



- **In front of the Church of the Immaculate Conception**
(Rome, Via Veneto)

G.: We are in front of the place where the remains of Father Giusto da Camerino rest. He was Consultor of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, which, at that time, had been put in-charge by the Holy See, of the study of the new Religious Institutes and Constitutions in view of their approval.

Let us begin our pilgrimage by invoking the Holy Spirit

Canon: Veni Sancte Spiritus, Veni per Mariam

This is how Father Giusto da Camerino expressed himself with regard to our Constitutions:

“...It seems to the undersigned that the present Rules are totally in conformity with the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church, well indicated to lead the Religious on the path of Christian Perfection, and to reach the main purpose of their vocation in order to educate girls

especially the poor class. A spirit of prudence and discretion can be seen in these Regulations, to favour that peace, harmony and fraternal charity reign among the Sisters. Sufficient precautions are found there to prevent the dissipation of their spirit in the midst of distracting occupations; and to keep far away from the Sisters the contagion of the bad example of the world, and that they are not attacked by the worldly dust. Therefore, this writer is of the opinion that the present Rules, after the necessary modifications, could be approved by the Holy See" (*Consultation for a particular Congregation* - Rome December 1845).



G.: Let us enter the Church and pray at the tomb of Card. Giusto da Camerino.

Before leaving, the Marian hymn Tota Pulchra is sung

Tota pulchra es Mari-a. Tota pulchra es Mari-a. Et macula originalis non est in te.

Et macula originalis non est in te. Tu glori-a Jerusalem. Tu laeti-ti-a I-sra-el.

Tu honorificentia populi nostri. Tu advocata peccato-rum. O Ma-ri-a,

O Ma-ri-a. Virgo prudentissima. Mater clementissima. Ora pro nobis.

Intercede pro no-bis ad Dominum Jesum Chri-stum.

- **On leaving the Church of the Immaculate Conception** (Rome, Via Veneto)

G.: This is how Father Giusto da Camerino exhorted us, once our Institute and the Constitutions were approved:

“May the excellent Sisters of St. Ann permit me to congratulate them for the happy event of the approval of their Institute and its Rules which the Holy See has granted with singular favour. During the long and careful examination I made of this Holy Institute by order of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, my heart rejoiced to see a new feature of Divine Providence, for its Church; a new group of devout virgins, co-operators in the apostolate, of educating in a Christian way the daughters of the masses. Oh, what lovely hopes spring up from the birth of their order!....

Knowing your virtues, outstanding piety and the holy zeal with which you attend to all the works of charity, I hesitated for sometime, whether I should give you my suggestions or not; but your tender mother, and generous Foundress, the most pious Marchioness of Barolo, knowing the depth of the goodness and kindness of your heart, assured me that my advice would be well appreciated by you and would be useful for your spiritual benefit. After such encouragement I did not hesitate any more to place before you the following reflections:

1. Knowing that God calls you to practise works of charity towards the poor, and especially to educate the poor young girls in a Christian way, you should always have as maxim that you cannot serve Jesus Christ in a better way than by being engaged with the poor classes so dear to Him. May it be far from your thoughts to train yourselves in studies or arts for the higher classes. If you will be called by the Bishops for other works of charity, may they always be for the benefit of the poor. If at all (God forbid it) with the passing of time, the Sisters of St. Ann forgetting the fundamental purpose of the Institute should dedicate themselves to the education of the rich or noble classes, may they know that this would be a sure sign of the decadence of the Institute. [...]

2. May the Sisters of St. Ann receive with respect the present Constitutions, approved by the Holy See, after they have been wisely

revised and reformed by order of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. The exact observance of these rules and assimilation of the spirit of the Institute, along with the practice of charity towards one's neighbour is the sure way to sanctify oneself.

3. [...] Having no other desire but to do good and to do it for the glory of God, they should not then imagine themselves to be in the presence of a terrible judge, but before a loving Father. In their frequent communications with secular persons they should attract them to God by their simplicity, pleasantness and sweetness and show them how sweet it is to serve Him.

4. Thus may the characteristic virtues of the Sisters of St. Ann be, sweetness, pleasantness and evangelical simplicity, in order to make their ministry loved. This word 'Ministry' might seem too strong for simple women; but it could also be adapted in a certain sense; because they have to combine a special apostolate to the duties of maternity towards the souls of their students. And in as much as the love of God is more sublime than natural love, so also should their zeal be more perfect for the poor daughters entrusted to their care.

5. I hope venerable Sisters, that it won't be displeasing to you if I manifest to you the picture that I have formed in my mind of a true Sister of St. Ann of Providence. With her mind and heart always in God, always with a cheerful countenance, fully immersed in self denial. She should endeavour to please God always, working always for His glory. Then at the end of her mortal career without regrets, and full of merits, she will fly to heaven to receive from the hands of her Heavenly Spouse the most radiant crown of glory.....

(Letter of Fr. Giusto da Camerino, Rome, 28th March 1846).

- **Route till Piazza di Spagna, from the Church of the Immaculate Conception to the obelisk with the statue of the Immaculate Conception.**

"I know that to reach such a blessed end easily you need many graces, which you should ask for incessantly from Jesus Christ. But you know

very well how much the intercession of the Mother of God is needed to obtain them abundantly. I exhort you therefore to grow more and more in devotion to Mary Most Holy, procuring also to instil it in the hearts of the tender young girls entrusted to your care.

I conclude assuring you that as long as I am alive, I will never cease through my humble prayers to recommend your holy Institute to Our Lady, so that with her valid patronage the Sisters of St. Ann may always grow in the richness of grace and virtue and grow also in number to be able to multiply houses and establishments in many other Dioceses”.



G.: We entrust ourselves to Mary Immaculate, and in this first lap of our itinerary, we shall pray two mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

- **Halt at the obelisk of the Immaculate Conception**

G.: Before this image so dear to the people of Rome and to the Holy Father, let us pray for him and according to his intentions. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

- **At the beginning of Via della Croce**

G.: We stop near the place where our Foundress stayed during the time she was in Rome for the approval of the Institute and we listen to Silvio Pellico's narration about that journey of the Marchioness Giulia:

“Since the necessary trial period of some years for the Institutes of the Sisters of St. Ann and of the Magdalenes was completed, she [the Marchioness] considered it was now time to go to Rome to make them known to the Holy See and to ask for Pontifical approval. She discussed this opinion with the Archbishop, he deemed it good, and the pious

Foundress got ready for the journey. She was not dismayed to learn that such solemn approvals were very difficult to obtain, and that recently the Holy See had refused it to some respectable Congregations, existing for many years... The Supreme Pontiff used to grant to similar Religious Bodies a kind of minor authorization, called laude, but he hesitated to pronounce a definitive judgment. Despite the examples, either of no success, or of unsatisfactory results, the Marchioness did not want to neglect that important step, **eagerly seeking, if it was pleasing to God, to consolidate those beloved establishments and to draw upon them more abundant blessings.**

[...] When the Marchioness of Barolo arrived [in Rome], **she rented a beautiful two-storied house, along with the ground floor, in Via della Croce near Piazza di Spagna**; I said goodbye to my Reverend hosts [the Jesuits], and came to stay with my benefactress.

Cardinal Lambruschini was known to her, she had seen him in Paris when he held the office of Apostolic Nuncio in that capital. Now for several years Gregory XVI had entrusted him with the greatest responsibility of all, that of Secretary of State. The Marchioness went to introduce herself to the Cardinal, to explain to him the reason for her coming, and the venerable old man welcomed her with the most particular honours and with paternal affection, neither did these demonstrations diminish later on. The merit of the petitioner was clear to him and he was able to discern and evaluate that of the Institutes in question. However, he declared that **the obstacles were great**, and that it was difficult that they would be overcome in the circumstances that prevailed. He was soon prompt to come and pay a visit to the Marchioness, and he told her that he had spoken with earnestness to the Holy Father, and found him full of esteem for her and for her works; but **the obstacles foreseen were really many and it would perhaps take a long time to get through them.** She, not desiring anything but the **fulfillment of the divine will**, did not however feel disheartened and **considered it her duty to persist in taking the appropriate steps to bring to completion the issue.**



All the other Cardinals whom she visited and consulted gave her the best welcome, none however concealed **the serious impediments that were arising towards the good outcome of her request.** (from *The Marchioness Giulia Falletti of Barolo nee Colbert, Memoires of Silvio Pellico*, pgs.96-98)

- **Walking down Via della Croce**

G.: Let us walk along Via della Croce praying the 3 decades of supplication of the Chaplet of Merciful Love, re-living the sentiments of our Foundress as she implored the grace of approval, and let us feel strongly compelled to implore the grace of fidelity for each one of us and for each of our Sisters.

- **Along Lungo Tevere**

G.: We shall cover the stretch of the road along the Tiber, in silence. The pace of our steps and our breath are in unison with the rhythm of our personal prayer for the Church, for the Institute, for the LASA Family and for the beneficiaries of our mission...

- **Before the beginning of Via della Conciliazione** (in front of the statue of St. Catherine of Siena)

G.: Before the last stretch that separates us from St. Peter's Basilica, we continue with Silvio Pellico's narration of the audiences granted by Pope Gregory XVI to our Foundress

"The Holy Father was considerate in granting her an audience, he listened to her words with the affection that one could expect, and replied so kindly that she seemed to see some ray of hope shining through. But the Pope, hearing that she was confident of obtaining a complete approval, did not leave her with this consoling idea, and said

that after the Cardinals had made an examination of the Institutes of St. Ann and of the Magdalenes, he hoped to be able to give the *laude*, but not immediately the approval. – **Oh Holy Father!** She exclaimed with a surge of filial confidence, **the *laude* is much more than we deserve, but it is not enough for me.**

At that cry from the heart, the venerable Pontiff smiled and assured her of all his good will.

[Card. Lambruschini] therefore presided over the delegation of examiners, who were, besides himself, Cardinals Ostini, Bianchi and Polidori. The preparatory work on the things to be discussed was entrusted to Rev. Fr. Giusto Recanati da Camerino of the Capuchin Order, who was later made a Cardinal. Fr. Giusto was a Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, a man of very refined intelligence and holy fame, held in great esteem by Gregory XVI and Pius IX. Monsignor Corboli had some part in that affair and was not in favour; but this and other oppositions gradually disappeared. One day the Marchioness of Barolo was in the Church of St. Peter in Chains, and I was with her. We had understood that Fr. Giusto was there and she asked to speak to him for a moment. He came to grant her an audience in a secluded place, and told her that the issue in question was proceeding satisfactorily, having no doubt that the two Institutes would receive the *Laude*. **What!** The Marchioness replied with her usual frankness, **the *Laude*? I do not want it, I do not want it. She renewed her requests energetically, with eloquent reasons, with all the exuberance of a hope that nothing could extinguish.** The holy religious was shaken by it, and promised to continue to work hard, as much as he could, to support her cause. **There is no doubt that that magnanimous hope that she nurtured,** despite so many strong manifestations against her desire, **did not but come from heaven. She prayed much, and**



although very busy with visits, with many types of duties, with letters she received and wrote, **she did not miss the opportunity to take part in the Stations, processions, the particular Church celebrations in honour of the Saints, and most of all adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altars.**

[...]

When it **finally pleased God that all the minds of the examiners would come to an agreement in favour of those Institutes**, the Rules and Constitutions were revised with the modifications that they deemed appropriate, and **received complete approval** to the great wonder of many who had thought it was impossible.

[The excellent Cardinal Ostini, who from the beginning was one of those most contrary (for which the Marchioness used to say jokingly, that the name Ostini was the root of the word obstinate) had in fact changed. It is said that one evening he went to announce to her the good result fully achieved. She was filled with inexpressible jubilation and **she threw herself on her knees to bless God who had consoled her so much, and to pray to him that the authorization of the Vicar of J.C. would make those two fortunate Institutes grow in virtue.** She therefore turned with deep gratitude to thank the Cardinal].

The venerable Lambruschini also came to her, and oh! how lively and tender were the words of gratitude that the exultant lady addressed to him who had given her such great support. Each of the other Cardinals was also moved by the gratitude that she expressed to them. All called her a new St. Paola. What then did she not say when she obtained an audience with the Vicar of our Lord? He renewed to her his most paternal support and most extensive blessings for her, for her daughters, for her home, for all her works.

[...]

... we finally arrived in Turin on 6th May 1846, and **it was a day of joy for the poor and for all those who knew how to appreciate the distinguished benefactress of so many people. Above all, immense was the consolation of the Magdalenes and of the Sisters of St. Ann, who owed her such a great debt and such a desired benefit, which had**

cost her such long and tiring vigils and concern. The tenderness of her maternal heart felt their affections with great pleasure, and this compensated her abundantly for all that she had suffered. (from *The Marchioness Giulia Falletti of Barolo nee Colbert, Memoires of Silvio Pellico*, pgs. 98-105).

*Let us sing the refrain: **Laudate omnes gentes***

- **Along Via della Conciliazione**

G.: Let us pray the 3 decades of thanksgiving of the Chaplet of Merciful Love.

- **Outside the Porch of St. Peter's Basilica**

Decree of Approval of the Institute

The Supreme Pontiff, His Holiness Pope Gregory XVI, having examined carefully the letter of recommendation of Most Rev. Archbishop of Turin, and having heard some Rev. Cardinals, delegates of the Sacred Congregation for Bishops and Regulars, has approved and confirmed the Institute of the Sisters of St. Ann founded in the year 1834, in the Diocese of Turin, by the most pious Marchioness Falletti of Barolo, belonging to the Colbert family, and their Rules and Constitutions as contained in the copy mentioned above. In order that the Sisters referred to may strive actively towards the established goal and with the passing of time may bring forth more abundant fruits, he extends to them by special grace all the indulgences which the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, enjoy by the indults of the Apostolic See; observing the form and tenor of the same indults. His Holiness grants his consent so that the present Decree be drawn up as an Apostolic Letter in the form of a Brief.

Granted at Rome by the Sacred Congregation for Bishops and Regulars, on 8th March 1846.

P. Carlo Ostini Prefect

“Brief” of Pontifical Approval of the Institute and its Rules

IN THE PERPETUAL MEMORY OF THE FACT. [...] Therefore among the works of Christian charity those comprising of the education of little boys and little girls, especially of the poorest classes deserves special praise as they are so much exposed to falling into vices due to the lack of education. The Society of the Sisters of St. Ann should be numbered among these eminent works of Christian charity that the beloved daughter in Jesus Christ Marchioness Giulia Falletti of Barolo of the Colbert family, laudable for her outstanding faith, virtue and generosity, had already established in Turin right from the year 1834, with illustrious example of charity, at her own expense. This Society has as its aim the education of little children of humble conditions, in piety and in every type of work convenient to their state, and to give themselves for any service of charity to which they may be called. We, who are placed in the most high apostolate by the inscrutable will of God, with no merit of our own, we have at heart that children at that early age be kept away from the seduction of vices and be motivated to virtue. We commend the thoughts and actions of the most pious lady Foundress of this work and strongly exhort the Sisters of this Institute to persevere courageously in the hard work begun, striving to enkindle love for piety and for virtue in the young students. [...] **Sustained therefore by sure hope** that with the help of divine grace this society will produce abundant fruits, for the desire we have to bestow with particular beneficence all the persons considered in this document, [...] **we approve and confirm with our apostolic authority the Institute of the Sisters of St. Ann and their Constitutions and Rules, [...] and we command that these be observed by all the Sisters of the Institute.** [...]

Given in Rome at St. Peter's, under the seal of the Fisherman, on the 3rd day of April 1846, the 16th year of our Pontificate.

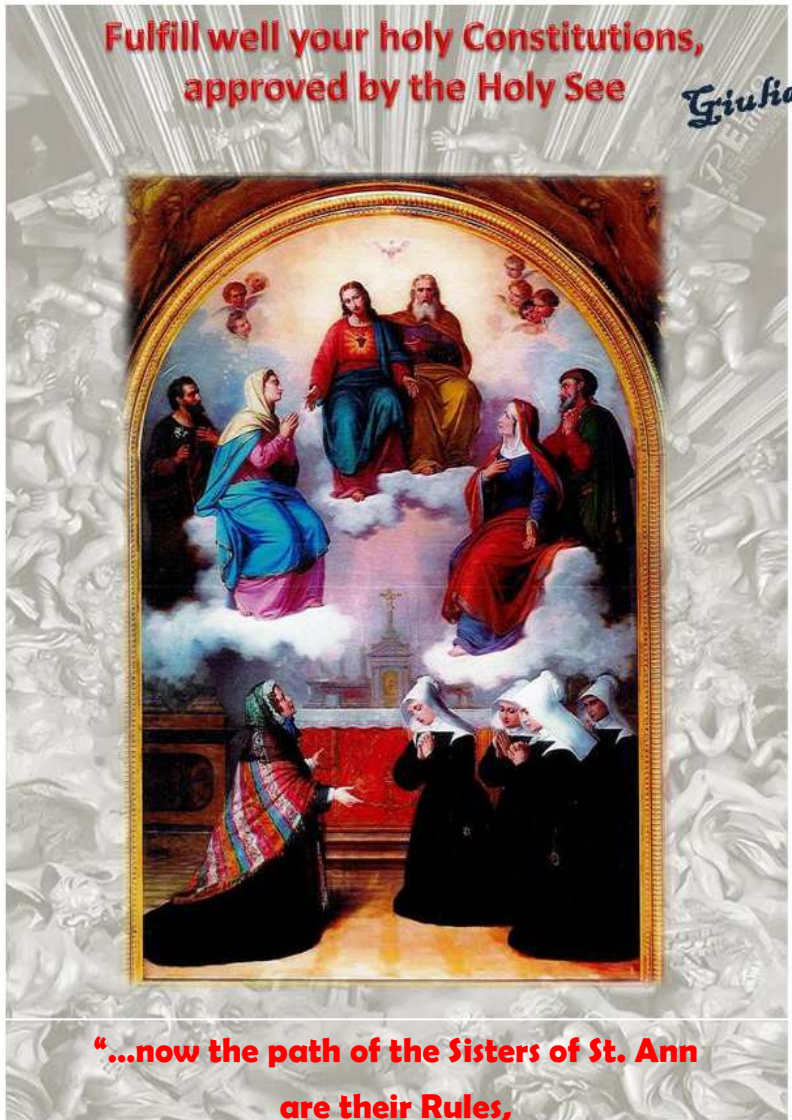
A. CARD. LAMBRUSCHINI

- **Before the Tomb of Pope Gregory XVI**

Silent personal prayer

- **Before the Altar of Confession**

For the intentions of the Holy Father: Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be



**along which they should advance from virtue to virtue
till they reach the goal of seeing their eternal Spouse...”**

(Const. 1846, art. 152)