

"I gladly accept the Cross from the hands of God, happy to carry it, helped by his grace, for as long as He wills, even for the entire time of my life".

Ven. Mother Carmela Ven. Madre Carmela



Bulletin September 2021

Postulation Rome Cause of Beatification and Canonization
Venerable Mother Carmela Prestigiacomu

Mother Carmela, Foundress.

*An attentive look at the historical and living memory of the Institute
the Sacred Heart of the Incarnate Word.*

Foundation anniversary, Palermo, 14 September 1884.

Venerable Mother Carmela Prestigiacomu, first trustee of the charism of the foundation, has journeyed with the times and since in the beginning of the Foundation, she has successfully permeate the specific apostolate, particularly the educational dimension, with a style that constantly recalls the social doctrine of Church. Social action, the good of human society, denotes a pedagogy of love that distinguished it.

Why is it necessary also today as yesterday, the wisdom of the heart and the acute intelligence?

To enlighten minds and hearts with the Gospel and to fight the heresies of the century. Apostolic action in educating with wisdom goes hand in hand in the struggle to enlighten minds, educate to life and culture.

The human and Christian story of Mother Carmela Prestigiacomio revolves around charity and catechetical action, where the preferential means is the School, to progressively reach the integral formation of the human person.

Our ever venerable Mother considered the integral formation of the human person to be fundamental. An apostolate that requires making the sentiments of the Heart of Christ one's own and making them become the salient characteristics of our spirituality: "*to bring the light of Truth in charity*".

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart of the Incarnate Word, Daughters of Mother Carmela and all those who are close to the Institute she founded, are enlightened by the Holy Spirit and by herself, the first trustee of the founding Charism, then the charism becomes participatory, it is extended to a mission shared in the Church and in today's society.

We thank Divine Providence for the gift of our Venerable Foundress Mother Carmela who until each, after 137 years of foundation, continues to be Light in the wake of the Gospel.

Suor Alba D. Arce
Suore del Sacro Cuore del Verbo Incarnato

Poem by Mother Carmela

Your love for me is that lighthouse
that enlightens my mind,
that inflames me and each sets
me on fire
of a divine and holy ardor.

In your heart
I will make my room,
where only I will ask in return,
that pure and living faith,
that transforms man into You.

In that sacred and star hostel
I will spend my life,
contemplating You, my God,
what a charm you are of love!

I will only enjoy You, my good,
I will only live for you of love,
gazing at the all hours
your infinite beauty.

Sister Carmela of Jesus
"Rest of the Soul in Jesus"
Palermo 1890

Mother Carmela urges
us to follow Jesus on the
way to Calvary:

"Here is your model and
your end: Jesus carrying
heavy wood sets out for
Calvary, to complete the
work of our redemption.
Follow him docile and
silent, embrace the cross
with loving resignation,
kiss with humble
devotion that sacred
banner, which Jesus
offers you as a sign of
recognition and in his
imitation, tread the
bloody path with a sure
foot, climb with him to
the summit of Golgotha
and die with him on the
cross. If you die with
him on the cross, you
will rise with him in
glory".



Testimony of Sister Maria Francesca, born Antonina Coniglio, born in Calatafimi on 2 October 1918. She is a professed nun at the Institute of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of the Incarnate Word.

The Mother Foundress did a lot of penance, but she was always active, dynamic. She founded many houses; I can remember the following: Palermo, Marsala, Rome, Castellammare del Golfo, Cinisi, Calatafimi. Corleone, Sambuca, Villafrati; in Calabria: Cosenza, Cerisano, Spezzano Sila, Castelsilano, Grimaldi. When I met her she was already old, but I heard that she went around the houses of the Congregation a lot as foundress and as superior general. When she went, he brought so much joy to his sisters and to the girls, who welcomed him with enthusiasm. She was playing among them; everyone loved her and when their Mother was around the girls ate together with the nuns ...

Mother was very concerned about the nuns: they always wrote to her and she replied immediately, she did not neglect anyone; in her letters she was very motherly and understanding; she gave so much strength and enthusiasm to the sisters who were in spiritual difficulty... She lived for the glory of the Lord. Her whole life was a continuous sacrifice, immolated in everything to the Lord. I was a novice and I remember her ninety years old in Rome, always very affable, understanding, welcoming to everyone."

(PSV XXXIX SESS. Roma,30marzo 1993)

Prayer for glorification of the Venerable Servant of God

O Jesusincarnate Wisdom of the Father
You that have opened widely the
doors of your Heart to all men
to love you more and more.

Thank you for the gift
of Venerable Mother Carmela
and I ask you, through her intercession,
to increase the Faith in *me*,
Hope and Charity and to grant me
the grace I need but above all
to see her soon raised to
the honors of the altars. Amen.

GLORY TO THE FATHER
(with ecclesiastical approval)

To communicate thanks and
to request relics and images of
Venerable Mother Carmela
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