

131 ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH IN HEAVEN
OF OUR VENERABLE FOUNDER,
FATHER GREGORIO FIORAVANTI



*"In the name of our Lord I begin to write the origin
of the Institute of the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters for the Apostolic Missions with the
aim, not already to give a true history in the strict sense of the word,
but simple Memoirs to serve as history to those who will be destined to extend it ...".*

Father Gregorio

23 January 2025

CELEBRATION OF TRANSIT

Canto: GLORIFICA IL TUO SERVO, GREGORIO!

*Glorifica, glorifica, o Dio, il servo tuo, Gregorio,
glorifica, glorifica la francescana vera santità!*

1. Nascere frammenti dell'amore,
figli di una casa ricca solo di bontà,
poveri, ma pieni di una fede,
che ti dona vie di santità.
Era lui un frammento dell'amore,
figlio di una casa ricca solo di bontà,
pieni della grazia e della fede,
che propone vie di santità. Rit.
2. Vive nel battesimo di Cristo,
e lo veglia lei, la Madre grande di Gesù.
Sente che lo chiama il suo Signore,
sacerdote lo consacrerà.
Figlio di Francesco e della strada,
Cristo lo fa servo nella vera libertà.
Dal suo cuore nasce una famiglia:
tante figlie Dio gli donerà. Rit.
3. Oggi lui cammina per il mondo,
e il suo carisma missionario incontrerà,
tanta gente immersa nel dolore:
oh, con le figlie sue la salverà.
Noi, padre Gregorio, ti preghiamo,
fondaci su Cristo, verità,
donaci entusiasmo nel servire
questa quotidiana umanità.

Guide: *To remember today, 23 January 2025, the 131 years of the birth in Heaven of our Founder, the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti means giving back with praise to the Lord what has been generated by his life and his vocational response. Remember to continue the journey. "As God pleases" was a recurring expression of his, embodied in his existence in a constant search and desire to be faithful and abandoned to the Will of God. In communion with all the sisters of the Congregation, we give thanks to God for Father Gregory, for his life testimony and for his spiritual heritage.*

Celebration of Vespers

Hymn

O Lord our God who made the day
To gladden us with its fair light,
We praise your name, imploring aid,
For day will soon give place to night.

*The evening shadows grow apace,
Advancing, they will hide the sun,*

*As darkness creeps upon the earth
When daylight hours their course have run.*

We beg you, Lord and God Most High,
Protect us with your presence blessed,
Though weary, keep our souls in peace
And not by gloom of night oppressed.

*Let not the setting sun go down
On hearts distressed with sin, and sore,
But sheltered by your gentle grace,
May we behold the day once more.*

To you, O Christ, most kindly King,
And to the Father, glory be,
Praise to the Spirit Paraclete,
In every age, eternally. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALM: *In difficult times, between adverse circumstances and changing scenarios of human will, Father Gregory was the docile instrument in the hands of God so that a new work of good could be accomplished in the Franciscan family.*

Ant. 1 I have made you the light of all nations to carry my salvation to the ends of the earth

PSALM 71, 1-11 (I) The royal power of the Messiah

O God, give your judgment to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgment.

May the mountains bring forth peace for the people
and the hills, justice.
May he defend the poor of the people
and save the children of the needy
and crush the oppressor.

He shall endure like the sun and the moon
from age to age.
He shall descend like rain on the meadow,
like raindrops on the earth.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Before him his enemies shall fall,
his foes lick the dust.
The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

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.

Ant. 1 I have made you the light of all nations to carry my salvation to the ends of the earth

INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALM: *The painful and heroic history of the origins of the Institute, marked strongly by the cross, celebrates the inviting fortitude, the heroic patience, the wisdom and the industriousness of this humble Franciscan, who to the glory of God alone assumed the most unpleasant tasks, he met mortifying protests and threats, in fidelity to the divine will for many young lives dedicated to the mission.*

Ant. 2 The Lord will save the children of the poor and rescue them from slavery.

PSALM 71, 12-19 (II) Kingdom of peace and blessing

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

From oppression he will rescue their lives,
to him their blood is dear.
Long may he live,
may the gold of Sheba be given him.
They shall pray for him without ceasing
and bless him all the day.

May corn be abundant in the land
to the peaks of the mountains.
May its fruit rustle like Lebanon;
may men flourish in the cities
like grass on the earth.

May his name be blessed forever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel,
who alone works wonders,
ever blessed his glorious name.
Let his glory fill the earth. Amen! Amen!

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.

Ant. 2 The Lord will save the children of the poor and rescue them from slavery.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SONG: *Father Gregory, careful to edify and guide first of all by example of dedication to all, served God in silence, without claims of any kind, without personal interests, even when he was led through the trial of loneliness and abandonment. He spent the last years in full hiding, turning his time into prayer and silent offering to the Lord.*

Ant. 3 Now the victorious reign of our God has begun.

Canticle – Revelation 11:17-18; 12:10b-12a - *The judgment of God*

We praise you, the Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was.
You have assumed your great power,
you have begun your reign.

The nations have raged in anger,
but then came your day of wrath
and the moment to judge the dead:
The time to reward your servants the prophets
and the holy ones who revere you,
the great and the small alike.

Now have salvation and power come,
the reign of our God and the authority
of his Anointed One.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who night and day accused them before God.

They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
So rejoice, you heavens,
and you that dwell therein!

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.

Ant. 3 Now the victorious reign of our God has begun.

SHORT READING (1 Pt 1, 22-23)

Since by your obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves so that you can experience the genuine love of brothers, love each other intensely from the heart; for your new birth was not from any perishable seed but from imperishable seed, the living and enduring Word of God.

Guide: let us now remember the transit of our Venerable Founder, Father Gregorio Fioravanti

(From the chronicles and announcements of death communicated to brothers and sisters of the time and by "Heroic Franciscan")

"The bell of the church of S. Maria degli Angeli, that morning, Sunday 21 January, delayed to give the signal of beginning of the S. Mass. Father Gregory was preparing to ascend for the last time that altar which he had ascended for more than thirty-three years with Franciscan piety and devout faith. He entered the presbytery with slow step: his face marked by the traces of another night of pain and insomnia. He was about to lay down on his patena all his life, now consumed in love, between toil and sufferings.

At the end of the Holy Sacrifice, at the last Oremus, his voice became fainter. He penously turned to say: "Ite Missa est!" and it was as if he said: "My sacrifice is also accomplished".

When he was at the last Gospel, he was seen to drown. The lay brother who attended him at the altar raised him up and accompanied him into the sacristy. The paralysis was evident, although, unclothed of sacred vestments, he seemed to recover somewhat. But finally the confessor and the doctor, he came immediately, was persuaded to put to bed in his cell at [the Hospice](#).

The next day, Monday, he thought he was better, he wanted to get up; he wanted to recite all four Canonical Hours in the company of his brother, Father Bernardo. He went down to the ground floor, in the dining room, for lunch he could not eat. Later he was led to his room, but it was not possible, even in the arms of men. He was seated at the moment on the armchair, in the very dining room where he remained inert, immersed in prayer and contemplation of heavenly things; it seemed that he wanted nothing but to exchange the miseries of this earth with the eternal gaudi of Paradise.

In the evening, about 21, all the comforts of our Holy Religion were administered to him: the Holy Viaticum was accompanied by the whole Community, each with a lit candle, and so all the sisters, except the sick ones, could see their good Father for the last time.

Asked by the father Bernardo to bless the Institute and all the Sisters, present and absent, he answered aloud: "Oh, yes, all!"

After midnight he entered into agony. In the early morning of Tuesday, January 23, as soon as the father returned from the S. Conventual Mass, he calmly breathed to peacefully surrender his soul to God.

He died with the smile of the righteous, in the calm of the saint: he was 71 years and 9 months, 55 as a religious and Franciscan priest, and more than 33 spent with us.

Sister M. Delfina faithful spokesman of the Community, expressed so all the anguish and the confusion of the spiritual Family, suddenly deprived of Him who had been its heart: "Affrante as we are from pain, it is almost impossible to connect thoughts..." The Father, the Founder, the savior of the Institute had died. Who would have consoled them with such loss?

He himself from Heaven! He who had said, with a voice of fatherly sweetness, dying, to want to bless and always assist her from up there.

The gates of heaven were opened to the good and faithful Servant, inviting him to the joy of his Lord.

But on earth how much sadness the Convent of S. Maria degli Angeli in Gemona was wrapped up! The Father is dead! There he is, placid, serene in the humble Franciscan habit, wrapped in a white rope, in a sleep of peace, while his daughters crown him with tears and prayers.

The Sisters watched over their relics for two days and then they accompanied them to the Cemetery, in the midst of a large crowd of priests and people.

As a sign of veneration, the coffin was lowered into the tomb of the priests on the right of the church that guards the cemetery.

To the daughters who remember him with pity and love, the Angel of the Resurrection says, as it was said to the pious women of Jesus:

"He is not here! Seek him in his work, in the examples of his holy life, seek him in his heroism, paternal and loving for all of you... Seek him in Heaven, for from earth to Heaven his flight was swift and safe".

RESPONSORY

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall want for nothing.

— *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall want for nothing.*

He has brought me to green pastures.

— *I shall want for nothing.*

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

— *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall want for nothing.*

Ant. If you hunger for holiness, God will satisfy your longing, good measure, and flowing over.

SONG OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN - Lk 1, 46-55 - The joy of the soul 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 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.

Ant. If you hunger for holiness, God will satisfy your longing, good measure, and flowing over.

INTERCESSIONS

God has established his people on the foundation of hope. With grateful heart for the life and witness of Father Gregory, we salute:

You are our hope, O Lord.

1. We thank you, Lord, for the gift of your servant, the venerable Father Gregory, who lived according to the Gospel in the constant search for peace, unity and love for the Church and our religious family,
- *give us the grace, in this Jubilee year, to follow his example as pilgrims of hope for the good of the Congregation and of the people you place on our path, always and only to the glory of your name.*

Let us pray.

2. We praise God for the wonders you have accomplished in the life of our Founder, the Venerable Father Gregory: in the days of his earthly pilgrimage you guided him to contemplate and live heroically the mystery of your Son, crucified for love,

- *grant us the grace to keep his teachings and put into practice the legacy and charism that he has passed on to us for the continuity of our mission in the Church.* **Let us pray.**

3. We bless you God because you wanted your servant, the Venerable Father Gregory to walk on the paths of our seraphic Father Saint Francis, inspiring our first sisters to embrace minority, poverty and constant hope for the future,

- *Help us to revive the grace of our origins, remembering the roots of our foundation, to be authentic witnesses of our charism in all our missionary realities.* **Let us pray.**

4. We glorify you, Lord, for having guided our religious family on the steps of Divine Providence,

- *make open and attentive the hearts of other young women, so that by listening to your voice and sharing the charism transmitted by our Founders, Laura Leroux and Fr. Gregorio, they consecrate themselves to your redemptive love and follow you with generosity on the way of the evangelical counsels.* **Let us pray.**

5. Merciful God, we turn to you to invoke the great gift of peace for humanity wounded by so much violence. We also entrust to you all the sick, and in particular our sisters, together with all those who are going through the experience of pain: may they experience that you are protector and guardian;

- *we also entrust ourselves to the intercession of the sisters who have preceded us, may they enjoy the fullness of Your Love.* **Let us pray.**

Our Father.

Prayer

God, you who enlighten the Church with the example of your saints and have given grace to your venerable servant Father Gregorio Fioravanti to follow until the end the poor and humble Christ, grant us to revive fidelity to the vocation and to the congregational charism, to reach the perfect charity of your Son Jesus. He is God and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us, preserve us from all evil and lead us to eternal life.
R. Amen

Canto: MERAVIGLIOSA PROVVIDENZA

1. Guardate i gigli splendenti dei campi,
nessuno semina, o per loro miete
eppure nulla esiste di più bello sulla terra.
La vita nostra non si lasci al caso
E non domandi a Dio tanti perché;
ha misteriose ed infinite vie la Provvidenza.

**Rit. Meravigliosi i tratti della provvidenza:
Dio tutto guida e sostiene
come padre, con amore e sapienza.**

A un santo frate una nobil donna,
domanda guida nel discernimento,
con delle giovani vuole darsi a Dio per le Missioni.
Nasce così un umile germoglio nel grande albero di S. Francesco:
del Sacro Cuor le suore Francescane Missionarie. **Rit.**

3. La Provvidenza sa e guarda lontano,
mediante gli occhi dei due fondatori,
dirige il cuore delle umili sorelle a dare Amore.
Dal cuor di Cristo attingono ogni giorno,
la forza creatrice dell'Amore, che vuol raggiunger
e rigenerare ogni creatura. **Rit.**

4. Quante sorelle offrono la vita, da quel lontano benedetto giorno,
per dare linfa, che porti degni frutti a Dio graditi.
La strada è segnata della croce, vero sigillo di autenticità:
è nella prova che trovi letizia in sé perfetta. **Rit.**

5. Oggi sian certi dopo tanti anni Che questa vera opera è di Dio,
che contempliamo nel ricordo avvinti con stupore.
E con Francesco nel seguir Gesù, vogliam portare
a questa umanità, l'amor che sgorga dal cuore
di Cristo, Fonte Viva. **Rit.**