

INTERCESSIONS

Let us turn to Jesus the Redeemer, who made Bartolomea and Vincenza His true followers, and implore Him:

– *Lord Jesus, you are our joy and our Redeemer.*

May all the pastors of the Church, and all the Religious listen to your Word

– may they be true witnesses of your love and faithful imitators of your virtues.

Make us sensitive to the needs of our brethren and above all of the youth, the sick and the sinners.

– help us to do everything possible, to suffer everything and even to shed our blood for them.

May “charity, sweetness and humility” which was your glory, become also our characteristic virtues,

– and “grant that we be recognized as your true daughters”, O Christ, our Redeemer.

Grant that we may always unite “our active life with the contemplative life.

– and thus teach others what we have learnt from you in prayer”.

Give eternal rest to our departed sisters,

– and gather in your kingdom all the faithful who have died with the hope of resurrection.

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant O Merciful Lord, that the feast of the Holy Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza may be for us a reminder of our commitment in life, so that faithful to their teaching, we may spend ourselves generously in the service of our brethren; and imitating their example, we may in all and above all seek You, our only and supreme Good.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY VIRGINS ST. BARTOLOMEA CAPITANIO AND ST. VINCENZA GEROSA

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST LITURGY OF THE HOURS

18 May



Milano, casa generalizia

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Sir 39:14

Put forth blossoms like the lily.
Scatter the fragrance, and sing a hymn of praise:
bless the Lord, all his works. Alleluia!

COLLECT

Grant, O merciful Lord,
that the feast of the holy virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza may be for us a
reminder of our commitment in life. Faithful to their teaching, may we
spend ourselves generously in the service of our brethren; following the
example of these saints may we in everything and above everything, seek
You, the sole and supreme Good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever
and ever.

FIRST READING

Rev 19: 1,5-9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Blessed are those who are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

I, John, heard what seemed to be the mighty voice of a great
multitude in heaven crying: “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power
belong to our God”.

And from the throne came a voice crying: “Praise our God, all you
his servants, you who fear him, small and great”.

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the
sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals crying:
“Alleluia! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and
exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and
his bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine
linen, bright and pure”.

For the linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing. *(R)*

3 Ant. You have redeemed us O Lord with your blood,
You have made of us a kingdom to our God, alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

Rom 12:10-13, 15-16

Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in
showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the
Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Rejoice with those
who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another;
do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited.

SHORT RESPONSE

cf. Eph 4: 3-4

V. Let us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, alleluia,
alleluia.

Let us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace alleluia, alleluia.

R. There is one body and one Spirit, for we are called to one hope.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
*Let us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, alleluia,
alleluia.*

Ant. Whatever you did to the least of my brethren, you did it to me.
Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom which was
prepared for you. from the foundation of the world, alleluia.

THE MAGNIFICAT

His works are justice and truth:
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever.
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant for ever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last for ever!

2 Ant. The Lord has redeemed His people,
He has established an eternal covenant with us, alleluia.

3 Ant. You have redeemed us O Lord with your blood,
You have made of us a kingdom to our God, alleluia.

HYMN OF THE REDEEMED

Rev. 4:11; 5: 9,10,12

R. To the Lamb of God, be glory, honour and power,

Worthy are you, our Lord and God
to receive glory and honour and power. *(R)*

For you created all things,
And by your will they existed and were created. *(R)*

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to take up the scroll and to open its seals. *(R)*

For you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed men for God
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. *(R)*

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,
and we shall reign on earth. *(R)*

And an Angel said to me: “Write this; blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”.

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM 148

R. *By my life, o Lord, I sing your praise.*

or

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his hosts!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and rulers of all the earth!
Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

His name alone is exalted,
His glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up the power of his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.

SECOND READING

Col 3:12-17

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

Above all put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of

Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 31-40

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me.

At that time Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me’.

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me!’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice. *
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its fruit *
for God, our God, has blessed us.
May God still give us his blessing *
till the ends of the earth revere him.

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

1 Ant. The charity of Christ urges us:
Christ has died and has risen for all, alleluia.

2 Ant. The Lord has redeemed His people,
He has established an eternal covenant with us, alleluia.

GREAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD

Psalm 110 (111)

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God, the Almighty.

(Rev 15:3)

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders,
the Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

HYMN Let us exalt the wise virgins,
all glowing with holy fervour;
they are our guides, our models,
our beacon light on our pathway.

Oh! How good and how sweet,
to be daughters of mothers so great,
like them let us offer ourselves to the Lord,
to serve our needy brethren.

Let everything in us be a song of joy,
to Jesus our Spouse divine:
He who finds his delight among the lilies,
and whose heart overflows to the simple.

At eventide while the sun declines,
and darkness spreads over the earth
with you, O saints we raise to the Lord,
our prayer most fervent.

Everlasting glory to you O God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
To you rises the song of Virginal hearts,
to you the hymn of all the redeemed.

1 Ant. The charity of Christ urges us:
Christ has died and has risen for all, alleluia.

ALL THE PEOPLES WILL GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD

Psalm 66 (67)

Let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles.

(Acts 28: 28)

O God be gracious and bless us *
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth *
and all nations learn your saving help.

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the gifts we bring to your altar on the feast of saints Bartolomea and
Vincenza be acceptable to you, O Lord. May their intercession increase the
effectiveness of this offering, winning for us an ever more lively piety.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

“Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from
the foundation of the world”. Alleluia!

POST COMMUNION

Father, may the sacrament we have received assist us to produce fruits of
charity and good works. When called to the marriage feast of the Lamb,
may we hasten with our lamps lighted to meet Christ the Lord and share in
the joy of his kingdom for ever. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

EVENING PRAYER - I

V. O God, come to our assistance.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN Let us exalt the wise virgins,
all glowing with holy fervour;
they are our guides, our models,
our beacon light on our pathway.

Oh! How good and how sweet,
to be daughters of mothers so great!
Like them let us offer ourselves to the Lord,
to serve our needy brethren.

Let everything in us be a song of joy,
to Jesus our Spouse divine:
He who finds his delight among the lilies,
and whose heart overflows to the simple.

At eventide while the sun declines,
and darkness spreads over the earth
with you, O saints we raise to the Lord,
our prayer most fervent.

Everlasting glory to you O God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
To you rises the song of Virginal hearts,
to you the hymn of all the redeemed.

1 Ant. Rejoice in the living God, O Virgins of Christ, bless Him forever
in His holy temple, alleluia.

AFTERNOON

Ant. I ardently thirst for Christ, with Christ, I want to remain forever,
alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

Song of Songs 8:6

Set me as a seal upon your heart as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong
as death. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a flame of the Lord.

V. My beloved to me, and I to Him, alleluia.

R. He feeds among the lilies, alleluia.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant O Merciful Lord, that the feast of the Holy Virgins Bartolomea
and Vincenza may be for us a reminder of our commitment in life, so that
faithful to their teaching, we may spend ourselves generously in the service
of our brethren; and imitating their example, we may in all and above all
seek You, our only and supreme Good.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and
ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

* * * * *

EVENING PRAYER II

V. O God, come to our assistance.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end
Amen. Alleluia.

For the sceptre of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil, drive them away!
On Israel, peace!

BEFORE NOON

Ant. The Virgin is concerned with the things of the Lord, to be holy in
body and in spirit, alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

2Cor 8:9

*Christ, though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty
you might become rich.*

V. Blessed are the poor in spirit, alleluia.

R. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven alleluia.

MIDDAY

Ant. Let us live with sobriety, justice and piety in this world, awaiting
the blessed hope, alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

Phil 4:8.9

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is
pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if
there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things, and the God of
peace will be with you.

V. Holy Virgins, bless the Lord, alleluia.

R. It is He, who has chosen and enriched you with His gifts, alleluia.

LONGING FOR GOD'S TEMPLE

Psalm 83(84)

For here we have no lasting city, but we look for the one in the life to come.

(Heb 13:14)

How lovely is your dwelling place, *
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning, *
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy *
to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home *
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
She lays her young by your altars, *
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, *
for ever singing your praise,
They are happy, whose strength is in you, *
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

As they go through the bitter valley *
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength. *
They will see the God of gods in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer, *
Give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, *
look upon the face of your anointed.

One day within your courts *
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God *
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield; *
He will give us his favour and glory. ___

The Lord will not refuse any good*
to those who walk without blame.

Lord, God of hosts, *
happy the man who trusts in you!

1 Ant. Rejoice in the living God, O Virgins of Christ, bless Him forever
in His holy temple, alleluia.

2 Ant. Whoever humbles himself like a little child will be the greatest in
the kingdom of heaven, alleluia.

CHILDLIKE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Psalm 130 (131)

Learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.

(Mt 11:29)

O Lord, my heart is not proud *
nor haughty my eyes,
I have not gone after things too great *
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul †
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast, *
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord *
both now and for ever.

2 Ant. Whoever humbles himself like a little child will be the greatest in
the kingdom of heaven, alleluia.

3 Ant. Poor and humble with Christ on earth, the holy Virgins enter
heaven for the eternal marriage feast of the Lamb, alleluia.

CHRIST THE SERVANT OF GOD

Canticle: Phil 2:6-11

R. *Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. **(R)**

GREETINGS TO THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM

Psalm 121 (122)

*You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem.* (Heb 12:22)

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house'.
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name,
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

THE LORD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE

Psalm 24 (125)

Peace and mercy upon the Israel of God

(Gal 6:16)

Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever.

Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people both now and for ever.

BEFORE NOON

Ant. The Virgin is concerned with the things of the Lord, to be holy in body and in spirit, alleluia.

MIDDAY

Ant. Let us live with sobriety, justice and piety in this world, awaiting the blessed hope, alleluia.

AFTERNOON

Ant. I ardently thirst for Christ, with Christ, I want to remain forever, alleluia.

THE GUARDIAN OF ISRAEL

Psalm 120 (121)

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat

(Apoc 7:16)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help ?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

He emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men. (R)

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross. (R)

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name. (R)

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth. (R)

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (R)

3 Ant. Poor and humble with Christ on earth, the holy Virgins enter heaven for the eternal marriage feast of the Lamb, alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

Col 3: 12,14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

SHORT RESPONSE

Lev 11:44; cf. Rev 22: 11

R. Be holy, for I am holy, alleluia, alleluia.
Be holy, for I am holy, alleluia, alleluia..

V. He who is holy, let him make himself holier still.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Be holy, for I am holy, alleluia, alleluia.

Ant. The Virgins of Christ exult in the kingdom of God: in white garments they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, alleluia.

THE MAGNIFICAT

The soul exults in the Lord

My soul glorifies the Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness; *
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. *
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, *
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength *
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones *
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things, *
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, *
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit, *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end Amen.

Ant. The Virgins of Christ exult in the kingdom of God: in white garments they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

With living confidence let us turn to Christ the Lord, who has exalted Virginité chosen for the kingdom of God; in joyful praise of Him, who in the virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza, has given us two sublime models of holiness, let us raise, with praise to Him, our ardent supplication:

– *Christ Jesus, King and spouse of Virgins, hear our prayer.*

Lk 1: 46–55

MIDDAY

HYMN The hour of sext invites us,
to praise the Lord our God,
let us then sing to Him,
with fervour of spirit.

At this hour on Golgotha,
the true Paschal Lamb was slain,
Christ paid the price,
of our salvation.

Before His resplendent glory,
even the sun becomes obscure,
so let His grace shine,
in the intimacy of our hearts.

Praise to the Father and the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit
To God Triune and one
for endless ages. Amen.

AFTERNOON

HYMN Lord God, the strength which daily upholds all creation,
in yourself remaining unchanged
and yet determining in due order
the successive changes of the light of day.

Grant us light in the evening
so that life may not decay at any point of its activity,
but everlasting glory be the immediate reward
of a happy death.

Grant this, most loving Father,
and you, the only Son, equal to the Father
and, with the Spirit, the Paraclete,
reigning through the ages. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant O Merciful Lord, that the feast of the Holy Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza may be for us a reminder of our commitment in life, so that faithful to their teaching, we may spend ourselves generously in the service of our brethren; and imitating their example, we may in all and above all seek You, our only and supreme Good.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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PRAYER DURING THE DAY

BEFORE NOON, MIDDAY AND AFTERNOON

V. O God come to my assistance.

R. O Lord make haste to help me.
Glory be. Alleluia.

BEFORE NOON

HYMN Holy Spirit,
one with the Father and the Son,
deign at this hour to come down on us without delay,
and pour out your graces over our soul.

Let mouth, tongue, soul, thought and strength
make your praise resound.

Let our love be set aflame by the fire of your love,
and its heat in turn enkindle love in our neighbours.

Grant this, most loving Father,
and you, the only Son, equal to the Father,
and, with the Spirit, the Paraclete,
reigning through the ages. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you who are the sole Bridegroom of the Church and willed that she may appear before you as a chaste virgin,
– make her always holy and spotless.

Christ Jesus, whom the Holy Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza came forth to meet, with burning lamps,
– grant that all the consecrated may never be lacking in the light of fidelity and the flame of love.

Lord Jesus, you who have filled our Saints with every grace so as to found an Institute totally committed to the works of charity,
– grant that following their examples, we may consecrate ourselves with joyful dedication to the good of our brethren.

Lord Jesus, you who have taught our saints to blend intense piety with generous abnegation so that the one may stimulate and sustain the other,
– bless with the fruitfulness of your grace, our works of charity and our daily toil.

Lord Jesus, you who have welcomed the holy Virgins to your wedding banquet,
– grant that our sisters and all the faithful departed may be partakers of your eternal marriage feast.

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant O Merciful Lord, that the feast of the Holy Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza may be for us a reminder of our commitment in life, so that faithful to their teaching, we may spend ourselves generously in the service of our brethren; and imitating their example, we may in all and above all seek You, our only and supreme Good.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY VERSE AND PSALM

V. O Lord, open my lips.

R. And my mouth shall declare your praise.

Refrain: Come, let us adore Christ the Redeemer,
who crowns with glory His Virgins in heaven, alleluia.

A CALL TO PRAISE GOD

Psalm 94 (95)

But exhort one another everyday, as long as it is called "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the God who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountain are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong
to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people and I said:
"Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways." —

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Ant. Bartolomea and Vincenza, Virgins of Christ, served the Lord in holiness and justice. In a short time they gained perfection and obtained ever-lasting life. Alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

With joyful confidence, let us make our supplication to Christ the Lord, Spouse and Crown of the Virgins.

— *Christ Jesus, hear our prayer.*

You have set Mary, your Mother, as the Queen of Virgins,

— through her intercession, may we serve you with fidelity and purity of heart.

Through the intercession of your Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza, who have consecrated themselves to you with a whole and undivided heart and who were holy in body and spirit,

— may nothing in this world keep us away from the way which leads us to you.

Lord Jesus, Divine Spouse, awaited by the wise Virgins,

— grant that we be always vigilant in the blessed hope of meeting you.

Christ the Redeemer, to whom our Saints Bartolomea and Vincenza, offered their generous and faithful service in the education of the youth and the assistance of the sick,

— help us seek you alone our beloved Spouse and give ourselves willingly to our brethren until we have spent ourselves for them.

Christ the Lord, you have inspired in our saints Bartolomea and Vincenza the desire to work according to the designs of your love.

— grant that today and always we may find in you alone our joy and our life.

Our Father ...

Ant. Bartolomea and Vincenza, Virgins of Christ, served the Lord in holiness and justice. In a short time they gained perfection and obtained ever-lasting life. Alleluia.

THE BENEDICTUS

Lk 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! *
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour *
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men, *
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled *
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us, *
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice *
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child, *
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord *
to prepare his ways before him.

To make known to his people their salvation *
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God *
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness, †
those who dwell in the shadow of death, *
and guide us into the way of peace.

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

Then I took an oath in my anger:
“Never shall they enter my rest.”

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

* * * * *

OFFICE OF THE READINGS

HYMN

Glory to you O saints, O prudent Virgins,
who have offered yourselves to Christ your Spouse,
now rejoicing in the eternal nuptials
with Him forever.

Bartolomea, generous and ardent,
young in age, mature in virtue:
how you glowed in the divine flame
of love of the Redeemer.

And you Vincenza, simple and active,
happy to offer yourself without limit.
with what faith you responded to God:
behold, I am ready O Lord!

Oh! you our saints, crowned in heaven,
pray for us, we are your daughters:
with you we will carry to the world, the love,
and with you, the joy.

O loving Father, Son the Redeemer,
Holy Spirit source of every life.
to you alone be praise,
and to you alone infinite glory. Amen.

Or

The fire of divine love
unites Bartolomea and Vincenza
at the eternal banquet
in the kingdom of the blessed.

The flame of the Spirit
has impressed in their hearts
an indelible seal
of divine love.

O sisters of the poor,
intercede for us;
sustain our footsteps
on the way of peace.

Guide us to the summit
of the holy mountain,
where the meek possess
the kingdom of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
glory be to the Holy Spirit
to the Triune and One God
be glory for all ages. Amen.

1 Ant. You O Lord, are my only good, alleluia.

THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE

Psalm 15 (16)

God raised up Jesus, having loosed the pangs of death (Acts 2:24).

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone'.

He has put into my heart a marvellous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.

For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained: *
this honour is for all his faithful.

3 Ant. The Virgins rejoice in Christ the Redeemer. Crowned with victory
they sing to Him a new song for eternity, alleluia.

WORD OF GOD

Is 58: 7, 8, 10

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

SHORT RESPONSE

R. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night to meditate upon your promise, alleluia, alleluia.

My eyes are awake before the watches of the night to meditate upon your promise, alleluia, alleluia.

V. In your presence, my Rock, my Redeemer.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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

My eyes are awake before the watches of the night to meditate upon your promise, alleluia, alleluia.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord. *
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord. †
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
O Israel, bless the Lord. O bless the Lord. *
And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord. *
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.
Ananias, Azarias, Mizael, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens. *
R. To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

2 Ant. Bless the Lord O Virgins, He is risen in your hearts bright like a morning star, alleluia.

3 Ant. The Virgins rejoice in Christ the Redeemer. Crowned with victory they sing to Him a new song for eternity, alleluia.

THE SONG OF JOY OF THE SAINTS

Psalm 149

The sons of the Church, the sons of the new people, exult in Christ their king.

Esichius

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
His praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.

Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

1 Ant. You O Lord, are my only good, alleluia.

2 Ant. I place my whole life before you O Lord:
You are my strength and my Redeemer, alleluia.

PRAISE TO GOD, CREATOR AND LAW-GIVER

Psalm 18 (19)

He has visited us like the dawn from on high... to guide us into the way of peace

(Lk 1:78.79)

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard
yet their span goes forth through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun;
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold;
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

May the spoken words of my mouth, ___

LET EVERY CREATURE PRAISE THE LORD
Praise our God, all you servants.

Dan. 3:57-88, 56
(Rev. 18: 5)

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.
And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord. *
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord. *
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord. *
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord. *
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord. *
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord. *
R. To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Then to You, O fruit of Mary's womb,
we shall raise our celestial song.
Glory to the Father and the Paraclete
in the realms above. Amen.

1 Ant. My soul is thirsting for you O God, my heart is longing for you,
more than a watchman for daybreak, alleluia.

A SOUL THIRSTING FOR GOD

Psalm 62 (63): 2-9

*The church is thirsting for its Saviour, longing to quench it at the fount of the living
water which springs for eternal life.*

cf. Cassiodorus

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life, *
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

1 Ant. My soul is thirsting for you O God, my heart is longing for you,
more than a watchman for daybreak, alleluia.

2 Ant. Bless the Lord O Virgins, He is risen in your hearts bright like a
morning star, alleluia.

the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

2 Ant. I place my whole life before you O Lord:
You are my strength and my Redeemer, alleluia.

3 Ant. Who shall go up to the mountain of the Lord?
Who is innocent and pure of heart, alleluia.

THE LORD ENTERS HIS TEMPLE

Psalm 23(24)

The doors of heaven were opened to Christ the Lord, when He went up to heaven .

St Irenaeus

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord ?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

3 Ant. Who shall go up to the mountain of the Lord?
Who is innocent and pure of heart, alleluia.

V. Serve the Lord faithfully and with all your heart, alleluia. *cf. 1Sam 12: 24*

R. Acknowledge the great wonders He has done for you, alleluia.

FIRST READING

From the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

2, 1-16a; 4, 4-9

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him

Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord

R. Thanks be to God.

* * * * *

MORNING PRAYER

V. O God, come to our assistance.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN O Christ the Redeemer,
life-giving sun,
O Son of the Virgin,
infinite goodness and light.

The glorious Virgins
give you praise in heaven,
your Virgin spouses
sing to you on earth.

You, who crowned our saints
among the angels in heaven,
You fill us with your gifts,
because of their virtuous deeds.

And when one day we shall hear
in our hearts your great invitation
may we come in jubilation
to meet you O Lord.

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 forever.
 Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, show us your love and mercy;
 For we put our trust in you.
 In you, Lord, is our hope:
 And we shall never hope in vain

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant O Merciful Lord, that the feast of the Holy Virgins Bartolomea and Vincenza may be for us a reminder of our commitment in life, so that faithful to their teaching, we may spend ourselves generously in the service of our brethren; and imitating their example, we may in all and above all seek You, our only and supreme Good. We make our prayer through our

and bestowed on him the name which is
 above every name,
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the Word of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

RESPONSE

- R.** Shine like lights in the world, holding fast the Word of life and rejoice always in the Lord. The joy of the Lord is our strength, alleluia.
- V.** Keep your gaze fixed on Jesus who underwent the cross and now is seated at the right hand of God.
- R.** The joy of the Lord is our strength, alleluia.

SECOND READING

From the Homily of Pius XII on the day of canonization.

18 MAY 1950

In this land of exile there is absolutely nothing more beautiful, more amiable than the candid splendour of virginity, which shines forth from the countenance, the eyes and the soul; all those who contemplate it, feel enraptured by it and are drawn to heavenly things. But when to this splendour of undefiled purity is added the flame of divine charity, there opens out before men a wonder that irresistibly moves their souls, conquers their will and urges them to accomplish those noble enterprises which Christian virtue alone is able to lead to fulfilment.

Bartolomea Maria Capitanio was endowed by nature itself with a penetrating, lively and ardent character; but from her childhood, with the help of God's grace which she entreated with fervent prayers, she was able to tame, mould and bend it in such a way, as to direct it exclusively towards heaven, towards the acquisition of Christian Perfection and the fulfilment of God's Will in everything.

In her paternal home she was like an angel and succeeded with her most gentle behaviour and speech to lead her father, who had given himself to drink, to the practice of Christian sobriety.

In her town and in the convent of the Clarist Nuns, where she spent the years of her intellectual and religious formation, she has been a sublime example to all.

And thus, adorned with all virtues, in particular with virginal purity, ardent love for piety and burning charity towards God and the neighbour, she heard the call of the Divine Master, inviting her not only to strive with God's grace for her own perfection, but to spend herself, as far as possible, in word and deed, to help others to attain their own salvation.

With this intention, she began to think about the foundation of an Institute of consecrated virgins, whose mission would be to give young girls a Christian education, to heal the spiritual and bodily diseases of the sick in

Frequent Prayer, and specially Holy Meditation for a considerable length of time everyday, could resemble the frequent periods of solitude that our lovable Redeemer spent apart from people to be with his Divine Father and to intercede for us all.

The number of twelve Workers, excluding domestic helpers, who may perhaps be sufficient for this pious Work, could indicate the twelve Apostles whom He chose for the salvation of mankind; but since our Lord accepted Disciples as well, this number could be increased if required by the circumstances.

May our most lovable Redeemer make us his true followers. Amen.

RESPONSE

cf. Phil 3:17; Eph 4:15; 1Tim 1:5; Ex 25:40

- R.** Be imitators of me and mark those who so live as you have an example in us, living according to the truth in charity, which springs from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith, alleluia.
- V.** See and make them after the pattern which is being shown you.
- R.** Living according to the truth in charity, which springs from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith, alleluia.

HYMN OF PRAISE

You are God: we praise you;
You are God: 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.

detachment from them that He said to those who followed Him that He himself had neither a house nor a shelter.

This total surrender of goods cannot possibly be followed in the Institute, for we must not expect miracles from God for such things that could be achieved through human means. Therefore it will be necessary to fix a reasonable amount for the Dowry of each Candidate who wishes to consecrate herself to this Institute. At the same time it must be kept in mind that if someone has all the necessary qualities to be successful and is only lacking the Dowry, she should nonetheless be accepted as a member of the Pious Institute.

14. Last Friday, when receiving Holy Communion, I felt in my Heart more clearly than at other times, and with special tenderness, that the Institute to be founded here shortly should really be called the Institute of the Redeemer and those persons who consecrate themselves to it the Daughters of the Redeemer. It seems to me that God wishes it to be called by this particular name both to indicate the predilection which He will have towards this pious Retreat and to teach those who consecrate themselves to it, the way to holiness; all the more so as no other religious Congregation is known by this unique and particular name and God has reserved such a great and charitable enterprise for these times, when the need is great and extreme.

The Novitiate might well represent the hidden life of Jesus Christ and it seems to me that He wants it to last a long time, at least for two and a half years. The life that follows it should be wholly engaged for the good of the neighbour, without exceptions, and could be in some way, an imitation of the active life of Jesus Christ during the three years of his preaching.

The fourth Vow of Charity which it seems to me that the Lord requires of these persons, would bind them to do everything possible, suffer everything and even shed their Blood for the good of their neighbour. These could be considered as a distant imitation of the consuming love of our Redeemer in dying for us.

the hospitals; to offer a shelter to needy aged persons, hospitality to the abandoned, to help, console and comfort all the needy and the afflicted.

But how would it have been possible for such a young girl, without any human means, to realize successfully a project so vast and difficult? She was quite aware of being incapable, but she could also say to herself what the Apostle of the Gentiles had said: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). Accordingly, she did not rely on her own energies, on her own will, but placed her full trust in God and in his help from above. On the other hand, is there anything that an unshakable faith, which is a Christian virtue, cannot attempt with God's help? Nothing, this is evident from the history of Christianity and from the wonderful lives of the Saints, both men and women. Thus Bartolomea Capitanio, following the advice of her spiritual director and the inspiration of divine grace, aided by a few companions and well-wishers, laid the foundation of her Institute. Yet in God's mysterious plan, while still young, she was plucked, like a candid lily, from the field of this earth by her divine Spouse and called to receive the reward of eternal bliss. In that hour of sorrow it looked as if the Institute she had founded, which as a tender plant had not yet cast its roots into the soil, would be destined to disappear; but being the work of God and not of men, it could not perish.

The other virgin remained, not less endowed with the gifts of the Spirit, above all with spotless innocence, Christian simplicity, unbreakable faith, invincible strength and ardent charity.

Caterina Vincenza Gerosa, after having wept with intense sorrow and burning tears the departure of her unforgettable companion, prostrated herself before the tabernacle, to open before her heavenly Spouse whom she loved so ardently, her uncertain, trembling, wavering and anxious spirit and with humble prayers she begged for light, guidance, comfort and strength.

She was well aware that of her own accord, she would be able to do nothing; but she was equally aware that she could do everything when endowed with the power of Him who "chose the weak of this world to confound the strong" (1Cor 1:17). And thus, with her mind enlightened by

God, with her will strengthened by Divine power, having heard from her spiritual director that she was called to carry out the great work just initiated, took it upon herself to direct and lead it to its fulfilment.

Thus, with God's help, that plant which she had received in order to water and sustain, under her guidance, grew high and strong yielding abundant fruit.

May Bartolomea, together with the first companion of her apostolic labours, whom, in her humility, she used to call Mother, look down from Heaven, resplendent with new glory, upon the religious family founded by them; and may they obtain from God, through their powerful intercession, that all her daughters to whom they entrusted, as sacred inheritance the same spirit of evangelical perfection, follow with earnestness and joy in their splendid examples, and enable those entrusted to their care, to walk generously and ardently in their footsteps.

RESPONSE

1Cor 1:27.30; Phil 4: 13

R. God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; and He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus; whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption, alleluia.

V. I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.

R. Whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption, alleluia.

Or:

The Writings of Bartolomea Capitanio, virgin.

FOUNDATION DOCUMENT, 26 APRIL 1831

I write under obedience

1. After receiving holy communion I think I had this thought: The Institute which will be founded in Lovere is to be totally founded on Charity and this must be its principal aim. This Institute in particular must

in such a way that everyone, just looking at them, or dealing with them, will recognize them as true followers of the Redeemer.

12. Although this Institute should be a simple "Retreat", yet it seems to me that our Lord desires in it the greatest Charity among the Individuals, a perfect Community with total equality among all, without any partiality whatsoever, neither for the rich, nor for the frail nor for any other human consideration. From the time of joining the Institute, everyone should be a perfect Sister to the poor Daughters of this Institute. The true demands of illness will be the only reason to dispense the Sisters from this Universal Community.

13. Furthermore it seems to me that our Lord wishes that in accepting a candidate to the Institute, no regard should be paid to the goods she could bring with her, but rather to the basic, solid virtues she should have. Even when the Institute is in greatest need of material help and there is someone who could provide for it with her large Dowry but perhaps lacking the necessary virtues, let the Institute be left in need that God will provide for it – but let no person be accepted because of these human motives. God would be displeased with it and would withdraw the graces He would wish to give for its benefit. It seems to me that in this pious Institute God desires (regarding the Dowry) that the Institute may help those poor candidates who would be suited for its purpose and have a strong desire for it; yet for lack of means they cannot have the consolation they desire. Let the way be left open for them and let the Institute receive them, trusting in that unfailing Providence of God which never fails those who trust in it. All the more so, since almost no Institute follows this particular policy, with the result that many candidates who would be successful are abandoned for this reason. And it seems to me that God wants it precisely in order to be consistent with the end which the Institute must have, of imitating our most Holy Redeemer. In fact, when someone showed the desire to follow Jesus, He asked him first of all to renounce all his possessions, and He did not demand anything from those who followed Him. Instead He required such a

the sacred vestments and the Church linen of the place washed, mended and ironed, with every care and diligence; that a holy decorum and a great cleanliness be observed in it, without exacting any reward for their labours other than the blessing of the Lord.

9. Although I have already mentioned it, I cannot avoid repeating that I think I felt deeply in my Heart that, at least at the beginning, great care must be taken in accepting candidates for this holy undertaking. From among the good only the best must be chosen and special care must be taken to select persons inclined towards Charity, meek and quiet by nature, who feel truly inclined to this kind of life and have a great desire for it. In fact, it seems to me that everything depends on it because at the beginning there will be no lack of hardships, difficulties and troubles coming from external circumstances, or to put it better from the Providence of God who disposes everything for the best. If in the midst of all this there would be some restless or malcontent persons, it would be the cause of dampening the enthusiasm and also of some harm.

10. The members of this pious Institute are not bound to a formal Enclosure, so that they may more easily dedicate themselves to Charity. However they must be very careful to keep away from useless contacts of friendships, superfluous conversations or frequent talks with Secular persons. Charity and duty must be the only reason for their dealings with them. In any other circumstance they must observe Enclosure or withdrawal to an even greater extent than cloistered nuns, because even a single word picked up may be sufficient enough to cause dissipation among all the members of the Institute, and that will be its ruin, being it the plague of the Houses of the Lord.

11. The members of this pious Institute ought to be endowed with every virtue, but their characteristic virtues should be Charity, Gentleness and Humility, in imitation of our most lovable Redeemer who seemed even to glory in them. And it seems to me that our Lord demands that these virtues be practised so perfectly by them so as to truly shape their character

be of assistance to young women in moral danger, excluding none of them, regardless of their age, social status or character, as long as they are in spiritual or material need and the Institute is able to do any good to them. The Institute must offer its assistance in every possible way to this kind of young people, because there are few means of bringing them back to the good other than by keeping them away from dangers, etc.

2. Another time, I think, I had this thought during Prayer. The Institute is not only to be founded on charity, which will constitute its Active life, but the contemplative life must also be added to it so that those who consecrate themselves to this Institute may live both forms of life; which means, that in this Institute a good part of the day must be devoted to Prayer especially to Holy Meditation so that, all their works of charity may produce good fruit because they are an outcome of Prayer and that those persons may be able to teach others what they have learnt from God in Prayer. Not much time is to be devoted to vocal Prayer in common so as not to take away the time dedicated to charity and not to overburden the sisters who, having to spend themselves in instructing and in teaching, could find it perhaps too burdensome and even harmful to their health.

3. Another time, while I was at work, I had the following thought which was later confirmed during several Communion and Prayers: The Institute must be founded on the principles and examples left us by our Lord Jesus Christ, so that its rule may be a copy of his actions. So all the Rules, Prescriptions and Regulations are to be directed to the imitation of what Jesus Christ did in this World and He must be our Protector, Norm and Guide.

Just as many Institutes propose either the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary or the imitation of a particular saint, so this Institute should propose to itself to honour the Redeemer and imitate his examples, so that a person who consecrates herself to it may become a true daughter of Jesus Christ through her imitation of Him. In this regard it seemed to me that God desires a new Institute, although I am opposed to it – at least according to

my limited understanding – for it seems to me that the difficulties will be more and greater than if we would embrace an Institute already approved. However, if God wants it, He will provide for everything. This idea of the imitation of the Redeemer etc. became clear to me in a way I am unable to explain, and the rules appropriate to reach this goal, appeared beautiful and sweet to me, although I could not see them clearly. But everytime this thought returned to me it left a great sweetness in my heart, and, at times, a sense of gratitude as well, in knowing that Jesus Christ would grant us a wonderful grace if he would call us to such heights.

4. Once again at holy Communion, I felt that the Institute should have as its main aim the Education of poor young Girls without parents, keeping them even by providing for their full support, until they grow up and learn some work by which to earn an honest living.

Furthermore, it seems to me that it would be very pleasing to our Lord if, besides the day-school conducted free of charge for the poor, the Institute could provide a boarding school as well for all those girls, either coming from the place or from elsewhere, who desire to be educated there, and that especially if they have the intention of becoming school Teachers or if they are good natured, thus giving hopes of lending themselves for the service of the neighbour.

5. More than once I felt in my heart that the persons who consecrate themselves to this Institute are to be endowed with an extremely solid piety, with outstanding virtue and a natural disposition to love young people. Therefore great caution should be used in accepting a candidate: her virtue and Vocation are to be carefully tested because, this being a “free” Institute, there would be the grave risk of extremely damaging consequences. It seems to me that our Lord wishes for these persons a very strict and rigorous Novitiate, during which the observance of the Rules must be inculcated in them and the importance of the commitment to be assumed clearly understood by them. Further, they should be made aware that this kind of life is somewhat more difficult than that of cloistered nuns, because

there are greater dangers and more distractions through frequent contacts with secular persons. So they must feel the need of a great trust in God and of a true spirit of charity, motivated by a genuine purity of intention, through which everything becomes easy and pleasant. It would be good, at this stage, to make them aware of all these, so as to instil into them the true spirit required by the Institute. It seems to me that our Lord desires that none of them should be engaged in any kind of work or in external services of charity, during the time of the Novitiate (except during the beginning of the Institute when it will be necessary to do only what is possible), because the candidates should first learn the true spirit of the Institute and then put it into practice in every service that will be entrusted to them.

6. It seems to me that our Lord wishes that the Institute have the three vows of Chastity, Obedience and Poverty common to other religious congregations. The vow of Enclosure should be excluded, so that the members of this Institute may go out, with all necessary precaution, for charitable work. However, in the absence of a precise obligation, they must strictly observe enclosure as it is very necessary for the smooth functioning of the Institute.

7. Regarding the purpose of the Institute: besides Charity that must reach out to all young Girls, be they poor, needy, rich or in whatever condition, it seems to me that it would be very pleasing to our Lord if the Institute should devote itself to the relief of the poor sick as well, and especially to the care and the direction of Hospitals, where the sisters will serve the sick, comfort them and provide them with spiritual and material help. This must be a branch of the Institute, springing forth from that sincere Charity which should be an ornament of those who consecrate themselves to this kind of life, very similar to that of our most lovable Redeemer.

8. Furthermore, I cannot free my Heart from the thought that Jesus requires from this new family a Holy concern for the upkeep of his holy House and therefore, that he recommends that it engages itself in keeping