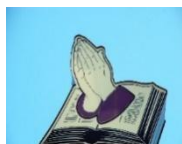


"I will always catechize as long as I live"

St Giulia Salzano, Feast : 17th May

Opening Prayer

O God, who raised up Saint Giulia in your Church to show others the way of salvation, grant us, by her example, so to follow Christ the master that we may come with our neighbour into your presence. 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



Scripture Reflections Romans 10:8-15

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

(ESVUK)

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but

some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age

(ESVUK)

- Is there a word or phrase that stands out or remains with you after reading these passages?

Biography

Born : 13 October, 1846 in Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Caserta, Italy.

Died: 17 May 1929

Venerated: 23 April 2002 ('Servant of God'), Pope St John Paul II

Beatified: 27 April 2003, Pope St. John Paul II

Canonized: 17 October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI

- Born on 13 October 1846 as the fourth of seven children to Diego Salzano and Adelaide Valentino; baptised that same day.
- Her mother was a descendant of Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori. Her father – a captain in the Lancers of King Ferdinand II – died in 1850 and her mother could not afford to raise all her children so sent Giulia to an orphanage.
- November 1850 to 1861: Educated and raised by the Sisters of Charity at the orphanage of Santa Maria delle Grazie in San Nicola la Strada.
- 8 December 1854 : First Communion & Confirmation
- 1860: Sometime around this point she made a private vow of chastity.
- October 1865 : Graduated in Caserta, received a teaching diploma. Served as a school teacher and as a catechist in Casoria and became known for being an apt catechist and religious educator. Close friend and co-worker with Caterina Volpicelli and she came into contact with her at the suggestion of the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples Sisto Riario Sforza.
- 1882: first stirrings of becoming a nun herself. and this intensified as she began to set the foundations for a new religious congregation dedicated to catechesis and education.
- 19 March 1890: Became noted for her personal devotion to the Madonna and encouraged others in devotion to her and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her weaknesses later in life would start to hinder her teaching and she began to receive a pension because of this.
- 5 February 1894: Official inauguration of the 'Pia Casa Catechistica'.
- 21 November 1905, **foundation of the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** and assumed its habit.
- 1 February 1907 : religious profession

- 12 August 1920: received diocesan approval from Cardinal Giuseppe Antonio Ermenegildo Prisco
- 17 May 1929. Died at dawn. The previous morning she had met with 100 children preparing for their First Communion. Her remains were housed in the motherhouse of the order in Casoria at Piazza Giovanni Pisa 20.
- 1937 : beginning of 'informative process'
- 19 March 1960 (after her death): received papal approval from Pope John XXIII.
- 4 April 1974 : cause for sainthood opened, under Pope Paul VI and was titled as a Servant of God
- 23 April 2002 : Pope John Paul II titled her as Venerable;
- 27 April 2003 : beatified
- 17 October 2010 : canonised by Pope Benedict XVI

Significance for Catechists

Reflection

"In advance of her time, she was an apostle of the new evangelisation in which she combined apostolic activity with prayer, offered ceaselessly, especially for the conversion of the "indifferent". This new Blessed, encourages us to persevere in faith and never to lose our confidence in God who does all things. Called to be the apostles of modern times, may believers also be inspired by Blessed Julia Salzano "to instil in many creatures the immense charity of Christ". *St Pope John Paul II, from his homily during the beatification of Blessed Giulia*

For reflection: What does the life of St Giulia say to us as catechists? What can we learn from her?

Closing Prayer *Prayer of the Middle Hour for Teachers*

Saint Giulia Salzano , woman of ardent faith and mother of catechists, in the silence of this midday pause we turn our prayers to you.

You who dedicated your life to spiritual formation , illuminate the path of Christian teachers : may they, guided by the Spirit, be able to combine wisdom and humility, professional competence and testimony of faith .

Intercede for them with the Lord, so that every educational gesture may be a "light" that reflects the Love of Christ and every word may become a seed that generates true life in the hearts of young people.

We entrust to you, O Saint Julia, all those who teach: support them in their efforts, encourage them in their hope, and make them always, with joy and faithfulness, artisans of a new evangelical humanity.

Amen.

Taken from : <https://www.pregchiere.ai/ora-media-a-santa-giulia-salzano-per-la-formazione-spirituale-degli-insegnanti>

'Take Away' : Going Deeper

Videos:

Biography : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfK_kt8KvQg

Biography for children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c6mHK3VsaE>

Congregational video in Italian (turn on subtitles to translate) :

<https://youtu.be/qBpg5QPTnIs?si=OmAgDcarrDd3heHS>

Other

Report on St Giulia in local diocesan newspaper : <https://www.chiesadinapoli.it/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/03/17-10-10.pdf> (in Italian)

Triduum of Prayers for Young People <https://www.pregchiere.ai/triduo-a-santa-giulia-salzano-per-la-formazione-spirituale-dei-giovani-in-comunit>

Triduum of Prayer at Santa Giulia Salzano for Young People in the Community

First Day – Love for the Truth

O Saint Giulia Salzano, apostle of the catechism,

who loved and transmitted the Truth of Christ with all your heart,
enlighten our young people in community.

May they seek, welcome, and bear witness to the Truth that liberates,
nourishing their spiritual formation

with a sincere desire to know and love Jesus.

Pray that their journey may be a continuous encounter with the Lord .

Amen.

Second Day – Joyful Service

O Saint Julia , who with a joyful heart dedicated your life to others,
help young people discover the true joy of service .

Teach us to live charity towards all,

with industrious hands and sincere smiles,

so that in the joy of giving,

their spiritual formation may grow every day .

May their service be a light and hope for the community .

Amen.

Third Day – Fraternal Communion

O Sister and Mother Saint Julia,

obtain for us the precious gift of fraternal communion.

Support the young people so that they may live friendship,

listening, and patience, building bridges of unity in community groups.

May the strength of the Spirit make them instruments of peace,

and their spiritual formation

Acknowledgements

Illustration of St Giulia Salzano: from 'Saints of Catechesis' exhibition, III International Catechetical Congress, September 2022, Rome. Biographical details: Wikipedia,

CatholicSaints.Info; <https://lnx.catechistesacrocuore.org/fondatrice/>