



CANONIZATION
SAINT HANNIBAL MARY

2004-2024

HOLINESS,
PERFECTION OF CHARITY

This moment of prayer should be celebrated at an appropriate time, involving as far as possible all the members of the Family of the Rogate and extending this moment of thanksgiving to the participation of the faithful according to the spirit of our Constitutions. It is possible to adapt this prayer scheme according to the needs and customs of the various local realities.

ENTRANCE HYMN

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

The one who presides over the celebration addresses the saying:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

GUIDE 1

«Whoever believes in Christ becomes a child of God. This filial adoption transforms him by giving him the ability to follow the example of Christ. It enables him to act righteously and to do good. In union with his Saviour, the disciple attains the perfection of charity, that is, holiness. The moral life, matured in grace, blossoms into eternal life, in the glory of heaven».¹

Holiness is nothing other than the perfection of charity, that is, the fullness of the great and true love for which every heart deeply thirsts. It is a reality offered to all and not an illusion or an abstract and unattainable ideal. The perfection of charity, which is the essence of holiness, is inseparably perfection of faith and hope².

GUIDE 2

The Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* states:

«It is therefore evident to all, that all who believe in Christ of whatever state or rank, are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity, and that such holiness promotes in earthly society itself a more human standard of living. To attain this perfection the faithful should use the strength they have received according to the measure with which Christ wished to bestow it, so that, following his example and becoming conformed to his image, in all obedience to the Father's will, with full generosity they may consecrate themselves to the glory of God and the service of their neighbour. [...] Each one according to his gifts and offices must without delay advance along the path of living faith, which kindles hope and works through charity»³.

GUIDE 3

What the conciliar document states seems to be taken from the life of St. Hannibal Mary.

Twenty years after the canonization of our Founder, we cannot fail to raise our grateful praise to God, the giver of every good, for the great gift he gave to the Church and the city of Messina and, with his canonization, to the whole world.

Annibale Maria Di Francia, by living charity to the last consequences, not only gave a more humane standard of living⁴ to that 'cursed piece of land' but transformed it into a theological place because, driven by his profound faith, he recognized and encountered God in the faces and lives of those who populated the 'Avignone houses'. Driven by the "Great Word", he made Christ's sentiments his own and spent his entire existence for the Rogate, offering every moment of his existence as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (cf. Rom 12:1) to obtain good labourers from the Lord of the harvest⁵.

GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR SUCH A GREAT GIFT, WE RAISE OUR PRAISE TO HIM.

HYMN

The grace that is written with your name
is the Lord's gift to his Church,
Hannibal, a lover of the Gospel,
shepherd, you, of Christ among the nations.

You went to work in the vineyard;
with Christ's benevolent warning
You spurred others to ask the Lord:
"Pray to the master of the harvest!"

1 CCC 1709

2 Cf. FRANÇOIS-MARIE LÉTHEL, *Holiness a universal vocation*, in *Quaderni del Concilio*, n. 23.

3 VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium* (21 November 1964), nn 40 - 41

4 Cf. LG, 40.

5 Cf. Congregation of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus, *Constitutions*, Art. 29

The poor who were your friends
opened to you the doors of his Kingdom,
and you greeted them with the peace
given by the Risen One to his faithful.

You founded in the Cross your knowledge,
you read this book more than any other;
tenacious defender of the afflicted,
Hannibal reminds us of the Lord.

O Father, who in the saints thou art pleased,
we give thee praise for thy Son
on whom thou anointed thyself;
honour, glory and jubilation forever. Amen!

ANTIPHON:

I will raise up for me a faithful priest, says
the Lord; he will work according to my heart
and my desires.

**PSALM 150 - LET PRAISE GO UP FROM
ALL CREATION TO GOD**

Praise the Lord in his sanctuary, *
Praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his wonders, *
Praise him for his immense greatness.

Praise him with trumpet blasts, *
praise him with harp and zither;
Praise him with timpani and dances, *
praise him on strings and flutes.

Praise him with sonorous cymbals, †
praise him with resounding cymbals; *
every living person
give praise to the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, and
now and evermore, * for ever and ever.
Amen.

ANTIPHON:

I will raise up for me a faithful priest, says
the Lord; he will work according to my heart
and my desires.

ANTIPHON:

He proclaimed to men the name of Jesus,
and proclaimed to them the words he had
received from God.

**PSALM 8 - THE GLORY OF GOD AND
THE DIGNITY OF MAN**

O Lord, our God, †
how great is your name over all the earth: *
above the heavens, your magnificence
rises.

With the mouths of babes and suckling †
you assert your power against your adver-
saries, *
to silence enemies and rebels.

If I gaze upon thy sky, the work of thy
fingers, *
the moon and the stars thou hast fixed,

What is man for you to remember, *
the son of man for you to care?

Yet thou hast made him little less than the
angels, *
with glory and honour hast thou crowned
him:

thou hast given him power over the works
of thy hands,
all you have placed under his feet;

all the flocks and herds, * all the beasts of the field;

the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, * which run the ways of the sea.

O Lord, our God, *

how great is your name over all the earth!

ANTIPHON:

He proclaimed to men the name of Jesus, and proclaimed to them the words he had received from God.

ANTIPHON:

Those who keep the word in a good and perfect heart, produce fruit by their perseverance.

PSALM 1 - THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Blessed is the man who does not follow the counsel of the wicked, †

does not linger in the way of sinners * and does not sit in the company of fools;

but rejoices in the law of the Lord, * his law he meditates on day and night.

He will be like a tree planted along streams of water, *

which will bear fruit in its time and its leaves shall never fall; * all its works shall succeed.

Not so, not so the wicked: *

but like chaff which the wind scattered;

therefore shall not the wicked stand in judgment, *

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

The Lord watches over the way of the righteous, *

but the way of the wicked shall go to ruin.

ANTIPHON:

Those who keep the word in a good and perfect heart, produce fruit by their perseverance.

SHORT READING

1 PET 3:1-4

I exhort the elders who are among you, as an elder like them, a witness of Christ's sufferings and a sharer in the glory that is to be manifested: shepherd the flock of God that is entrusted to you, guarding it not by force, but willingly, according to God; not out of vile interest, but with a good heart; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being models of the flock. And when the supreme shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not wither.

RESPONSORY

We give you thanks, Lord, * we invoke your name.

We give you thanks, Lord, we invoke your name.

We tell of your wonders, we invoke your name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

We give you thanks, Lord, we invoke your name

ANTIPHON TO THE MAGNIFICAT

Exemplary priest, father of orphans, defender of the poor, you who put into practice what you taught, pray to the Lord for us.

CANTICLE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

LK 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel

For he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ANTIPHON TO THE MAGNIFICAT

Exemplary priest, father of orphans, defender of the poor, you who put into practice what you taught, pray to the Lord for us.

The one who presides over the celebration addresses the faithful saying:

Dearly beloved, with the same words of our holy Founder we raise our supplication to God the Father, the giver of all good things, that he may send to his Church workers and labourers according to the Heart of Christ just as he gave to the Church Saint Hannibal Mary.

OFFERING OF ONE'S LIFE FOR THE SPIRITUAL GOOD OF THE CITY OF [MESSINA]

The name of the city of Messina is mentioned in square brackets because it can be omitted and each community prays, in the spirit of our Holy Founder, for its own local reality.

IN TWO GROUPS

Eternal God, Creator and Lord of all things, Supreme Master of all your creatures, I prostrate myself with my head in the dust before you. I confess praise, bless and exalt your infinite goodness and your divine attributes.

I would, my God, all things destroy and undo for Your glory! But alas, why can I not love You, why does not everyone love You? Why does not everyone serve You, obey You and please You? All flesh has corrupted its way, and all have become useless; there is not one who does good, there is not even one. Let all the peoples of the earth, O Lord, confess You and give praise to Your Divine Name. Confiteantur tibi populi, Deus, confiteantur tibi populi omnes.

Especially I beseech Thee, O Lord, by the merits of Thy Word, that Thou wouldst look upon, with an eye of mercy, this city that could well be called: the uncompassionate. Bless it and heal it, You who made the nations healable. Sanctify the priests who are in it, You who make your ministers burning fire.

Ah, my Lord and God, how the salt of the earth has been turned to dust! How the lamp has been put under a bushel! How the light of the world has been eclipsed! I wish, O my God, to exercise my priestly ministry in the midst of this people, as Paul the Apostle exercised it in the lands where the Holy Spirit transported him.

I wish first of all to weep always landed in your presence, covered with ashes and cilice, in fasting and prayer to appease your righteous anger, and to implore your abundant mercies.

I would like, O my God, to work day and night for your glory, with study, with preaching, with confessions, with the care of the sick, with the instruction of children, and with every means to win you all souls, working the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of the just.

But alas, my desires are like the desires that kill the lazy! What do you do with me, O my God? Useless servant and useless instrument am I. Send, O Lord, what you must send.

You, who are almighty to raise up sons of Abraham even from the stones; raise up for yourself in this city a faithful priest who will do according to your Heart! From the treasures of your infinite goodness send [to Messina] a true apostle bestowed by your blessings; a priest, pure, chaste, illiberal, simple, meek, sober, just, prudent, full of the Holy Spirit, full of the bowels of mercy, of fortitude and constancy, full of the knowledge of the Saints and of all ecclesiastical doctrine and literary to fulfil his sublime ministry in a manner most worthy of your glory.

I speak as a fool and as an ignoramus, O my God, but You deign to raise up this holy and learned priest and intone to him Your divine command to kill and to eat as You intoned it to Peter, or to unleash and to plant, to destroy and to build as You intoned it to Jeremiah.

Let him in your name bring down the reign of Satan and build up your Kingdom, make you known and loved by all,

reform the clergy, educate the children, guide the virgins, console the afflicted, suffrage the purging souls, shine like the sun through good example, works and evangelical preaching; cast the net of souls so wide that all win them to your love.

I beseech you, O my Jesus, raise up this priest, and all other priests sanctify, and new holy and learned priests raise up numerous [in Messina and] in all the cities and countryside of the world, at all times.

Ah, what do you make of me a miserable sinner? If, in order to raise up this priest after Your Heart, You desire, O my God, the offering of my life, behold, I offer it to You now.

I offer you my life, meagre as it is, and that this offering may be of value in your divine sight, I unite it with the sacrifice of infinite value which your Divine Son made to you with his life, and which is renewed every day in the Holy Mass.

Accept, O most gracious Lord, this offering of mine; make me disappear from the earth and in my place this desired apostle, this faithful priest who will do according to your Heart. Send, O Lord, what you must send.

Yes, I beseech Thee, O my God, accept this change of my useless life; I withdraw, I annihilate myself and give way to one who can better satisfy and glorify You than I. Hear me, O Lord God, for love of your Only-Begotten Son, who thirsts for your glory and the health of souls.

Have mercy on the loving Heart of your Word, which desires holy priests. Fulfill not my prayers, but the prayers, the vows, the desires of that divine Heart in which you find your pleasures.

Ah, if You deign to hear me, O my God, I praise, bless, and thank You from now on, and with all my heart moved with gratitude I exclaim: Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace.

Lord God Almighty, pity the misery of your servant; I speak as a fool; forgive me. Do what pleases you most with the paltry offering I have made to you. Always blessed be your will in which I intend to immerse myself as of now.

Glorify, O my God, your will and your mercy. Amen.

[FROM THE WRITINGS OF SAINT HANNIBAL MARY. VOLUME I - PRAYERS TO THE LORD, 47-49]

HYMN «TE DEUM»

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.

To Thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the powers therein.

To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.

The godly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee.

The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee;

The Father of an infinite Majesty;

Thine honourable, true, and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When Thou tookest upon Thee to deliver man:

Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,

Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants whom

Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in glory everlasting.

○ Lord, save Thy people: and bless Thine heritage.

Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy Name, ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

○ Lord, have mercy upon us.

○ Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in Thee.

○ Lord, in Thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

LET US PRAY

○ God our Father, we thank you and praise you because you call everyone to holiness, and offer us in Saint Hannibal Mary an authentic model of Christian perfection; grant us, through his intercession, to remain ever faithful to your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT HANNIBAL MARY

To the prayer scheme proposed above we add this prayer, which can be recited at any time, either communally or personally.

The one who presides: *With the confidence of children, we turn to our Holy Founder to look upon this 'little caravan', which set out from Avignone and reached the world, and to continue to intercede on its behalf and bless it. [IN TWO GROUPS]*

Saint Hannibal Mary, as we your spiritual sons and daughters remember with joy the twenty years of your canonization, we turn our hearts and prayers to you with deep gratitude and confidence. You were for us all a great example of holiness, a true friend of God. You placed yourself at the service of the harvest in the field of the Lord. With this prayer of ours, we wish to express our filial thanks for your guidance and ask for your help in times of difficulty. We ask you to intercede for us before the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, that we may be inspired by your life and learn from you how to live an authentic, generous and operative faith.

Saint Hannibal, who suffered so much for the children entrusted to your care, for the poor and the abandoned, seeing in them the suffering face of Jesus Christ, we ask you to help us bear our daily trials and tribulations with patience. You who have entrusted yourself totally to God's will with special vows, we ask you to help us accept God's will in our daily lives. Make us realise that our daily sufferings can help purify us and strengthen our communion with Christ who continues to suffer for the salvation of humanity.

Saint Hannibal, you who spent your life devoting prolonged time to prayer and meditation, make us know how to find time every day for intimacy with God and inner silence. Grant that we may face the distractions of the world with fortitude and courage, and make us welcome the voice of the Holy Spirit who speaks in the depths of our hearts. May our prayer be fervent and constant in the face of the abundant harvest and the lack of labourers.

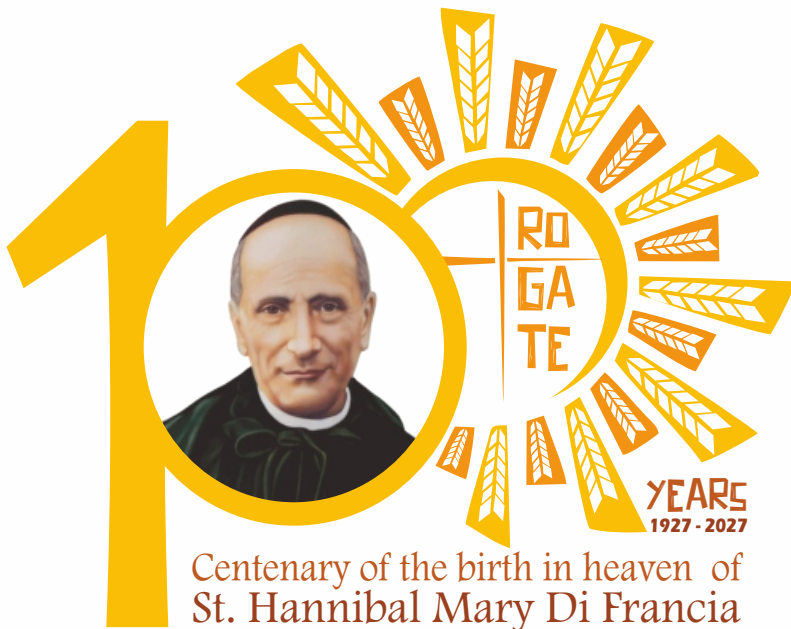
Saint Hannibal, we ask your intercession to obtain the grace of a humble and repentant heart, which always seeks God's mercy. We want to make our own, as you did in your life, the intimate sorrows of the Heart of Christ.

St Hannibal, you placed Jesus in the Eucharist at the centre of your life and the life of our Congregations, teach us to feed on the Body and Blood of Christ with reverence and to live the mystery of the Holy Mass with living faith.

Saint Hannibal, you have passed on to us the devotion to Mary Most Holy as the special card of our Congregations. Help us to put ourselves in the school of this sweetest Mother, to know better the mysteries of Christ's life, to look with her Son's eyes upon the weary and exhausted crowds like sheep without a shepherd, and to implore from the Lord of the harvest Workers for his Kingdom.

Saint Hannibal, you have left us as a spiritual patrimony a special devotion to Saint Anthony, the principal patron and distinguished benefactor of our Congregations, to Saint Joseph, to Saint Michael the Archangel, to the Holy Apostles and to the Heavenly Rogationist and Heavenly Daughters of Divine Zeal. We ask you to strengthen our devotion to them and our commitment to imitate them in our daily lives.

Saint Hannibal, you have indicated for us a particular path of holiness, teaching us to "penetrate the Most Holy Side of Jesus, live within that divine Heart, feel its love, espouse all its interests, sympathize with all its sorrows, participate in its sacrifice, console that Divine Heart by our own sanctification and by acquiring souls for it, especially by obeying that Divine Command that came from the Heart of Jesus, when He said "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore to the Master of the harvest to send labourers into your harvest", we ask you to walk with us and help us to be true missionary apostles of the Rogate with the same sentiments as the Heart of Christ. **Amen.**



Centenary of the birth in heaven of
St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia

“Pray then
to the Lord
of the harvest
to send workers
into his harvest!”

(Mt 9:38)

