

Saint John Calabria

1873-1954

Saint John Calabria, Founder of the Poor Servants of Divine Providence in Verona.

After seeing a little Gypsy boy sitting in front of the main door, forced to beg every day for a certain amount of money in order to escape blows and abuses, Saint John decided to bring him into his house and entrusted him to his mother, who was used to sharing in her son's generosity. However, that night he could not sleep and so decided to get up and pray, determined, above all, to do all he could to oppose injustices of this kind. He did so for fifty years, promoting works of mercy through his Opera Don Calabria. His religious are now in twelve countries and four continents. Born October 18, 1873, and ordained a priest in 1901, John Calabria died on December 4, 1954, at the age of 81.

Saint John narrates: "During the first years of my foundation, one day when poverty and need made themselves felt more than usual, I went several times to the front door to see if there was some gift from Divine Providence in the mail box. I went at 9:00 o'clock: nothing. I returned at 11:00 o'clock: nothing. So I gathered the little ones in church and made them say the Rosary of Divine Providence. At the end of the recitation,

I went once again to the front door and this time I found gift certificates worth five or six thousand lire. From that day on, the recitation of the rosary became a daily routine.

Once again, this holy priest and his friends attributed this unexpected help to the intervention of the Angels, all the more so because they were invoked in the Rosary of Divine Providence.

