



Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità
(Opera Don Orione)
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Prot. MG 26/25

Dear Sisters,

Habemus Papam! This is the announcement which has finally resounded from the Apostolic See and has filled our Orionine spirit with joy and emotion.

We have followed with emotion the long-awaited moment: the Protodeacon Cardinal proclaimed to the entire world the election of the new Successor of Peter, His Holiness **Pope Leo XIV**, Robert Francis Prevost, an Augustinian religious. His first blessing, broad and solemn, has reached the hearts of the faithful and the consecrated in every corner of the earth, rekindling in all of us hope and trust in the loving guidance of the Good Shepherd.

These hours of grace are bringing to our vivid memory the words of Saint Luigi Orione, pronounced in 1939 at the proclamation of Pope Pius XII: *“Then the new Pope appeared amidst a delirium of applause... he gave his first blessing, broad, great! It was a moment of great emotion. You too have certainly heard the Pope’s voice when he gave that first blessing”* (July 3rd, 1939).

Today, just as at that time, we too are one heart, united around the Pope with that filial affection that Saint Luigi Orione has transmitted to us as a living part of our charism. He taught us to love the Pope deeply, to pray for him, to defend him and to serve him, recognizing him as the sweet Christ on earth. He wrote to the Sisters: *“...Your firmness lies in holy Providence and in the Holy Church of the Pope and the Bishops, who are in union and dependence on Him, who is the only Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth”* (Writings, 65,249).

We are in the heart of the Pope. And we want the Pope to always be in our hearts. This is the legacy of our Founder, who remains for us a source of inspiration and daily mission.

In his first speech in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV addressed the people of God with these words: *“Peace be with you all!... I would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families, all men and women, wherever they are, all peoples, the whole earth... God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We all are in the hands of God. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and among ourselves, let us move forward!”*.

He also expressed gratitude to the cardinals for their trust and underlined the importance of walking together as a united Church, seeking justice. He also addressed a thought to Pope Francis and greeted in Spanish the Peruvian diocese of Chiclayo, where he carried out part of his ministry.

I invite you, dearest Sisters, to intensify the prayer for the Holy Father Leo XIV during this time, so that the Holy Spirit may sustain him in his service to the universal Church. We always ask that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, as Don Orione desired:

“Therefore, let us turn to Her with great filial confidence, and let us ask for much! Mary Most Holy. would be offended if we asked Her for little -it would be like a lack of trust in Her-: therefore we always ask for much: much for ourselves, much for others, much for our Congregation, much for the Holy Church of God: let us pray to Her so that all the people may become one Christian family, one church, one sheepfold under the guidance of one shepherd: the Pope!” (Writings, 27,123).

In each of our communities, in each work, in the simplest or most difficult situations, we want to renew our “yes” to Christ and to the Church, with the same ardent passion as Don Orione.

May this be a time of deep ecclesial communion, lived with humility, joy and a spirit of service.

With love,



Sr M. Alicja Kędziora
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Superior general

Rome, General House, May 8th, 2025.