

Don Orione in Mother M. Tarcisia's memory

"Although I could not see with my eyes, I think that Don Orione's faith and veneration for the Most Blessed Sacrament was really great. He had wanted the religious family I belong to, with the firm purpose of never lacking the adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. He used to say to us: "You must have even more faith than the other faithful, because they see the host at least, you see nothing".

From other sisters I also heard that Don Orione was found many times in the church, even late in the evening, in prayer in front of the Most Blessed Sacrament. As for the feasts, he wanted them to be celebrated with the greatest possible solemnity. When he had occasion to speak to us during the time approaching, he recommended us to prepare ourselves properly (...).

I can say charity towards the neighbour was the main virtue of Don Orione. There was no need, nor physical or moral infirmity, that he neglected to provide. I remember that when I was in San Sebastiano Curone it was a joy for Don Orione to be among the old and the hospitalized, and he said to us: "Take care of them, treat them well, make sure they are happy in our houses!".

I am convinced that Don Orione practiced the spiritual works of mercy as he practiced the corporal ones. In particular, the salvation of souls was at his heart (...). I remember that he came to us warmly more than once, recommending us to pray for the conversion of some sinners who were close to dying".

(Witness for the beatification of Don Orione; *Summarium* 91-93).



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Sacramentines in the world

Mother M. Tarcisia of the Incarnation

(ANGELA JONA)
1871 - 1964

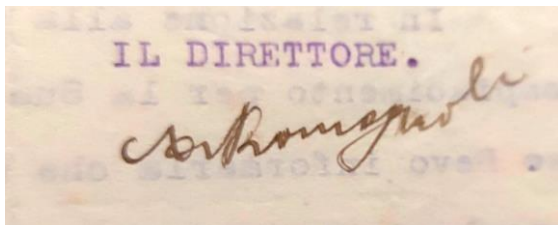




Her life and her encounter with con Don Orione

Angela Jona was born on October 20th, 1871 in Trevi nel Lazio. After losing her sight at the age of 3 due to smallpox, she was enrolled in the Institute for the Blind in Rome, run by the Daughters of Saint Joan Antida Thouret, where her vocation slowly arose.

Divine Providence made then use of the blind **Prof. Augusto Romagnoli**. At the time, he was didactic director at the "Regina Margherita" hospice in Rome.



He knew the tragedy of some young women wishing to consecrate themselves to the Lord, but rejected by all Congregations. Through the Hospice chaplain, Fr. Roberto Risi, he asked Don Orione to think about them while founding the Congregation. And so it was! Already in the year of its opening, that is, in 1915, Don Orione welcomed the first blind girl from the Institute, Iride Papini, aged 22. Then, in 1916, Anita Niri, aged 26. Both died before the opening of the Sacramentine Sisters.

In 1916 Angela had an interview with St. Luigi Orione, who guided her in her vocation among the Sisters he had founded. **She was welcomed there on March 10th, 1917.**

The beginning of the Sacramentine Sisters

Despite her fragile health, she had been reserved by the Lord to start the community entirely dedicated to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. After 9 years as a Missionary, having lived fruitfully in San Sebastiano Curone, with the name of **Sr. M. Sebastiana**, on March 27th, 1927 Don Orione wrote to her: ...

"Pray a lot now, because, with divine help I wish to use you to begin the religious family of the blind Sisters, as I have always promised you" (Writings 39,92).

The day chosen for this beginning could not be more beautiful: the Solemnity of the Assumption! **On August 15th, 1927, in the Chapel of San Bernardino**, there was the dressing and consecration of the first four Blind Sisters, with a very moving celebration. After the ceremony, Don Orione called Sister M. Sebastiana, whose name had been changed to **Sister M. Tarcisia of the Incarnation**, and said to her: *"I entrust you these daughters now: take care of them"*.

She did take care of them all her life through, being their Superior until her death at 93, on April 6th, 1964. The witnesses of the Sisters who knew her are beautiful and all unanimously confirm her personal



maturity, her capacity of animating, of being maternal and demanding, her concern for growing in spiritual life and love for the Eucharistic adoration.

Witnesses

Sr. M. Agostina Linetti

"Whenever I could meet her, I was enthusiastic and loved my vocation more and more, receiving great spiritual help from her. She was animated by a great missionary spirit, so much so that she left us such an incisive phrase: *"From her kneeler the Sacramentine Sister can reach all parts of the world"*.

Sr. M. Consolata Levati

"She was endowed with a great spirit of prayer and every spare time, in addition to common prayers, she consecrated herself to the Blessed Sacrament. Regarding prayer, she often repeated: *"Here we pray with the only power of nature, if we succeed in offering it to the Lord. In heaven, instead, we will love him also with the spirit, adoring him for all eternity"*.

Sr. M. Eustella Olivieri

"She was a humble and generous soul. She loved prayer very much and transmitted this spirit of prayer to all of us and to those who approached her. She was never idle. She was always present in all common circumstances. She often repeated to us: *"Love each other, pity each other, forgive each other"*.

