



POVERI·SERVI
DELLA·DIVINA
PROVVIDENZA

Superiore Generale

Last night after a strong storm, seeing what happened in San Zeno in Monte, the Mother House of the Poor Servants of Divine Providence, and in the Mother House of the Poor Servants Sisters, besides communities of San Giuseppe community, San Benedetto, and Nazareth, I would say that we still have reasons to thank and bless the Lord with all our hearts and I invite everyone to do so with prayers of thanksgiving. First of all because there has been no damage to individuals, who are the most precious pearls for us, and this is the most important and beautiful thing. Then, in spite of everything the Lord with his Divine Providence has protected us and protects us through the intercession of our Saint Fr. John Calabria, whose protection is alive and active.

During the World War II, even bombs also fell on San Zeno in Monte, but Divine Providence showed that the house on the Mount is built on the "rock" and does not collapse. This makes us reflect that this is how our faith must be, that despite the contrary winds and the storm it must always remain steadfast and unshakable even if it suffers wounds and the wind shakes it severely.

This is yet a confirmation that God intervenes, his Divine Providence is not lacking, hence we must not be afraid.

I like to think what Don Calabria would say and do in these happenings. Well, I think he would do and say the same things he said in his time when, on the night of 10 to 11 October 1944, the city of Verona was hit by one of the most terrible air strikes. On that occasion, the house in San Zeno in Monte, the house full of children, was also hit, completely destroying the printing press. Faced with the disaster produced by the bombs, Father John Calabria, although saddened by the numerous and considerable material damage, was not too upset. He immediately asked if there were any victims, and when they informed no, he thanked the Lord by adding: "Material disaster is nothing: less than a venial sin! This is the House of the Lord; He will think about rebuilding it even more beautiful. Sin, I am afraid! Worse than a hundred thousand bombs, especially in this house".

From these expressions we grasp the depth of his faith, unconditional trust and abandonment to the Divine Providence of the Father and the great call to correspond with a holy life because the thing that can destroy the most is sin, it is the estrangement of God, lack of fidelity to our Charism and a Spirit of communion. This is the great damage! For material damage, even if so many, the Divine Providence will think about them.

I conclude by thanking the many people who in these hours have shown great understanding towards the House: our collaborators and volunteers who have rolled up their sleeves and helped us to restore order after yesterday's disasters; friends who have shown solidarity with us and are praying for the Opera; the brothers and sisters who are working hard to make San Zeno in Monte a welcoming and bright place as it has always been.



P. Miguel Tofful