



CANONIZATION
SAINT HANNIBAL MARY
16052004 - 16052024



The recognition by the Church of the heroic virtues of St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, commits us to proclaim the sanctity of his life with filial affection. Devotion to him encourages each of us to be faithful guardian of his spiritual heritage and to show the perennial vitality of the zeal for the Rogate and of the burning love for the little ones and the poor.

The annual celebration of St. Hannibal's liturgical solemnity is the occasion to commemorate his holiness and to propose it to the universal Church.

(Constitutions, Art. 21)

HOLINESS: PERFECTION OF CHARITY

This moment of prayer should be celebrated at an appropriate time, involving, as much 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 schema reflecting the needs and customs of local communities.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Presider: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Presider: **The Lord be with you.**
And with your spirit.

Everyone is seated.

Lector 1:

“He who believes in Christ becomes a son of God. This filial adoption transforms him by giving him the ability to follow the example of Christ. It makes him capable of acting rightly and doing good. In union with his Savior, the disciple attains the perfection of charity which is holiness. Having matured in grace, the moral life 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,

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1709

which is the essence of holiness, is inseparably perfection of faith and hope.²

Lector 2:

The Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* states:

“Thus it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society. In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. They must follow in His footsteps and conform themselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. [...] Every person must walk unhesitatingly according to his own personal gifts and duties in the path of living faith, which arouses hope and works through charity.”³

Lector 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.

² Cf. François-Marie Lèthel, *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), 40 – 41.

Hannibal Mary 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 harvest.⁵

Presider: 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!" .

⁴ 4 Cf. LG, 40.

⁵ 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!

Or any suitable song.

Antiphon 1: I will raise up for me a faithful priest, says the Lord;
he will work according to my heart and my desires, alleluia.

Psalm 150

Let praise go up from all creation to God

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,

praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Glory...

Antiphon: I will raise up for me a faithful priest, said the Lord;
he shall work according to my heart and my desires, alleluia.

Antiphon 2: He proclaimed to men the name of Jesus, and
proclaimed to them the words he had received from God, alleluia.

Psalm 8

The Glory of God and the Dignity of Man

How great is your name, O Lord our God,
through all the earth!

Your majesty is praised above the heavens;
on the lips of children and of babes
you have found praise to foil your enemy,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
mortal man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little less than a god;
with glory and honor you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hands,
put all things under his feet.

All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters.

How great is your name, O Lord our God
through all the earth!

Glory...

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

Antiphon 3: Those who keep the word in a good and perfect
heart, produce fruit by their perseverance, alleluia.

Psalm 1

The blessedness of the righteous

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted

beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.
Not so are the wicked, not so!

For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,
nor find room among those who are just;
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory...

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

READING

1 Pet 5:1-4

To the elders among you, I, a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and sharer in the glory that is to be revealed, make this appeal. God's flock is in your midst; give it a shepherd's care. Watch over it willingly, as God would have you do, not under constraint, and not for shameful profit, either, but generously. Be examples to the flock, not lording it over those assigned to you, so that when the chief Shepherd appears, you will win for yourselves the unfading crown of glory.

RESPONSORY

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

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

We tell of your wonders,
— Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
—We give you thanks, Lord, we invoke your name, alleluia,
alleluia.

CANTICLE OF MARY

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

Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

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 for ever.

Glory...

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

The presider then invites everyone to pray with these or similar words:

**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
laborers 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

To be recited by choir:

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.
Long live Jesus and Mary!

*from the Writings of Saint Hannibal Mary.
Volume I - Prayers to the Lord, 47-49.*

TE DEUM

You are God: we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
— Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day we bless you.
— We praise your name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
— Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy,
— for we have put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope:
— And we shall never hope in vain.

PRAYER

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.

Blessing and Dismissal

PRAYER TO SAINT HANNIBAL MARY

To the prayer schema proposed above we add this prayer composed by the Superior General, Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, which can be recited at any time of the day, either communally or personally.

Presider: **With the confidence of children, we turn to our Holy Founder to look upon this 'little caravan', which set out from Avignon and reached the world, and to continue to intercede on its behalf and bless it.**

To be recited by choir:

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 realize 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 laborers.

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 center 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 laborers are few; pray therefore to the Master of the harvest to send laborers 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.

