

Don Dolindo Ruotolo, Theologian of the Incarnation of the Word and the Magnificat of Mary - The Order of the Franciscan of the Immaculate are promoting his Cause of Beatification. In the Franciscan Center at Frigento, Avellino, Italy, his books are collected in the Library dedicated to His name.

<http://www.dolindo.org/english/prayers.html>

Dolindo Ruotolo, Priest - A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

By Giovanna Invitti Ellis

Don Dolindo Ruotolo, "*Mary's little old man*", as he called himself. (1882-1970) Father Dolindo advanced in years and weakened by many illnesses and paralysis described himself as "the little old man of Mary Most Holy". Instead he had a quick intelligence and extraordinary intuition, along with many virtues throughout his life. He worked unceasingly for his beloved Church, torn apart by disputes, accusations and desertions, (those were years of world-wide controversy). He endeavored to speak the Truth to souls disoriented and disheartened. In his humility he felt always inadequate, but he found strength in Mary Most Holy.

His body rests in the Parish Church where he served as Pastor for many years, *Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Joseph of the Aged*, Via Salvatore Tommasi, Napoli, Italy.

Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo was born, in Naples, Italy on October 6, 1882. Ordained at the young age of 23 on June 24, 1905, Don Dolindo dedicated every moment of his long life to prayer and penance at the service of thousands of faithful who asked for his spiritual direction and turned to him for help and comfort.

He is the author of a most profound Theological and Psychological Commentary, highly inspired by the Holy Spirit, on the all Holy Scripture, in 33 volumes.

Beside his monumental Commentary, he left an extraordinary number of theological, ascetical and mystical writings.

He answered thousands of letters as well left thousands of holy notes on holy images to offer spiritual direction to people attending His Holy Masses and Retreats. Twenty of his holy notes are in the book, "*Meditations on the Holy Rosary*".

Don Dolindo had a keen understanding of the human soul, and he was always able to help people to see the light of God. He worked tirelessly to help souls, in the midst of unspeakable suffering of every kind, since he had offered himself as victim soul for mankind, sustained by a wonderful freshness of spirit that transformed his life into a hymn to life.

For the last ten years of his life he was completely paralyzed.

Don Dolindo died in Naples on November 19, 1970, in the extreme voluntary poverty he had chosen to live throughout his life. He told people to knock at his tomb for their needs and he would continue to answer. Now, more than ever, people flock to his Church and knock at his tomb, confident of his intercession and receiving healings and graces.

The testimonies of miraculous healing due to his intercession before and after his death cannot be counted: tuberculosis healed, limbs made well, suicide attempts stopped due to his tempestuous intervention and so on. He never denied his help to anyone pleading with Jesus for all who ask and confide in him.

The wonders of his help can also be seen in daily needs of many ordinary people such as the cure of a child from his illness, a test to overcome, a job to be found: miracles, in other words of getting through the day, which can be most extraordinary in a city like Naples always afflicted with poverty and even degradation.

Comforting those who were suffering was his everyday toil and offering, which never ended even when his own health was at stake. He prayed for everyone and suffered for everyone. He ate very little and his clothes were poor, but nevertheless, he withstood cold and hunger and was seen walking barefoot in the snow.

In his very own home instead he was an undesired guest, and he was despised because his poverty and simplicity made the family uncomfortable. But didn't Jesus say that man's enemies are often found in his own family?

Don Dolindo was never afraid to go near contagious sick people, caressing them, kissing them; in cases where disgust would have put off compassion in many, in Don Dolindo brought healing and mercy. He made patience his heroic virtue; he knew from inner inspiration that the evil in the world is dispelled through the charity of a patient heart.

Nothing was dearer to him more than the Holy Church. He never allowed anyone in his presence to speak evil of Mother-Church. He professed that the Church is Mother of Saints and only through obedience to the Catholic Church and the Holy Pontiff can flowers blossom for Paradise; he also believed that sainthood is "a goodness bought through the bank of tears". That is why Don Dolindo found love through suffering and the more his arthritis crippled his body in knots, the more he felt joy from the fruits he brought to the Church. He went on in his journey of love towards the divine, suffering in his ulcerous, pus filled, wounded legs, with a peace foreseen only in his grave.

If there were poor beggars at the door of his Church he would kiss their hands and embracing them would ask them to forgive him if they had any argument against him.

Don Dolindo's heart was filled with joy feeling the presence of the Virgin Mary, the saints, and the Guardian Angel. The Eucharistic Communion was for him a mystic union with Christ on the cross.

In his goodness he was able to aid people in distress even if they were very far from him.

He is known to have covered sick people waiting for their surgery next morning, with his cloak thus helping them to pass the night without anguish or pain.

He is known to be at the site of patients in difficult near fatal surgeries and restore them to health.

He is known to have given prescriptions signing with the name

"Doctor Cretinico Sciosciammocca" (Doctor Stupid Fly-swatter) to people who had no doctors or medicines and were left abandoned without remedies, and his therapy with his out-of-the-ordinary remedies brought miraculous results.

His goodness was not arrogant, the austerity of his routine did not conflict with his joyful Neapolitan nature in which suffering does not necessarily eliminate joy but rather shows it.

After all diagnosis and cure of his own sicknesses failed, Don Dolindo wrote a parody of a prescription, to tell patients to see their maladies as opportunities of trusting the love of God and Mary Most Holy: the prescription sounded like this:

*"Human remedy- cold kick (push yourself/do not rest too long) syrup,
Supreme remedy- divine obedience to the Will of God
mixed with daily drops of Hail Mary.*

His goodness made even Hell tremble. As demons subdued to Jesus and publicly declared that He was the Son of God; as Father Pio from Pietralcina in his fight against Satan succeeded in defeating the devil with the wounds of Christ; also Don Dolindo in the Name of Jesus, when doing exorcisms, thrust out demons who cursed him, from the bodies of the possessed.

Demons are known to obey only those who work by the hand of God.

One day when a very resistant demon made fun of Father Dolindo, refusing to leave the man he possessed, Father Dolindo grasped a rope and began to flagellate himself and his penitence and suffering as consequence inflicted such a suffering on the demon to force him to abandon his victim, leaving him finally free.
