



**ORDO PRÆDICATORUM**  
Curia Generalitia

*Presentation BVM*  
Rome, 21 November 2024

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied. (Matthew 5:6)*

**To all Provincials and Vice Provincials,  
To All Members of the Dominican Family.**

*Prot. 50/24/522 Letters to the Order*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With gratitude to God, the *Giver of all good things*, the Dominican Family rejoices in receiving the Pope Francis' announcement that our brother **PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI** (April 6, 1901 - July 4, 1925) will be canonized during the Jubilee of Youth, taking place from July 28 to August 3, 2025.

Pier Giorgio was a member of the Dominican Laity, who was called a "man of the Eight Beatitudes by St. John Paul II. He has inspired countless people worldwide, especially the youth. One of his biographers called him a "Daredevil Athlete, Roguish Prankster, Unrelenting Activist and Unexpected Mystic"! That is the kind of personality that can truly inspire people with diverse backgrounds. And he did inspire young people to aspire *verso l'alto*, towards the top, not just to go with him to mountain peaks but also to see the grandeur of creation and adore the Creator. But Pier Giorgio's most profound encounter with God on a "mountain" was on the "mount of the Beatitudes" (Matthew 5). When asked how he could stand visiting the filthy and smelly home of the poor, Pier Giorgio responded: *Gesù mi fa visita ogni mattina nella Comunione, io la restituisco nel misero modo che posso, visitando i poveri*, "Jesus comes to me every morning in Communion, and I return the visit by going to serve the poor." As a member of Catholic Action, he said: "Charity is not enough: we need social reform."

Inspired by the writings of Saint Catherine of Siena and the preaching of Savonarola, he joined the Dominican laity in 1922, taking the name "Brother Girolamo". As a devout member of the Dominican family, he kept a rosary in his pocket and prayed it daily.

*Verso l'alto!* Pier Giorgio is a reliable guide and companion in our aspirations to meet God who loved to meet people on mountains. The words of the prophet apply to him and to the holy men and women of the family of St. Dominic: "How beautiful upon the mountains, are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news" (Isaiah 52:7).

Perhaps some might wonder – we have already so many saints, and our liturgical calendar is almost full of feasts and memorials, why do we continue to promote causes for sainthood? We do so because the canonization of Pier Giorgio represents for all of us a renewed confirmation that the preaching of the Gospel, especially through the *Dominican life*, in all its fullness and richness, manifested in all its branches – friars, nuns, apostolic sisters, lay and priestly fraternities -- is truly a *path to holiness*.

  
fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP  
Master of the Order