
ORIA • ALTAMURA • CORATO
and/or **MESSINA SICILY**
PILGRIMAGE 2026 & 2027



St Hannibal M Di Francia



Luisa Piccarreta

. . . SUGGESTIONS . . .

for

St Hannibal Maria Di Francia
First Apostle Of The Divine Will

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

ORIA, ALTAMURA, CORATO & MESSINA PILGRIMAGE

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Acknowledgement & Gratitude

We wish to thank sincerely and with love and gratitude for the enormous cooperation and help we have received from our Rogationist Brother Priests and Sisters of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal in compiling these suggestions for Divine Will and all St Hannibal Pilgrims to Messina Sicily. If we have erred in anything we have said, we apologies in advance. We would be grateful for an email pointing out any error and /or recommending any highlight on your trip or helpful tips for other travellers which we will add to this document as we receive them from time to time.

For and on behalf of Mystical Mothers of Priests in the Divine Will

Email: ict@divinewillfamily.org

Saint Hannibal Maria Di Francia

July 5, 1851 – June 1, 1927
Messina, Italy



Ordained March 16, 1878

Founder of Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus
&
The Daughters of Divine Zeal.

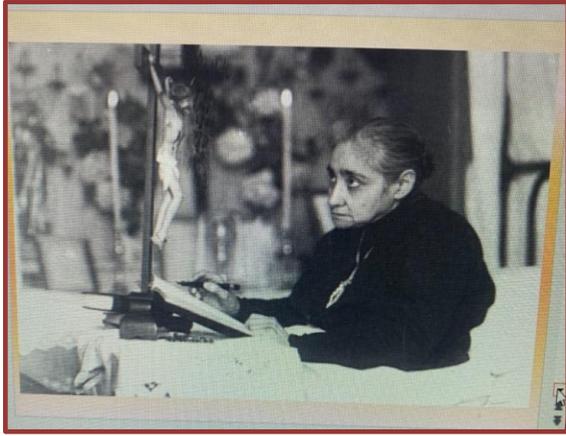
First Apostle of the Divine Will

Patron Saint of Vocations, Seminarians, the Poor
and those desiring to live in God's Divine Will

Notable for giving the *Nihil Obstat*
to the First 19 Volumes of the Book of Heaven –
God's Greatest Gift to the Church for these times.

Fiat!

Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta



In 2019, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith pointed out theological, Christological, and anthropological ambiguities in Luisa’s writings, though without identifying doctrinal errors.

The Postulation provided clarifying responses, with the assistance of a theologian specialized in mysticism.

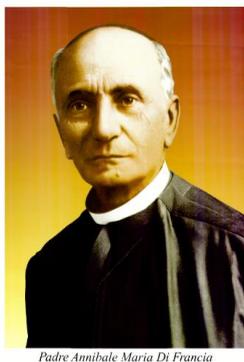
In June 2024, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith granted the *nihil obstat* for the resumption of the Cause.

The continuation of the Cause is conditioned upon the publication of the typical and critical edition of the writings of Luisa Piccarreta.

At present, this edition is in the process of being prepared by the “Luisa Piccarreta – P.F.D.V.” Association of Corato, under the supervision of the Archbishop of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie.

SAVE THE DATES !

1st, 2nd & 3rd JUNE 2026



3-DAY PROGRAMME CELEBRATING ST HANNIBAL MARIA DI FRANCA CENTENARY

ORIA • 1st JUNE 2026

Sanctuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova, Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria, 72024, ITALY

18:00 Holy Mass on the Feast day of St Hannibal celebrated by
Bishop of Brindisi Visit Oria Museum & Gardens & FDZ Convent in old city of Oria

ALTAMURA • 2nd JUNE 2026

Figlie Divino Zelo, Via Annibal Di Francai, 25-70022 Altamura (BA), ITALY,

Holy Mass (Time tbc) in convent church next to Tomb of Melania Calvat Co-
Founder of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (FDZ) whose cause for canonisation
commenced on 31.10.2025. Visit Museum of St Hannibal.

CORATO • 3rd JUNE 2026

Luisa Piccarreta House, Via Luisa Piccarreta, 27 70033 Corato, ITALY

09:30 Presentation by Fr Angelo Sardone rcj of his new book on the Charism of St
Hannibal and Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta. Visit Museum of Luisa Piccarreta, her
Tomb in Church of Saint Mary 'Greca' & Orfanotrofio Antoniano Femminile (FDZ)

For more information contact:

Mystical Mothers of Priests in the Divine Will Mission

Web: <https://www.divinewillfamily.org/ict-mysticalmothers> Email: ict@divinewillfamily.org



Send Oh Lord Holy apostles into your Church

ORIA - ITALY

Option 1A (Oria 1.6.2026 only)

Nearest Airport to Oria, Italy

Brindisi_Airport is the nearest Airport for Oria in Italy

For St Hannibal's Centenary Celebrations

A Pilgrimage and Mass will be held in Oria

on **Monday, 1st June 2026 at 18:00**

at the **Sanctuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova ,**

Via Annibale Maria Di Francia,

30 Oria,72024, Italy,

to mark the **Centenary of St Hannibal Maria di Francia.**

All are Welcome!

Celebrated by the Bishop of Brindisi

&

In advance of the Mass pilgrims are invited to lunch in Rogationist House followed by a visit to the Museum in Oria, and a walk around the old town of Oria just as St Hannibal did.

- If you wish to attend the lunch and visit the Museum please contact Fr Philip rcj with precise numbers attending. See below for more details.

Option 1B (Oria anytime):

Oria Address: the **Sanctuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova , Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria,72024, Italy**, Rogationist Church and Community House and Museum which St Hannibal established in 1909 after the 1908 earthquake in Messina. This Church and House are open to all pilgrims to visit and or stay at any time.

Oria Italy Local Contact: it is important in advance of any pilgrimage to contact Fr Phillip rcj (English and Italian speaker) who is based in Oria to book a tour of the Museum and accommodation as required in Oria Rogationist Community House.

Please email Fr Phillip Golez rcj phil@rcj.org with your exact dates and numbers, you wish to book into Oria Rogationist Community accommodation and get a tour of the Oria St Hannibal Museum

Text messages:	Fr Phillip Whats App +39 380 1940733
TRANSPORTATION	
Local Airport:	Brindisi in Italy is the nearest Airport to Oria.
Travel from Airport to Oria:	45 mins by Taxi from Brindisi Airport or alternatively options:- public transport / car hire / bus hire (depending on the size of the group) to Oria.
Parking:	Download the app EASYPARK

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Accommodation options for Oria Pilgrims for individuals and small pilgrim groups:

- Oria Santuario Sant'Antonio Di Padova Community Rogationist House, Via Annibale Maria Di Francia, 30 Oria,72024, Italy**, which has limited accommodation, namely:-
 - 7 single rooms + en-suite

- 2 double rooms + en-suite
- 4 Dormitories (6 persons in dormitories approx. + sharing bathrooms)

Contact Fr Phillip Gloez rcj + 39 380 1940733 with your precise dates and numbers.

2. Other options: www.booking.com and www.airbnb.ie
3. Large Pilgrim Groups: accommodation options: Francavilla Puglia Italy which is the local suggestion as the nearest local big town which has hotels which can accommodate the bigger groups.
See www.booking.com

KEY GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO ALTAMURA

Tomb of Melania Calvat

Co-Founder of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (FDZ) whose cause for canonisation commenced on 31.10.2025.

Holy Mass daily in convent church next to it

Visit Museum of St Hannibal.

<u>Address:</u>	Figlie Divino Zelo, Via Annibal Di Francai, 25-70022 Altamura (BA), ITALY,
<u>Telephone No:</u>	00 39 803115485
<u>Website:</u>	direzioneltamurafdz@virgilio.it
<u>Facebook:</u>	Fillglie Divino Zelo Altamura

Please Contact Sr Evelyn with your exact dates and numbers, you wish to book a tour of Altamura St Hannibal Museum & Melania Calvat's tomb and time of daily Mass

Text messages: Sr Evelyn Erme Whats App +39 349 2896866

TRANSPORTATION

Local Airport: Bari in Italy is the nearest Airport to Altamura.

Travel from Airport to Altamura: Public bus / Taxi from Bari Airport car hire / bus hire (depending on the size of the group) to Altamura.

Parking: Download the app **EASYPARK**

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Accommodation options for Altamura Pilgrims for individuals and small pilgrim groups:

www.booking.com and www.airbnb.ie

KEY GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO CORATO

Corato Local Contact:

It is important in advance of any pilgrimage to contact Antonella Bucci:

email: info@luisapiccarretaofficial.org

or submit booking application form **on-line** with your exact dates and numbers you wish to book onto a tour of Luisa Piccarreta House and Museum

Website: www.en.luisapiccarretaofficial.org

Transportation:

Local Airport: Bari in Italy is the nearest airport to Oria.

Travel from airport to Corato: train from Bari to Corato / car hire/taxi / bus hire (depending on the size of the group) to Corato.

Parking: download the app EASYPARK

Accommodation Options:

Accommodation option for Corato Pilgrims for individuals and small pilgrim groups: check out: www.booking.com and www.airbnb.ie

Sample Itinerary for Pilgrims in Corato

- 1. Tomb of Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta in Church of Saint Mary 'Greca'** where Luisa prayed and her mortal remains are now entombed within this beautiful church. It is also important to visit the crypt which contains the sacred painting of Saint Mary 'Greca'. It is said that this picture is very important as it represents an image of Our Blessed Mother which will ultimately heal and bring UNITY to the schism between the East and the Western Christian Church:

Address: Corsa Garibaldi, Corato

Website: www.santamariagreca.org

Notes: This church is literally around the corner from Luisa's home and now museum and seat of the Official Association of Luisa Piccarreta. Her body was moved to this tomb from the City Cemetery on 3.7.1963 for final burial. Also, this church is important as it contains the Sacred Painting of Saint Mary of 'Greca' in the crypt of this church. This is a working church with Holy Mass celebrated daily on week days and Sundays.

Priest: Fr Vincenzo Bovino. Fr Bovino is the Parish Priest who is leading the Cause of Beatification of Luisa Piccarreta on behalf of the Association. The Previous Parish Priest Fr Sergio Pellegrini, has been transferred to Trani in his new role as Vicar General.

2. Luisa's Original Home and now Museum & Seat of Association
Luisa Piccarreta

Address: Via Luisa Piccarreta, 27 Corato

Website: www.en.luisapiccarretaofficial.org

Main contact for Association: Antonella Bucci

email: info@luisapiccarretaofficial.org

Notes: Her home has been recently exquisitely renovated.

3. Orfanotrofio Antoniano Femminile: Convent of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (only 3 elderly sisters living there, no longer operating as an orphanage)

Address: Padra Annibale Maria di Francia Corato,

Notes: This is a very important site to visit. Fr Hannibal di Francia established this orphanage for children with his Co- Foundress and requested Luisa to move there to live so she could be an example for the other sisters. It is no longer used as an orphanage and only three elderly sisters remaining, none of whom knew Luisa. This is a very important site to visit and there is a lot to see: -

- Orphanage has a permanent exhibition of Luisa's sacred articles, photographs, including crucifix she venerated, piece of her coffin, hair, instruments she used in her lace making,
- Chapel in Orphanage is the area in the building where Luisa had her bedroom when she lived in the orphanage;
- Garden of the sun where Luisa sat;

4. VIA MURGE N. 10 (Actually Via Castel del Monte) (Place in which Luisa Piccarreta was born) Luisa Piccarreta was born in Corato on April 23, 1865 in the morning, to Vito Nicola and Rosa Tarantini.

It was Easter Sunday: the Dominica in Albis, today the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Address: Via Murge, 10 Corato

Notes: Luisa was born to Vito Nicola and Rosa Tarantino Piccarreta on the first floor of this building which is not owned by the Association.

5. **Chiesa Matrice Santa Maria Maggiore** - where Luisa was Baptised: 23.4.1865 and her Funeral service was held here on 7.3.1947

Address: - Via Duomo, Corato.

Notes: This is a working church, but not open except for mass times.

6. **Luisa attended for very short period School in Corato.**

The Church de Capuchin is next door to her School:

Address: Chiesa Dei Capuchin, Piazza Venezuele, 11 Corato

Notes: This is not a working church and is mainly closed except for special events.

7. **Recommend Bus to City Cemetery Site:**

Luisa was buried initially in City Cemetery on 7.3.1947 – 3.7.1963 in the **Bucchi Family Grave** where Fr Bucci and beloved Rosario Bucci who was a personal carer to Luisa during her life time are both buried, along with other Bucci family members:

Address: Cimitero Comunale, Via Vecchia Barletta, 70033 Corato

Website: www.comune.corato.bari.it

Notes: This is the first location Luisa was buried in the Bucci Family Grave. Recommend bus to city cemetery site:

Directions: Luisa is no longer buried in this grave but it is of interest to some pilgrims as this was her initially place of rest. To find it, it can be tricky, so follow the directions carefully here... go to the main

cemetery, with its imposing entrance with steps as the first landmark to finding the Bucci Grave.

Once at the City cemetery, do not go up these steps. Looking at the main cemetery, take an immediate left and drive along the road approx. 150-200 m and you will come to an entrance which is the newer extension of the main city cemetery on the right.

Enter these gates (old cemetery) and turn left immediately inside the gates and walk to the very end row then turn right and, on the right, in the last aisle which is the fourth family grave is the Bucci Grave. This is where Luisa was initially entombed with Dear Rosaria Bucci her beloved Carer. You can open the gates of the actual Grave if you wish.

8. Luisa's FARM

Address: Torre Disperata, Spinazzola, BT

Website directions:

https://maps.app.goo.gl/FQfuVPZ9v9hvwAw8?g_st=iw

Notes: Trips to the Farm are difficult to organise for many reasons. The properties not only very difficult to access ion account of a poor road system it has also been sold to a third party unrelated to Luisa Piccarreta. So, Trips to Farm **must** be organised in advance with the Association via Antonella, who will with his colleagues in the Association get permission from the owner of the Farm. There is a protocol that the Association have agreed with the owner of the Farm that they will always obtain his consent to visits to the Farm in advance.

Access to the Farm is difficult and weather dependent, if raining road not accessible by bus or car. Big buses are not accessible.

House is derelict and requests are not to take any stone from house. Famous Mulberry tree where Luisa as a child hid from the devil still in situ but unfortunately it is rotting, but still very visit

KEY GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO Messina

If you wish to travel to Messina after your visit to Oria in Italy or just want to travel directly to Messina in Sicily only and not include Oria in Italy. See below:

Please note that if you wish to be in Messina to overlap with St Hannibal's Feast Days in 2026 or his centenary in 2027. Please read below important information when choosing a date to travel to Messina which is set out in the Appendix (p.17)

Messina Italy Local Contact for big English speaking pilgrim groups in Messina only:

Fr Unny rcj , English and Italian speaker based In Saint Anthony Basilica, Messina has offered to provide assistance to pilgrims where he can. His email: unny@rcj.org Text messages only to:

Fr Unny Whats App +39 388 6239369

Transportation:

Local Airport: The nearest Airport to Messina is Cantania in Sicily

Aer Lingus fly directly from Dublin to Cantania Airport Sicily (3-hour flight).

Direct Flights available from Bari in Italy to Catania in Sicily for those travelling onwards from Oria and Corato to Messina.

Travel from Airport to Messina:

1.5 – 2-hour bus trip from Airport to Messina. If travelling as an independent traveller, take public transport bus from Airport to Messina price €8 single, can buy tickets on line in advance

<https://www.saisautolinee.it/en/linee-tpl-sicilia-tratte/catania-messina>

Taxi very expensive, one-way trip €180.

If travelling as a group, hire bus for pilgrim group.

For groups travelling from Oria to Messina: (420 KM). Hire a coach for duration with pick up in Brindisi Airport in Italy and drop off in Catania Airport in Sicily. Bus journey driving time 4.5 hours + 30 mins stop for natural break. Recommend travel first thing in morning as driving into the West. Also, service station stop (on A2 Motor way 'Area Servizio Tarsia (2.5 hours into drive to Messina very scenic route.

Ferry from Villa S Giovanni Port to Messina (25 mins crossing), effortless, drive onto ferry. For individuals travelling car hire optimum option for getting from Oria to Messina. No direct flights from Brindisi to Catania in Messina, all via Rome Airport!

Parking: download the app EASYPARK

Accommodation Options:

Tip: Try if you can and book a hotel / accommodation in Messina so pilgrims are within walking distance of St Anthony's Basilica so Pilgrims can in their free time walk to the crypt of the Basilica for prayer and quiet time where St Hannibal's body is, it opens @7 am daily. Mass in Crypt Monday to Saturday @8.30 am

Address: **Basilica Santuario Sant'Antonio**, Via Santa Cecilia, 121, 98123 Messina ME, Italy

Web address: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/>

Messina Hotels Suggestions

1. **Family Run Hotel very local to Basilica - Individuals and small pilgrim group option:**

Hotel Messenion, Via Francesco Faranda 7, 98123 Messina

www.hotelmessenion.it

Email with precise dates and number of rooms required

info@hotelmessenion.it

In email ref for the attention of 'Giovanna' and ref Fr Unny rcj for pilgrim price of room.

2. Big Hotel (up to 85 rooms) more suitable for bigger pilgrim groups:
Royal Palace Hotel, Via T Cannizzaro 3, 98123 Messina Sicily
www.royalpalacemessina.it
Email with precise dates and number of rooms required
reservation.rph@framon-hotels.it ref for the attention of 'Melanie' and ref Fr Unny rcj for pilgrim price of room.

3. Sanctuario della Madonna della Guardia, Via Annibale M Di Francai, 10, 98158 Faro Superiore ME Italy for pilgrims with transport only (30 mins drive outside of Messina) you need car or taxi or bus to access it

Web address: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/santuario-madonna-della-guardia-faro-superiore-me/>

Email Sr Marita Olango sistermaritaolango@gmail.com who has excellent English to book accommodation in this Sanctuary or visit to this very special place where St Hannibal spent his last 22 days on earth. Suggestion that you contact Sr Marita in advance and book and also if a priest travelling with you, she can arrange to have mass celebrated in original church.

Accommodation options in the Sanctuary

- 18 single rooms + en-suite
- 7 double rooms + en-suite
- Priests House – 3 rooms
- 2 dining rooms with capacity for 30 and 50 persons
- 2 churches

4. Other options: www.booking.com or www.airbnb.ie

5. Future accommodation option in Messina: The Daughters of the Divine Zeal are currently working on pilgrim accommodation in Messina, but this is not expected to be available until 2027 at the earliest.

Address: Istituto Figlie Del Divino Zeal, Piazza Spirito Santo,
Messina ME 98123

Messina Sample Pilgrimage Itinerary

DAY 1 - AM

Crypt of Basilica Sant Antonio, Museum & Cathedral

Holy Mass in Crypt of the Basilica of San Antonio @8.30 am where St Hannibal is buried and prayerful time and visit of main Basilica
<https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/webcam/crypta-santannibale/>

Including a visit to the **Museum** for the Avignon quarters where St Hannibal started his work with the poor which is immediately next door to the Crypt within the Basilica. Very good souvenir shop with the Basilica also.

Link: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/museo-s-annibale/>

11.30 AM Visit the Messina Cathedral and Our Lady of Letters and recommended to view the Bell Tower (from outside the Cathedral @12 noon which lasts for 20 mins)

1.30 pm Lunch

DAY 1 - PM

Church of Saint Mary of the Holy Spirit, Museum & Apartment of St Hannibal

Visit Church of Mary and the Holy Spirit, and immediately next door is the Daughters of the Divine Zeal Convent which houses another extensive museum to St Hannibal life and work including his apartment in Messina. Please knock on the door of the convent to access this

Museum. They will be putting up Camino signage in due course along the Camino route, but for now it could be missed.

Address:- Istituti Figlie Del Divino Zeal, Piazza Spirito Santo, Messina ME 98123

Website: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/istituto-e-chiesa-dello-spirito-santo/>

To book a tour of the Museum & St Hannibal apartment at Istituti Figlie Del Divino Zeal, Piazza Spirito Santo, Messina ME 98123.

It is recommended to email in advance Sr Barbara srbarbarafdz22@gmail.com to access Museum in Daughters of Divine Zeal Convent in Piazza Spirato Santo, Messina.

DAY 2

Messina St Hannibal Camino

The Rogationist Fathers and the Daughters of the Divine Zeal are launching a Camino 'Following in the Footsteps of St Hannibal' covering key sacred sites in Messina and its suburbs. This Camino is expected to be officially launched on 8 November 2025. It is expected to be available on www.rcj.org website and available :

<https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/> and a specific App.

This App is expected to provide the name of each site associate with St Hannibal, the precise location and an explanation around its connection with St Hannibal. So, watch this space.

Active Individual pilgrims may opt to walk this Camino.

For smaller group or individuals who wish to walk the St Hannibal Camino, it is doable with the exception of the last two sites namely Casa Natale Sants Eustochia and Santuario della Madonna della Guardia in Via Annibale M Di Francia Faro Superiore ME Italy which are on the outskirts of Messina and would require transport to visit.

Alternatively, it is expected larger pilgrim groups may access these sacred sites by driving / private bus tour. For the larger groups, we recommend you contact Fr Unny in advance with your precise dates and times you wish to do the pilgrimage so he can arrange for the Churches to be open. Fr Unny's email: unny@rcj.org Text messages only to Fr Unny Whats App +39 388 6239369

In addition, the 'Rogate Pilgrim Way' which is attached to this document identifies some very important sacred sites in Messina Associated with St Hannibal which will be included in the 'pilgrims pack'. We acknowledge with gratitude the Rogate Pilgrim Way Document which we have received from our Rogationist Father.

DAY 3

The Sanctuary of the Madonna Della Guardia

where St Hannibal spent his last 22 days including the room is passed away in and had his vision of the blessed Mothers as a young girl. This truly is a sanctuary,

This is truly a beautiful Sanctuary outside of Messina, run by the Daughters of the Divine Zeal, up on a hill overlooking the Straits of Messina with magnificent views. It contains the room and museum St Hannibal died in, two churches, namely the original church built by St Hannibal built and a newer church; extensive grounds for meditation, walking, grotto to our Blessed Mother and its own self-contained accommodation and dining once pre-booked.

Web address: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/santuario-madonna-della-guardia-faro-superiore-me/>

Further web

link: <https://fdzguardia.wixsite.com/fdzsantuarioguardia?fbclid=IwY2xiawKqvDJleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHliAkOYU16O7EsFvRxo->

[g2Dxtgm24yLvjdHEUMz5jWcvvNpMJ2PBPPdT2vtt aem 6zn1KGKD7ca QZb -5hTkDQ](https://www.google.com/maps/place/62n1KGKD7caQZb-5hTkDQ)

Address: Figlie Del Divino Zelo, Communita Orante Sancuario Madonna Della Guardia 98158 Faro Superiore messina Italy

Contact there is Sr Marita Olango FDZ excellent English email address: sistermaritaolango@gmail.com. Suggestion that you contact Sr Marita in advance and book her an English tour of the Sanctuary and its grounds. Recommend you arrange to have Mass celebrated in original church.

The sanctuary can provide accommodation for pilgrims too, check it out with Sr Marita as advised above

DAY 4:

Santuario di Madonna Tindari (day trip from Messina)

This is famous and very beautiful; miraculous statue. This is the place St Hannibal went to on his own private pilgrimages. He wrote poems and songs about this beautiful place.

Link: https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santuario_di_Tindari

DAY 5

First House of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal Taormina (day trip / en route to Catania Airport if late flight)

Taormina – This is the First House of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal (FDZ) established in Taormina by St Hannibal and also houses a museum to St Hannibal. It is in the centre of Taormina which is a busy tourist town and a hilly place. So, bring a good pair of walking shoes, lots of nice coffee shops and restaurants to explore!

Link: <https://www.basilicaantoniana.it/luoghi-di-santannibale/casa-femminile-di-taormina-me/>

There are only three Sisters in this Convent. Sr Virginia's Whats app + 39 3342138797 Taormina (is English and Italina speaking) and is happy to welcome pilgrims. If you contact her in advance she will arrange a tour of their Convent, St Hannibal Museum and the Church.

Transportation to Taormina:

If individual pilgrims, we recommend you take the train from Messina to Taormina, then bus from Taormina train station to Taormina town which is up a steep hill about 15 mins drive from the Train Station.

If travelling by car to Taormina, we recommend you park in the car park at the cable car in Taormina and access Taormina by cable car, which is a very beautiful ride / vista.

Appendix

NB Dates / information to be considered in context of arranging a pilgrimage around St Hannibal Centenary Celebrations especially if you wish to celebrate in Messina:-

NB **St Hannibal Feast Day in Messina** is always a 3-day event (see sample posters below), two days before preparing for the Feast Day and then on the Feast Day full celebrations. Further his centenary celebrations are also being treated as a three-year event and have already commenced in 2025. We are advised that: -

St Hannibal's Orders as part of the centenary celebrations are organising a conference for the laity in 2026, further details contact Rogationists directly; and St Hannibal's actual centenary will be held in 2027.

However, it is important to note the following when choosing a date for a St Hannibal pilgrimage to Messina if you wish to overlap with St Hannibal's **actual** Feast Day in Messina.

This is a little complicated to explain so please bear with us; we will do our best to explain:

1. **1 June Feast Day of St Hannibal is celebrated worldwide except Diocese of Messina where it is celebrated on 16 May**

In the event that his Feast Day falls on a Sunday, his Feast Day worldwide is always deferred to next day which is the Monday. Messina is the exception to this, see paragraph 2 below...

2. **16 May Feast Day of St Hannibal is celebrated in Messina only** with two days in advance of feast day there are special events to mark his feast day. This has been approved by the local Bishop as an exception for Messina only to the above rule in paragraph 1 above...1 June. The reason being is on 3 June Messina has an official holiday and Feast Day for Our Lady of the Letters, who is known as the Patroness of Messina.

<https://www.messinarte.it/the-cathedral-of-messina/>

3. **30 31 May and 1 June in the Sanctuary of the Madonna Della Guardia, Messina only** every year hold prayers on his actual Feast Day annually. Again, please see example of 2025 Sanctuary programme attached below.



in questo Anno Giubilare, mentre la Chiesa ci chiama ad essere "Pellegrini di Speranza", la festa di San Annibale Maria Di Francia ci invita a contemplare la misericordia di Dio e il suo perdono. La sua vita, totalmente consacrata al servizio dei poveri e alla preghiera per le Vocazioni, ci indica la strada per vivere autenticamente questo tempo di grazia.

A noi, suoi figli spirituali, e a tutti i devoti del Santo messinese, ripete ancora oggi l'urgente invito a radicare la nostra vita nella preghiera del "Rogate", a rafforzare la testimonianza cristiana nell'opera di evangelizzazione e a fare della carità il segno distintivo del nostro impegno verso i piccoli, i fragili e gli emarginati.

Vi attendiamo con gioia alle celebrazioni in suo onore, perché possiamo attingere alla sua intercessione la forza per essere autentici pellegrini di speranza, portatori del Vangelo della misericordia.

I Rogazionisti e le Figlie del Divino Zelo

DOMENICA 11 MAGGIO
GIORNATA MONDIALE DI PREGHIERA PER LE VOCAZIONI

SANTUARIO DI S. MARIA DELLA CONSOLATA – DON ORIONE
"Padre Annibale e Don Orione, Santi legati dall'Amicizia e della Carità"
Ore 10,00 Messa con la partecipazione dei seminaristi e dei sacerdoti del Don Orione e dei Rogazionisti

BASILICA SANTUARIO S. ANTONIO
Ore 15,00 Esposizione del S.S. Sacramento e Coroncina alla Divina Misericordia per le Vocazioni
Ore 16,00 Catechesi Liturgica di Don Carmelo Russo e testimonianze vocazionali
Ore 17,30 S. Rosario liturgico vocazionale
Ore 18,00 S. Messa presieduta da Padre Carmelo Baicea e la Falegnameria del Piccolo Giogio dell'Immacolata

Triduo in Onore di S. Annibale
13, 14 e 15 MAGGIO
Ore 17,00 S. Rosario
Ore 17,30 preghiere e canti a S. Annibale
Ore 18,00 S. Messa presieduta dal Rev. dr. P. SAVINO CASTIGLIONE reJ.

FESTA DI SANT'ANNIBALE - ANNIVERSARIO DELLA CANONIZZAZIONE
VENERDI 16 MAGGIO
Ore 7,30 – 9,00 – 10,00 – 11,00 S.S. Messae
Ore 8,30 – 12,00 S.S. Messae nella Cattedrale di Sant'Annibale, venerazione al corpo incorrotto del Santo
Ore 18,00 Solenne S. Messa presieduta da Sua Eccellenza Rev.ma Mons. ANTONIO SUETTA, vescovo di Sant'emo-Ventimiglia, inno a S. Annibale dei ragazzi dell'Istituto Scolastico Spirito Santo Alto di affiliazione delle Continenze della Diocesi.

Ore 19,15 **BENEDIZIONE DELLE GARDENIE E PROCESSIONE** con il Busto reliquiario di S. Annibale per le vie: S. Cecilia, Cesare Battisti, Niccolò Fazio, Santuario Madonna del Carmine, Antonio Istantino, Piazza del Popolo, Chiesa Spirito Santo, Antonio Martino, Piazza Annibale Di Francia, S. Cecilia.

Manifestazioni Civili e Religiose



FESTA di Sant'Annibale M. di Francia



1° GIUGNO 2025

Celebrazione Eucaristica alle ore 09.30

Chiesa Oasi Madre Nazarena
Presieduta dal Rev. P. Adriano Inguscio, rcj

Benedizione delle gardenie

Processione

con la Reliquia di S. Annibale per
la via verso la Stanzetta del Santo.

Distribuzione del Pane "Padre Francia"

(Stanzetta Madonna della Guardia)

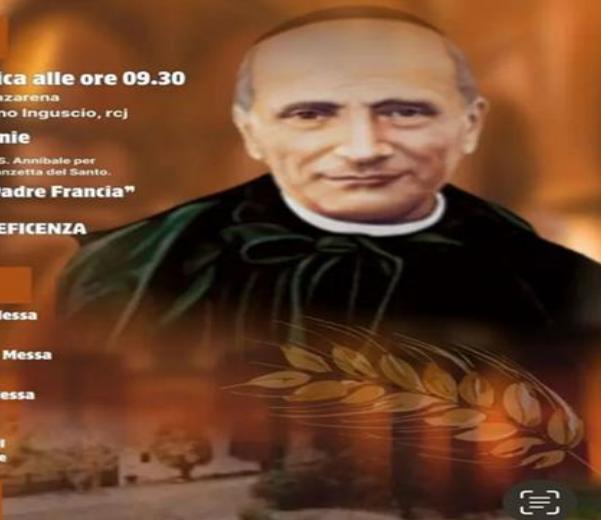
CENA e SORTEGGIO di BENEFICENZA

Alle ore 20.00 - 23.30

**TRIDUO IN ONORE DI
SANT'ANNIBALE**

- **29 Maggio giovedì celebra la S. Messa**
Ore 08,00 Celebrazione eucaristica
Rev. Mons. Tanino Tripodo
- **30 Maggio Venerdì celebra la S. Messa**
Ore 08,00 Celebrazione eucaristica
Rev. P. Michele Marinelli, rcj
- **31 Maggio Sabato celebra la S. Messa**
Ore 08,30 Celebrazione eucaristica
Rev. P. Claudio Pizzuto, rcj
- **Ore 07,40 celebrazione delle LODI**
- **Preghiera e canti a Sant'Annibale**

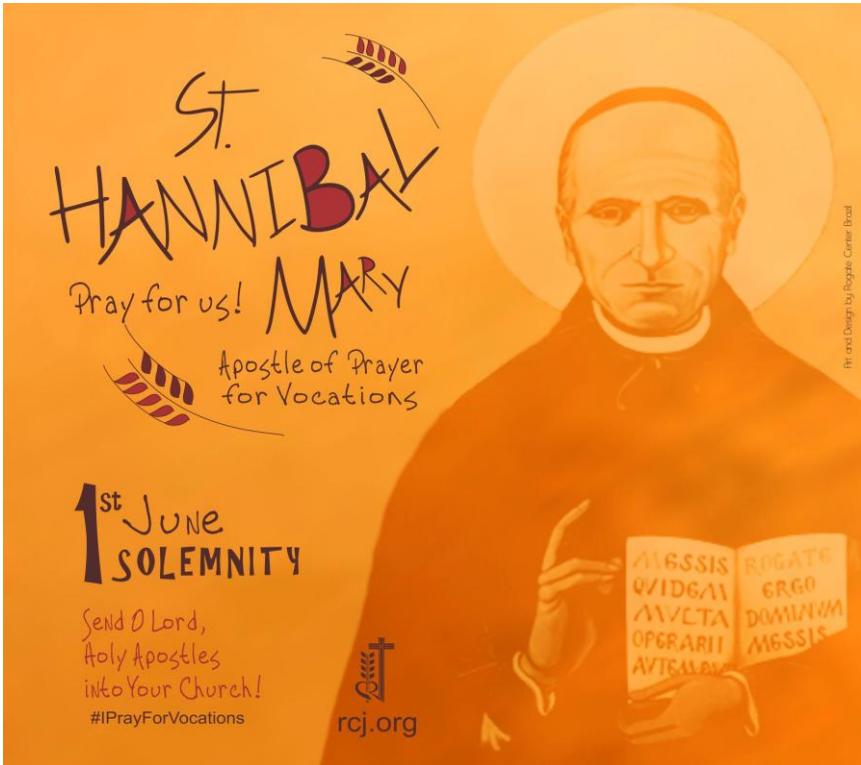
**Conclusione del mese
Mariano**



SCHEDULE

Received with gratitude and published by kind permission of the Rogationist Fathers who wish to share this document with all St Hannibal Pilgrims.

THE ROGATE PILGRIM WAY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST HANNIBAL MARY



**I will be ready, with the Lord's help,
to make any sacrifice,
even by giving my blood and my life,
so that this Rogation would become
universal.** *Declarations and Promises, #21*

THE ROGATE PILGRIM WAY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST HANNIBAL MARY

Introduction

Who is St Hannibal Mary Di Francia for us? Why should we care about it? Why do we have to know about his life? We know St Hannibal Mary as the Founder of the Daughters of Divine Zeal and the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus. That he was known to be Father of the Orphans and of the Poor, and the Apostle of Prayer for Vocations. We have read and studied his life and works; however, we might have just known information about him but not really known him in the first person. When the Church proclaimed him as a Saint, it proposed to all Christians a sure way of Christian perfection through his example. As St Hannibal Mary imitated Jesus of the Rogate, so we are called to imitate St Hannibal.

This Pilgrim Walk of the Rogate is an attempt for us to have a close and personal following of St Hannibal Mary, who walked on the path of the Christ of the Rogate. On this pilgrimage, we will walk in his footsteps, feel his presence, hear his teachings, and experience his life. As we recall the significant moments in St Hannibal's life, let us imagine ourselves alongside him and reflect on our lives through his experiences. Hopefully, during the journey, we will delve deep into our hearts and be transformed into people like St Hannibal Mary, who moulded his heart to the Heart of Jesus Christ of the Rogate.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Lord Jesus of the Rogate, thank you for bringing us to this moment
when we renew our Christian vocation
by strengthening our connection with St Hannibal Mary Di Francia.
May this pilgrimage renew our fervour in praying for vocations,
promoting a culture of vocations,
and becoming good labourers ourselves.
May our encounter with Fr. Hannibal's life
renew our commitment to being men and women of prayer,
agents of the new evangelization,
and stewards of God's graces
with a preferential option for the poor. Amen.**

GESÙ E MARIA DELLE TROMBE STREET

HIS BIRTH

July 5, 1851

From the Biography of St Hannibal

Mary Hannibal was the third of four children born to Knight Francesco Di Francia and noblewoman Anna Toscano. He was born in their family home in Messina, located on Jesus and Mary of the Trumpets Street (now St John Bosco Street).

(cf. Archives of Messina, Register of Births, 1851, no. 262)

His Teaching

We were nothing, and God drew us from nothing. He could have created other beings instead of us; yet he chose to create us. He created us with immortal, rational souls. He gave us a body perfectly composed in all its parts. He endowed us with five senses so that the spirit receives different sensations through these five channels. God gave us the gift of speech, the ability to interact with the world around us. He provided us with noble instincts, through which we savour beauty, elevate ourselves, and create beautiful art. And this is not all. After creating us, God sustains us admirably, and this act of conservation is a continuous creation.

(cf. Scritti, Vol. 55 [2008], pp. 212–213)

**Most Adorable Jesus, if at the moment of my birth,
You had given me so much knowledge of You,
O Highest and Only Good, as much as You have given me until now,
and if, by Your mercy, I had known You in that instant as I know You now,
then, my beloved Jesus, my life and light, I would have done this:
as soon as my head emerged from my mother's womb,
I would have taken a deep breath and groaned.
With that breath and groan, I would have loved You, my greatest good.
With sighs, groans, and tears, I would have told You:
"Oh my God, my Creator, my adorable Redeemer,
here I am, Your little creature, an imperceptible atom. I adore You!"
As a newborn infant, I throw myself at Your feet.
I kiss them lovingly, and I adore You!**

(cf. Scritti, Vol. 4, [4312], p. 63)

PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE IN OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
HIS BAPTISM - July 7, 1851

From the Biography of St Hannibal

Mary Hannibal Di Francia was baptized at the Church of Holy Mary of the Providence (St Lawrence Parish) by Canon Don Giuseppe Marchese. His Godparent was his maternal uncle, Fr. Giuseppe Toscano. On the anniversary of his baptism, Fr. Hannibal went to the Church of Holy Mary of the Providence to thank the Lord for the great gift he had received. He did this up until the earthquake of December 28, 1908, which destroyed the Church. (cf. VITALE, F. op. cit., p. 6)

His Teaching

God did not only give natural life, but he also gave us the life of Grace through Holy Baptism. With the life of Grace, we are able to know God and His laws; we are able to love and serve Him, enjoy His blessings and promises, and one day, obtain the Kingdom of Heaven. Now, if God has been so merciful to us that through Baptism He gave us supernatural life, how much must our gratitude be? It must be immense, unlimited! And we must show it by observing the duties that the Holy Baptism imposes on us. These duties will lead us to live as true Christians.

(Scritti, Vol. 23, [2232], p. 140-141)

**O my Jesus, do not abandon me, do not leave alone,
for if You go away from me even just for a little while,
I shall fall into a thousand faults, pitfalls, and errors.
Accept me, Jesus, as Your disciple. Be my Teacher.
Teach me and lead me on the way to perfection and holiness.
Through Your guidance, make me reach that perfection
that You desire for me.
My Jesus, instil in my heart true holiness:
that holiness which does not feed on self-love,
which does not yield to passion,
which does not satisfy its own self-interests,
which is not prone to illusions,
but the holiness which comes from Your loving Spirit
and which You alone know how to bestow. (Cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 6, [4474], p. 135)**

HIS VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

November 1869

From the biography of St Hannibal

The young Mary Hannibal felt called to the priesthood "in an extraordinary way." Therefore, with the intention of belonging totally to Jesus and gaining souls for Him, he chose to serve God and neighbour as the ideal of his life. (Scritti, Vol. 58, [3677], p. 240)

His Teaching

My vocation had three qualities:

First, it was sudden. Although I loved a devout life during a time when Freemasonry and liberalism were prevalent, I did not consider the ecclesiastical life. Suddenly, the Lord sent me His light.

Second, it was irresistible. I felt I could not escape the power of His grace. I absolutely had to surrender.

Third, it was certain. After that light, I knew beyond a doubt that God was calling me. I could no longer entertain the slightest doubt that the Lord wanted me to follow that path.

(cf. TUSINO, T., *Memorie biografiche, Parte Prima, Roma, 1995, p. 120*)

**O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Love and Infinite Wisdom,
enlighten my intellect as You did the Apostles'.**

**O Pure Dove,
cover my understanding with Your wings so that it may soar
and acquire the wisdom necessary to work for Your greater glory.**

**Heavenly Spouse of my soul,
teach me through Your Wisdom and the holy ecclesiastical science.
I am totally Yours.**

Do with me as You will.

Be a fire of love for my heart

and a light of wisdom for my understanding. (Scritti, Vol. I, Ed. Rogate, p. 42)

CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS OF THE IMMACULATE
THE INVESTITURE OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL GARB
December 8, 1869

From the Biography of St Hannibal

After spending a night in prayer, and with the permission of Archbishop Luigi Natoli, Hannibal and his brother Francesco donned the cassock at the Church of St Francis of the Immaculate in Messina. This marked the beginning of their formation for the priesthood. On that same day, Pope Pius IX officially began the First Vatican Ecumenical Council in Rome.

(TUSINO, T., *Memorie biografiche*, Parte Prima, Editrice Rogate, Roma 1995, p. 122)

His Teaching

Today is a memorable day for you. You must never forget it. Today, you began wearing your sacred habit. You have longed for this day for a long time, longing to wear this habit. You watched your companions put it on and said: "Lord, when will this day be for me?" And behold, the day has come. This is the habit with which you begin your religious life. It is also the way you say goodbye to the world.

(Scritti, Vol. 57, [4041], p. 92)

**O most loving Heart of my Lord Jesus,
I turn to You with confidence and surrender everything.
From this moment on,
I place myself entirely at the disposal of Your Divine Will.**

**Grant me, O Jesus, the ability to serve You faithfully.
Make me proficient in Your Divine service.
For this, I beg You to grant me the holy virtues of:
humility, obedience, and detachment from all earthly things.
Grant me holy fear and Your holy love,
along with a fervent desire to be holy and totally Yours.**

**My Jesus,
I pray that You guide me to Your Divine Presence in holy prayer.**

(Scritti, Vol. I, Ed. Rogate, p. 98)

**CHURCH OF MONTEVERGINE
ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE
MAY 6, 1877**

From the Biography of St Hannibal

On May 26, 1877, Archbishop Giuseppe Guarino ordained the cleric Hannibal Mary a deacon in the Church of the Monastery of Montevergine. The monastery was founded by St Eustochia Calafato in the mid-fifteenth century and is home to the Poor Clares. Hannibal Mary came to the monastery to pray during the Forty Hours devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He had a deep devotion to St Eustochia of Messina and composed several prayers in her honour that are still used by the faithful today.

He exercised his diaconal ministry through preaching and charitable service. During this period, he met a blind man named Francesco Zancone on a road in Messina. Zancone brought Hannibal Mary to the Avignone Quarter, where the cleric fully served his *diaconia*.

Lord God,

Thank You for the gift of charity that Deacon Hannibal Mary exemplified.

Your generosity gives me the opportunity

to lend a helping hand to those in need,

especially the marginalized, the impoverished, the voiceless,

and those whose rights have been violated.

Help me practice the justice and charity that come from Christ,

who showed the greatest charity

by giving himself on the cross for my salvation.

Lord, I recognize that I am poor, and in my weakness,

I depend on Your providence and paternal care.

Recognizing Your providence

makes me more sensitive to the needs of others,

allowing me to joyfully share with them what I have freely received.

Amen.

ON A STREET IN MESSINA
A PROVIDENTIAL ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN THE POOR
1877-1878

From the Biography of St Hannibal

Hannibal walked through the streets of Messina many times. Between 1877 and 1878, however, while he was still a deacon, he saw the blind beggar, Francis Zancone. This time, it was more than just giving alms and moving on. There was also a providential encounter between them. A dialogue took place. Deacon Hannibal was led to enter the life of the blind Zancone. Deacon Hannibal wrote that he had never known about the abject poverty that existed on the outskirts of Messina. He was blind to this reality, metaphorically speaking. Paradoxically, it took a blind beggar to show Hannibal his mission, in which he would experience the compassion of Christ existentially. "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray!" This providential encounter was a turning point in the life of St Hannibal Mary Di Francia.

His Teaching

I was still a deacon when I entered the Avignone Quarter and was shocked by the misery and neglect, I saw. The people there lived like beasts. Their marriages were illegitimate, and the elderly died on the damp, bare ground of their hovels. It recalled the words of the Gospel: *"The crowds are like sheep without a shepherd [...]"* Then Jesus said to His disciples, *"The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."* Since then, I have dedicated myself, to the best of my ability, to providing spiritual and temporal comfort to those abandoned crowds. (Scritti, Vol. 61, [2176], p. 207)

**Lord Jesus, open my eyes so that I may see you
in the faces of our brothers and sisters on the margins of our society.
Make me see as you see.
Move our hearts to compassion as you were moved
by the crowds lying helpless and harassed
like sheep without a shepherd,
like a harvest with few labourers.**

**Just as you used Zancone to open the eyes of St Hannibal,
open our eyes so that we may see you in our many brothers and sisters
who hunger and thirst for material and spiritual nourishment.
Open our eyes so that we may see you
in those who are deprived of human dignity and liberty,
who are oppressed by a corrupt system and neglected by society.
Disturb us as you disturbed St Hannibal,
which led to his conversion and discovery of his mission
to be a father to orphans and the poor.
Amen.**

**CHURCH OF SAINT MARY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION
March 16, 1878**

From the Biography of St Hannibal

On March 16, 1878, on the Lenten Ember Saturday, Deacon Hannibal Mary Di Francia was ordained a priest by the Archbishop Msgr. Giuseppe Guarino at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Messina.

(cf. TUSINO T., *Memorie biografiche*, Parte Prima, Roma 1995, p. 318)

His Teaching

If there is one memory that enraptures the Anointed of the Lord and is the dearest, most pleasant, sweetest, and most delightful for a Minister of God, it is certainly the memory of the day he climbed to the Holy Altar for the first time and sacrificed the Divine Victim. Oh, that day is sacred and unforgettable! It stands between the past, with its heavenly hopes and high expectations, and the future, with its many ascents in divine love and beautiful union with God through the Masses he will celebrate from that day forward.

(cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 45, p. 545)

Reflection

Take a step back in time to the day St Hannibal Mary was ordained in this majestic church. Picture the setting, the music, the choir, the archbishop and the clergy, and the congregation who came for the liturgy. Watch closely as the bishop places his hands on Father Hannibal's head. Then, pray for all priests and those preparing for this sacred ministry. Pray that they may be priests according to the Heart of Jesus and live with the same sentiments as the Good Shepherd toward the flock without a shepherd and the harvest with few workers.

Moment of Silence

Prayer of the priest St Hannibal

**Oh God, I wish to exercise my priestly ministry among your people
as Paul the Apostle did in the lands where the Holy Spirit led him.
But alas, my desires are like those that kill the slug!**

(cf. Prov. 21:25)

**What will you do with me, O God?
I am a useless servant and instrument.
Send whom you will, O Lord**

(cf. Ex 4:13)

**You are all-powerful,
able to raise sons for Abraham even from the rocks**

(Matthew 3:9)

**Raise up a faithful priest in this city
who will act according to your heart!**

(cf. Jer. 3:15)

**THE AVIGNONE QUARTER
& THE TEMPLE OF THE EVANGELICAL ROGATION**

From the Biography of St Hannibal

This is the birthplace of the works of St Hannibal Mary, as well as the birthplace of his congregations: the Rogationists of Jesus and the Daughters of Divine Zeal. The Avignone Quarter, located on the outskirts of the city, was known for its extreme poverty and moral depravity. People lived like animals, devoid of any human dignity. But that pales in comparison to the dirt and spiritual depravity. This is where the Rogationists were born. St Hannibal abandoned a promising career in the Church to serve Jesus by helping the poor in the Avignone Quarter. He brought the light of Christ to people living in darkness. He became an instrument of God's mercy, cancelling the multitude of sins and immorality, and restoring the inhabitants of the neighbourhood to their human and Christian dignity.

On July 1, 1886, the Eucharist became permanently present among them, like the Good Shepherd with his flock and the King with his people. It was as it was in Bethlehem, where the Son of God was born to redeem the fallen world. St Hannibal also pitched his tent in this miserable place and dwelt among his beloved poor in the Avignone Quarter.

**O Lord, do not let us forget our origins.
Remind us that we are from the Avignone Quarter,
just as You were from Bethlehem.
Help us to glory in poverty, for the poor are close to Your heart.**

**O God, You hear the cry of the poor.
You will hear our prayer if we are poor.
Let our spirit of charity grow,
for You command us to love one another as You loved us.
Make our hearts like Yours:
sensitive to the needs of the marginalized;
defending their rights and dignity;
and working tirelessly for their growth and development
as citizens of this land and heaven.
Amen.**

THE FEAST OF JULY THE FIRST
July 1, 1886

From the Biography of St Hannibal

On Thursday, the octave of Corpus Domini, with the Archbishop's consent, Fr. Hannibal placed the Blessed Sacrament in the first chapel of the Avignone Quarter, thus rendering it sacramental after two years of fervent anticipation and intense spiritual preparation. On the first anniversary, July 1, 1887, Fr. Hannibal established that all his institutes should commemorate this event in perpetuity. This is now known as *The Feast of July the First*.

(cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 1, p. 96-98, 104)

His Teaching

When the time seemed right, Jesus arrived on July 1, 1886. He arrived during the celebration of the Divine Mass while the new chapel was filled with sacred anticipation. All were in a festive parade amid songs and devout prayers. Unlike the daily celebration of the Holy Mass, He did not leave again but remained with His Divine Presence. He came as a King among His subjects to establish His Kingdom and as a Good Shepherd among His lambs to form His own flock. Entrusted to Him in the Blessed Sacrament, this flock is pastured by Him and lives with Him without fear. He came as a Divine Farmer to cultivate the small plant Himself. Buried underneath the soil of trial and mortification is the small seed of His Divine Rogate.

(cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 1, p. 97)

**We thank You, O most loving Jesus,
for coming and living among us.**

**We offer You the thanksgiving of all the Angels and Saints,
of Your most Holy Mother.**

**We offer Your very prayer that You raise to the Father.
Draw all our hearts to this tabernacle of love!**

**May this Sacrament of love make You the loving centre of our lives,
our treasure, and our all.**

Redirect our minds, affections, and conversation here.

Inspire our homage and practices,

**by which we dare to reciprocate Your immeasurable graces
and please Your divine heart in all things.**

(cf. *Scritti*, Vol. II, Ed. Rogate, p. 83)

CHURCH OF ST JOHN OF MALTA
The understanding and zeal of the Rogate
April 1868

"Remove your sandals, for this is holy ground." For St Hannibal, the Church of St John of Malta is the "sacred place" of encounter with God, similar to Moses' experience at Mount Horeb. While Moses saw the burning bush, through which God revealed His compassionate heart for His people, Hannibal saw the face of God's mercy in the Eucharist, which revealed to Him compassion for the sheep without a shepherd and the harvest with few labourers. It was in this sacred place that Hannibal received the intuition, the spiritual revelation of the Rogate, which gradually unfolded in his life. He took on the identity of a Rogationist: a man of prayer, a pastor to the lost, the least, and the last, and an advocate for Gospel labourers in the Church. He was a man to whom the interests of the Heart of Jesus had been revealed.

From the Biography of St Hannibal

While in adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed for the Forty Hours in the Church of St John of Malta in Messina, he had the intuition that praying for vocations was necessary. This experience is known as the "Understanding of the Rogate." Later, he found the command of Jesus in the Gospel (Mt 9:37-38 and Lk 10:2): *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest, so that he may send labourers into his harvest."*

(cf. VITALE F., *Canon Hannibal Mary Di Francia, his life and in works*, Messina 1939, pp. 14-15; TUSINO T., *Non disse mai no*, Roma 1968, pp. 53-54; TUSINO T., *Memorie biografiche*, Parte Prima, Roma 1995, pp. 117-118)

His Teaching

From a young age, I have dedicated myself to the holy word of the Gospel: *"Pray, therefore, to the Lord of the harvest to send Labourers into the harvest."* In my humble Institutes of charity, the orphans, the poor, priests, and sisters pray daily to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary, St Joseph the Patriarch, and the Holy Apostles, asking them to provide the holy Church with holy and chosen priests, the Gospel labourers of the mystical harvest of souls." (cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 58, [3658], p. 226)

HOLY HOUR AND ADORATION

The Intuition of the Rogate in St Hannibal: Gift and Gratitude

Introduction

From the beginning of his mission in the Avignone District, we know that Father Hannibal brought with him the inspiration of the Rogate, which he had identified as his mission since his youth.

By 1880, he had placed the beautiful prayer that begins with the words "Compassionate Heart of Jesus" in the hearts and on the lips of the little ones and the poor. This prayer clearly expresses his theological vision of the charismatic inspiration of the Rogate.

We read that he had the pious habit of daily visiting the Blessed Sacrament, which was exposed for the *Quarantore* (Forty Hours' Adoration) in various churches in Messina. One day, while in the Church of St John of Malta, he had the predominant thought that to bring about the greater good of the Holy Church, save many souls, and extend the Kingdom of God on earth, there could be no more certain means than increasing the number of God's chosen ministers. Thus, the most excellent and fruitful prayer would be to immediately ask the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to send holy men and chosen priests to the world. This idea seemed very clear and indisputable to him. Later, he was surprised and amazed to read those Divine Words in the Holy Gospel: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.*

Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest."

This intuition-inspiration occurred at the beginning of his spiritual life, before his vocation to the priesthood had matured.

Therefore, we must keep and revive this sacred heritage!

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the inspiration of the Rogate, it is important for us as a Family of the Rogate to fulfill three things together:

First, we must praise and thank the Lord for this great gift bestowed upon us, the Church, and the world.

Second, we must reflect on the zeal that Father Hannibal had throughout his life in living and spreading the Rogate.

Third, we must discern what kind of testimony we should have today as members of the Family of the Rogate

(cf. Circular Letter of the Superior General, *Rogate, Gift and Gratitude*, June 1, 2018)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

Exposition of the Eucharist

Guide: Let us now welcome the Eucharist who lovingly dwells with us and makes himself present for our adoration.

o Song of praise

o Pause of personal adoration

Choral Prayer I: *O Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus*

(the first prayer composed by St Hannibal for the poor of Avignone)

**O Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus,
may our sighs reach Your presence.**

**We come to You to ask for great and immense mercy,
for the benefit of Your Church and for the salvation of souls.**

**You are the Lord of the Harvest and the Mystical Gardener
who planted the vineyard of souls and watered it with Your Precious Blood.
You have formed Your Church as a flowering field and an enclosed garden,
where You gather flowers of holy virtues
and fruits of good works that are sweet to Your palate.**

**O Most Sweet Jesus, You hunger and thirst for souls,
and Your loving Heart consumes itself for love.**

There are few labourers in Your vineyard!

The good labourers in Your Church have diminished.

The light of the world has eclipsed.

The people remain in the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Poor souls perish. Satan devours his prey.

Children ask for the bread of life, but there is no one to break it for them.

**O Lord God, have compassion on
the miserable state of many cities, especially rural towns,
which lack Good Labourers of the Gospel.**

Lord of the Harvest, send holy labourers to Your harvest!

Guide: In a 1923 letter addressed to Pope Pius XI, our Founder, St Hannibal Mary, asked for a blessing for the Pious Work and briefly explained that he had started two Institutes specifically for the Rogate.

Reader: "Prostrate at the feet of Your august throne, the undersigned, Canon Hannibal Mary Di Francia of Messina, states the following: Since my adolescence, I have been concerned about the importance of Prayer to obtain Priests from the Divine Mercy; for Priests according to the Heart of God, for the salvation of souls.

"Later, I read the Divine Command in the Holy Gospels: '*Rogate ergo Dominum Messis ut mittat operarios in messem suam.*' I was surprised. After becoming a priest, I dedicated myself to works of charity and beneficence as much as I was able, driven to cultivate that divine Word."

- *Song – Send O Lord, or another*

Guide: He describes this inspiration in other writings.

Reader: "At the beginning of his desire to devote himself to God and before he knew anything about the words of the Holy Gospel, a young man had this predominant thought in mind: In order to do the greatest good in the Holy Church, save many souls, and extend the Kingdom of God on earth, there could be no more certain means than to increase the number of holy, apostolic ministers of God according to the Heart of Jesus. Therefore, the most excellent and fruitful prayer would be to immediately ask the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to send holy men and chosen priests to the world."

(Scritti, Vol. V, Regolamenti, p. 703)

- *Song – Send O Lord, or another*

Guide: This important experience in his life is also referenced in the *Introduction to Precious Adhesions*.

Reader: "There was a man who paid attention to this divine command even before reading it in the Gospel, and he began his life's journey with this attention. (...)

“It is beautiful that the evangelical rogation to obtain good labourers for the Church is now resounding in the tender voices of children and the poor. From that poor place, it arose to heaven, to the throne of Him who looks down upon the heavens and the earth and hears the desires of the poor.

“We call it the Gospel revelation—a divine idea—which preceded and accompanied the poor priest initiator in his difficult undertaking. We consider this idea the foundation on which the Pious Work is built, the key that opens the Treasury of Divine Mercies, and the source of the most desired Divine Graces. All this in reference to the Pious Work. In reference to the Holy Catholic Church, society, and the whole world, it is the great means of all blessings and salvation in time and eternity.”

(Introduction to the Precious Adhesions, 1919, p. 7)

- *Song – Send O Lord, or another*
- *Prolonged silence in adoration and praise*

Choral Prayer I: *Compassionate Heart of Jesus*

(the first prayer composed by St Hannibal for the poor of Avignone)

O Lord Jesus, it is true that we do not deserve to be heard. You have no need for us, your creatures, to be infinitely glorious and happy. However, it is also true that your most loving heart aches and worries due to the loss of souls. It rejoices and exults when souls are edified, sanctified, and led to eternal life through good Labourers. Therefore, do it for the consolation of your loving Heart: send holy Labourers to your harvest.

We ask this of you with the same fervent desire with which the prophets and patriarchs awaited your coming to earth. "Let the clouds of heaven rain down the just," they said, "and the earth germinate the Saviour." We exclaim with ever more ardent sighs: "Open your Divine Heart, O Jesus, and let good and holy Labourers come forth for your Church!"

Yes, draw them from the depths of your Sacred Heart. You are all-powerful, able to draw Abraham's sons even from the rocks. Draw them from that burning furnace of charity and enrich your Church with this great, priceless treasure — good Labourers.

Guide: From the beginning, Our Father, St Hannibal Mary, exhorted his spiritual sons and daughters to make the great sacrament of the Eucharist the centre of their lives.

Reader:

Keep your thoughts on the supreme goodness and consider yourselves fortunate to have such a treasure so near! "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will gather," said our Lord Jesus Christ. May God grant you the ability to be like eagles or doves, who flying over the earthly things, gather with your hearts and affection around the Most Sacred Body of the Lord, given to us as food!

Focus on the supreme goodness and consider yourselves fortunate to have such a treasure nearby! "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will gather," said our Lord Jesus Christ. May God grant you the ability to be like eagles or doves who, flying over earthly things, gather your hearts and affection around the Most Sacred Body of the Lord, given to us as food!

He will teach you how to fulfill the great mission of obtaining good Labourers for the Holy Church with his help. This sacred task was entrusted to you, humble and poor creatures, by Our Lord Jesus Christ in his great mercy. Oh, what a sublime task! A truly divine mission! The point is that a poor, miserable creature becomes a fruitful mother of innumerable souls and a spiritually begotten priest of the Holy Church!

(The Father's Preaching on the Lord, July 2, 1888)

○ *Song - UBI CARITAS ET AMOR or another*

Guide: St Hannibal Mary entrusts us with the virtue of zeal as part of our vocation and charism, which is linked to the interests of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

Reader: In order to obtain good workers for the Holy Church, you must pray and work for this purpose. When we ask God for a particular grace, we must work for it in order to obtain what we asked for with certainty. If we want to obtain good Labourers for the Holy Church, we cannot rely on prayer alone; we must combine prayer with an active life, always aiming to win good Labourers for the Holy Church.

My dear daughters, the most beautiful field of perfect charitable works is open to you. If Jesus overlooks my sins and blesses you, your vocation is formed, and the fourth vow is ready: "zeal"; zeal for the honour of the sanctuary. As our Lord Jesus Christ said, "The zeal for your house consumes me." Having zeal for the interests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus means having zeal for obtaining good Labourers for the Holy Church, which is his supreme interest.

(The Father's Preaching on the Lord, July 2, 1888)

- *Song - UBI CARITAS ET AMOR o another*

Guide: The divine mission to which we Sons and Daughters are called, is to enter into the Divine Will with the lighted lamp of Eucharistic love, in order to start a new life.

Reader: Oh, what a truly divine mission! What a great revelation the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus has given us through His Mercy and Charity!

I have nothing more to say than to exhort you to always pray so that we may encounter the Divine Will. Draw yourselves closer to our beloved Jesus Christ, our supreme goodness. Grow in his love. Desire to love him. Share in the pains of his Divine Heart. Console him through your fervent practice of all holy virtues.

Renew your resolutions and your spirit. Start a new life of humility, mortification, obedience, and prayer. Light the lamps of the wise virgins, for the groom is near.

(The Father's Preaching on the Lord, July 2, 1888)

- *Song - UBI CARITAS ET AMOR o another*
- *Prolonged silence in adoration and praise*

Guide: We conclude our moment of prayer by thanking the Lord for the gift of his presence within us, within our communities, and within our missions.

ALL:

**O God, our Father,
we thank You for inspiring St Hannibal
with the command of the Rogate
as the key to the salvation of all souls.
In the name of Your Son, Jesus,
we pray that You grant us the courage and humility
to abandon our self-serving projects
and set aside our own ideas.
May we contemplate and obey Your Divine Will,
guided by the light of Your Holy Spirit.
May we remain faithful to You,
who makes all things new. Amen**

Guide:

**Lord Jesus,
who is present among us through the Word and the Eucharist,
remain always the guide of our steps.
Lead us through Your way
to the districts and suburbs where You dwell
among the most forgotten of Your sisters and brothers.
Help us discern the means You have chosen to help them.
May we abandon all human security
and accept the gift of hope given to us by Your Resurrection.**

All: Amen.

Benediction and Reposition of the Eucharist

o Final Song

LA GUARDIA - HIS BLESSED DEATH - June 1, 1927

From the Biography of St Hannibal

At 6:30 a.m. in Messina, at his countryside residence in Contrada Guardia, Fr. Hannibal passed away peacefully. He was assisted by Fr. Francesco Vitale and some Rogationist religious while Fr. Vincenzo Gandolfo was about to conclude Mass for the dying. The previous morning, he had been comforted by a vision of the Holy Child Mary.

(Bambinella). (Cf. VITALE, F., *Il Canonico Annibale M. Di Francia nella vita e nelle opere*, pp. 727-729)

His Teaching

O Paradise! O kingdom of eternal glory! End of life's sorrowful exile!
O eternal City of God! O blessed vision of Him, the infinite beauty and goodness who shines forth with His wondrous rays in all that is good and beautiful in this valley of tears and in the sublime wonders of creation! I long for this eternal beatitude, this region of light and splendour, and this endless contemplation of God, in which even endless space is absorbed!

(Cf. SCRITTI, VOL. 50, P. 619)

O God, I beg You to grant me tender and filial trust in You.

I fear You, O Jesus, because You are my judge who calls me to account.

But let me love You as a loving Father with infinite charity for all his children.

If the sight of my sins, miseries, and malice terrifies, confuses, and frightens me in Your presence, let the gaze of Your infinite mercy and love, with which You love me, comfort, uplift, and inspire me with tender, holy, and filial trust in You! Grant that Your sorrows, Your loving words, and the gentle love of Your gentle heart may always be in my mind so that my fearful soul may find the courage to cast itself into the embrace of Your mercy.

(cf. *Scritti*, Vol. 6, [4478], p. 140-141)

PERSONAL PRAYER OF A PILGRIM ON THE WAY OF THE ROGATE

CONGRATULATIONS!

You can have just completed the Pilgrim Walk of the Rogate, in the footsteps of our Father and Founder, St Hannibal Maria Di Francia. Let us continue walking in the streets and places of our contexts in whatever part of the world, carrying with us the identity of a Rogationist with St Hannibal as our model.

PRAYER FOR MYSTICAL MOTHERS OF PRIESTS IN DIVINE WILL MISSION (MM)

With the approval of Association of Luisa Piccarreta, Corato



*'Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother.'* Matthew 12:50

**We pray through the intercession of
St Hannibal Di Francia and
the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta
that more holy people will become
Mystical Mothers of Priests in Divine Will Mission
and this Mission will grow world-wide
and become abundantly fruitful,
as more and more covenant themselves freely
through Our Lady, Queen and Mother of the Divine Will
and Mother of Priests to God the Father.
Amen! Fiat!**

Extract from Consecration Prayer on Adoption Certificate of MM.

*Interested in learning more about
Mystical Mothers of Priests in Divine Will*

Email: ict@divinewillfamily.org

Web: <https://www.divinewillfamily.org/ict-mysticalmothers>



Send Oh Lord Holy Apostles into Your Church