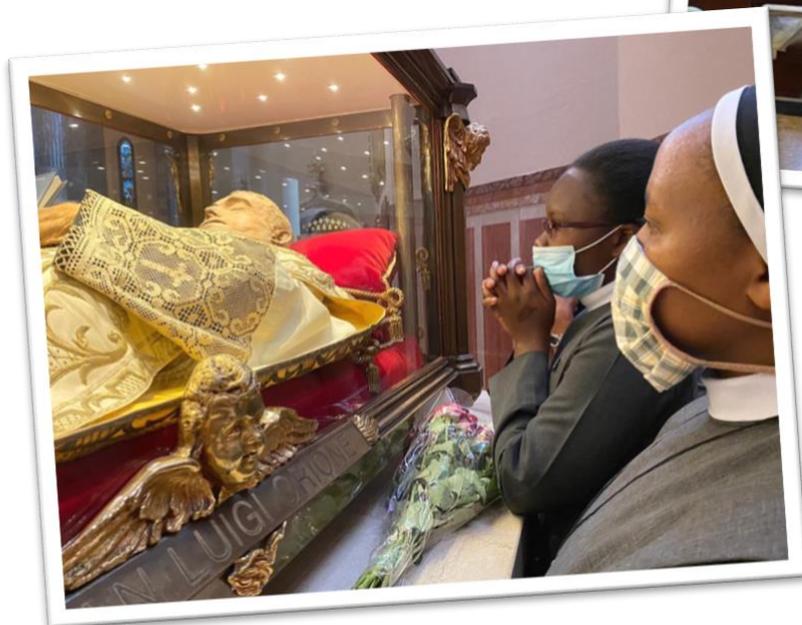


There were many people who got to know that we were in Tortona and wanted to see and greet us. In particular, I would like to mention the visit made by the Mayor of Tortona, Mr. Federico Chiodi, and his Vice-mayor, Mr. Fabio Morreale. I will never have enough words to thank them and the whole municipal administration: their care, their love, their help in the most difficult moments, their delicacy towards the hospitalized Sisters and their attention offered to all, their constant communication with me, trying to help us solve the situations and contingencies which arrived every day... especially Mr. Fabio Morreale, who personally took care of following our Mother House, like a "father" and a "brother" .



During the three days that we were in Tortona, we also attended the Holy Mass at the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Guardia and we offered everything and all to Mary, remembering and asking for each LMSC, for the people you assist, for your families, friends, benefactors... near the body of our dear father San Luigi Orione.

I can tell you that all of you were with us, all of you prayed with us at the Sanctuary, all of you visited and greeted our Sisters.



I felt a strong sense of unity, family and communion. At the beginning, the whole world looked at and prayed for Tortona... now, from Tortona, prayers and love for the whole world are reaching you, who are living a delicate moment with the emergency of the pandemic, with many risks, dangers, uncertainties and even hopes. An exchange of love and prayer that makes us "*a unique body in Jesus*" even more.

Deo gratias!

Dear Sisters, now we should keep this unity through insistent and supportive prayer, for the realities of Africa, Asia and Latin America that are going through the peak of the emergency.

I particularly entrust our “San Luigi Orione” Hospital in Anyamà, in Ivory Coast and our children from the Cottolengo of Anyamà. There are now many cases in these populations. Our little ones are in great risk! We ask that the Lord protect them and free them all from this terrible scourge. Some floods added to a such complicated situation; all this has provoked many homeless people and some victims.

Our Sisters are very committed, like real Orionines, offering clothes, food and medicines ... We entrust everything to Mary, Our Lady of Hope, so that these sufferings may soon be overcome.



Distribution of clothes to the victims of the floods, Anyamà.



Our children at Cottolengo of Anyamà
("Mother M. Elisa" House)

In Brazil, as you know, the situation is terrible and it is not known how it may still develop. Among our Sisters there are no coronavirus cases at the moment, but some have suffered the death of their loved ones... I would like to remember and express my love, prayer and closeness to Sr. M. Aparecida for the unexpected death of her brother, to Sr. M. Henriqueta for the departure of her dear aunt, to Sr. M. Raimunda and Sr. M. Gilse for the departure of some dear family members.... But also many others whom we prayed for and, thank God, they have overcome the disease.

Let us also join in prayer the communities and realities where our SDP confreres are. They are also strongly affected by this pandemic: we ask the Lord's protection and support in faith.

In the community of Sisters of Madagascar of the Cottolengo of Genoa-Paverano, the dearest Sister M. Jocelyne, who has been in complete isolation for more than 80 days, is still positive; let's pray for her.

Sisters, let's start the month of July now, let us do this with an open spirit, with trust and responsibility. It is very important, as Pope Francis said some time ago, not to crow over the virus: do not be panic, but not even be in light-heartedness... the virus continues to be present, even in Europe, even if we are in a moment of more calm. For the countries that are now in full emergency, I repeat to you: do not be afraid, but be cautious, do not challenge the virus by saying "*to me ... to us ... nothing will happen...*". Try to support each other in places where the lockdown still exists, help people alone or in need as much as possible, seek forms of closeness through the means at your disposal: this is today's apostolate!

I greet you with great love, longing to meet you soon in person and be able to embrace us personally. Meanwhile, we are always united in the spiritual embrace of each Eucharist and in the love of the heart.

The Holy Mary and our Don Orione may bless you!

Sr M. Mabel Spagnuolo
Superior general

Rome, Generalate House, July 1st, 2020.