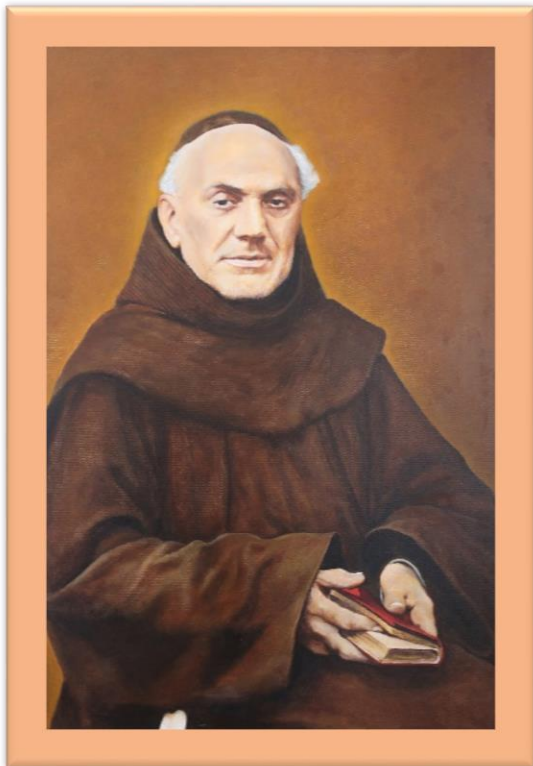


*132TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH IN  
HEAVEN OF OUR VENERABLE FOUNDER, FATHER  
GREGORIO FIORAVANTI*



*“He is not here! Seek him in his heroism, because he  
was truly the heroic father. Seek him in  
heaven, because from earth to heaven his flight was  
rapid and secure”.*

# **Triduum of Preparation and Celebration of the Memorial of the Birth into Heaven of our Venerable Founder, Father Gregory, OFM**

## **Introduction**

On 23 January we commemorate the 132nd anniversary of the birth into Heaven of our Venerable Founder, Father Gregory of Grotte di Castro. Grateful to Mother Church, who has recognized his heroic virtues, we prepare to commemorate his passage from this life to the Father. We allow ourselves to be enlightened by selected passages from his letters and writings, so as to understand his virtues more deeply and to make them living and relevant in our reflections, decisions, and shared life.

To God, the Supreme Good, source of all holiness, we together offer our praise and our thanksgiving for our Venerable Founder, for having been for us a father, guide, teacher, and model of fidelity to the ways of the Lord, an untiring seeker of His will and of the true Good.

(The short passages may be read after the short reading of Vespers of the day. Conclude with the hymn “Glorify...” or another Franciscan song.)

## **20 January**

**FROM THE LETTER OF FATHER GREGORY TO THE BELOVED  
DAUGHTERS IN J. C., ELDERLY PROFESSED SISTERS OF AMERICA**

## Unity in fraternity

Gemona, 29 March 1878

No, most beloved daughters in Jesus Christ, do not allow yourselves to be dominated by this plague of partiality. Be all united in promoting regular observance, even with some personal sacrifice on the part of each one, for the glory of God, for the benefit of your own souls and those of others, and for the purpose of the Institute. But in order to do this, it is necessary to be devoted to the Institute, and not to the individuals who happen to please you.

Those Sisters who sincerely love the Institute and remain in it out of pure love of God and for their own sanctification willingly submit to every decision of the Major Superiors and accept as Superior whatever Sister is assigned to them, without concern for whether she suits their personal taste or not, or whether she belongs to this or that nation (the Holy Habit before God makes us all of the same condition and of the same nation). But those who, dominated by personal preference—which is not charity or fraternal love—favor one over another, are easily disturbed if the new Superior is not among those they prefer for low and worldly reasons.

Neither the place, nor this office or that one can sanctify us, but only our willing conformity to the holy will of God.

Let us pray together:

Lord, mindful of the teaching of our founder Father Gregory, who cared so deeply for fraternal life and wanted us united by the closest bond of charity, we pray to you for all our communities.

We ask that every sister may find in fraternal life the support needed to remain faithful to her consecrated life for the Kingdom, so that every service and activity may become a humble yet true evangelical witness, a joyful proclamation of salvation and peace. Amen.

**21 January**

**FROM THE LETTER OF FATHER GREGORY TO SISTER  
RAPHAEL SCHMITT**

**Let us safeguard peace**

Gemona, 4 January 1884

Let us not forget to imitate the virtues that the Child Jesus teaches us from the grotto of Bethlehem, especially poverty and humility. Let us also strive to have the peace that the angels proclaimed to people of good will. This peace is the one we must have especially with God. He desires it, He wills it, and He is always ready to have it with us. But we either cool it or break it. We cool it through small transgressions of the rule and through other venial sins; we break it if, unfortunately, we commit a mortal sin. Therefore, if we so wish, we can always have

peace, harmony, and good accord with God, which will then bring us the eternal glory of heaven.

### **Let us pray together:**

Holy Father, we pray to you for our entire Congregation and entrust it to you through our revered founder, the Venerable Father Gregory May he, who in the contemplation of Jesus Crucified knew how to support and accompany it with the care and faithfulness of a father, still help each one of us to shape our lives solely for your glory and to conform every commitment to the virtues he lived heroically. Amen.

**22 January**

**FROM THE LETTER OF FATHER GREGORY TO SISTER GREGORIA ALLAGHER**

### **Trusting prayer**

Gemona, 28 March 1878

We must pray very much to the Lord that He may grant the means and help needed to establish all the Houses well and in an orderly manner. The devil is working hard to throw everything into confusion. This would actually lead me to conceive good hopes for the future, since he is accustomed to placing every obstacle in the way of good that he sees

is about to be firmly established in some Institute, especially where perhaps the initial fervor was in danger of diminishing

Prayer breaks all his plans and designs; therefore it is fitting to pray, and to pray much, for that intention.

Moreover, I exhort you never to lose courage, to place your trust in God and never in the people of this world. You will see through experience that the more you have trusted, the more God will console you. And in every need of yours, have recourse freely to Gemona, setting things forth calmly and with sincerity.

### **Let us pray together:**

O Holy Spirit, who in our revered founder, the Venerable Father Gregory, were pleased to reveal to us the virtues that characterize our charism—charity, strength of spirit, faithfulness, humility, and patience—through his intercession grant also to us the grace to live, to safeguard, and to pass on the spiritual heritage of our religious family.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE TRANSIT.**

**Guide:** Today, January 23, 2026, marks the 132th anniversary of the birth in Heaven of our Venerable Founder, Fr. Gregorio Fioravanti. Remembering his passing is an invitation to reflect once again on his life, on his faith, on the imprint that, with his example, he left to us, his daughters.

May the awareness of celebrating this anniversary, in communion with all the sisters of the Congregation and with the universal Church, be a reason for thanks for the gift of our Founder, of our religious Family and of the vocation we have received.

Celebration of Vespers.

The hours are passing swiftly by,  
And into night the shades will flow,  
So let us sing to God with joy  
The grateful hymn of praise we owe.

The burden and the heat of day  
Have passed in working for our Lord,  
So may his vineyard workers all  
Receive from him the great reward.

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us now  
To labor for our recompense,

Assist our work, then grant us rest,  
Until your love shall call us hence.

All glory, Lord, to you we bring,  
Creation's true and only King,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.

**1st Antiphon Lord, keep my soul from death, never let me stumble.**

Psalm 116

Thanksgiving

We must endure many trials before entering God's kingdom (Acts 14:21).

I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with the anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.

I called on the Lord's name.

O Lord my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;

our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts;

I was helpless so he saved me.

Turn back, my soul, to your rest

for the Lord has been good;

he has kept my soul from death,

my eyes from tears

and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord

in the land of the living.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**1st Antiphon Lord, keep my soul from death, never let me stumble.**

## **THOUGHTS OF FATHER GREGORY**

**Nothing happens on this lowly earth without the special disposition of the Most High, and He ordains nothing that is not for our greater good.**

**Let your life be a continual act of thanksgiving for the favor God has granted you by inspiring in you the desire and giving you the will to consecrate yourself to Him.**

**2nd Antiphon My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 121

Guardian of his people

Never again will they hunger and thirst, never again  
know scorching heat (Revelation 7:16).

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:  
from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the Lord  
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!  
Let him sleep not, your guard.  
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,  
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade,  
at your right side he stands.  
By day the sun shall not smite you  
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,  
he will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard you're going and coming  
both now and forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit:

— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.

**2nd Antiphon My help comes from the Lord, who  
made heaven and earth.**

### **THOUGHT OF FATHER GREGORY**

**I must keep in mind that the spirit of Jesus is a spirit of peace and  
simplicity.**

**May your gratitude not be limited to words alone, but let it shine forth  
through your zeal in consecrating yourselves each day to your God,  
dedicating yourselves to whatever He asks of you.**

**3rd Antiphon King of all the ages, your ways are perfect and true.**

Canticle – Revelation 15:3-4  
Hymn of adoration

Mighty and wonderful are your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Righteous and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations!

Who would dare refuse you honor,  
or the glory due your name, O Lord?

Since you alone are holy,

all nations shall come  
and worship in your presence.  
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Ant. King of all the ages, your ways are perfect and true.**

### **THOUGHT OF FATHER GREGORY**

**Make use of your talents and strength to support one another with courage, without regard for differences of origin or nationality...**

**Remain always united among yourselves, and God will reward your efforts. Thus your hearts will remain at peace, because you are intimately united with Jesus Christ.**

### READING 1 Corinthians 2:7-10a

What we utter is God's wisdom: a mysterious, a hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory. Of this wisdom it is written:

**Guide:** let us now remember the passing of our Venerable Founder, Father Gregorio Fioravanti.

**FROM THE CHRONICLE, FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH COMMUNICATED TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THAT TIME AND FROM "THE HEROIC FRANCISCAN"**

The bell of the chapel of St. Mary of the Angels that morning, Sunday,

21<sup>st</sup> January was late to announce the Holy Mass. Fr. Gregory was preparing for the last time to climb that altar which he had ascended for thirty-three years with Franciscan piety and most devout faith.

He entered the presbytery with slow step and with a face marked by traces of a night in which he had not rested.

He was about to place on the paten his whole life consumed in love between fatigue and sufferings.

At the end of the Holy Sacrifice, at the last Oremus, his voice was heard weaker. He turned painfully and said: "Go, the Mass is ended".

It was as to say: "Even my sacrifice is completed"!

At the last Gospel, he was seen to sway slowly.

The lay brother, who assisted him at the altar, held him up and brought him into the sacristy.

He had been attacked by paralysis. Undressed from the sacred vestments, he was accompanied to the Hospice. The confessor and the doctor hastened, they persuaded him to go to bed.

The following day, believing to be better, he wanted to get up and wished to recite the Hours in the company of Fr. Bernard.

Then he descended into the little dining room, but he was unable to eat. Later he wanted to be led to his bedroom. It was no longer possible. A bed was arranged in the same room.

In the evening about 9 pm all the comforts of our holy religion were administered to him.

Holy viaticum was given in the presence of the entire community, all the sisters with lighted candles, except the sick, could see again the good father for the last time.

Asked by Fr. Bernard to bless the Institute and all the sisters, present and absent he replied: "Yes, all!"

After midnight, he entered into a long agony, which lasted until the morning.

In the early morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Fr. Bernard celebrated the community Holy Mass in the monastery. Then he hastened to the bed of the holy dying one and renewed the comforts of the Church and of the Order. He recommended to him again the Institute, begging him to assist it always from heaven.

Fr Gregory breathed his last breath, calmly and serenely giving back his soul to God.

He died at the age of 71 years and eight months. He had spent almost half of his life for the Congregation.

The Founder and the savior of the Institute of the Tertiary Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, died. No one, if not He from on High, could have consoled them for such a loss. "Crushed as we all are, it is almost impossible to think of it even in our mind", writes Sr. M. Delfina in the sorrowful announcement circulated in the Institute.

The gates of Heaven opened to the good and faithful servant and invited him to the joy of his Lord.

But on the earth, how much sadness covered the convent of St. Mary of the Angels in Gemonal!

The father has been passed away.

They saw him there peaceful, serene in the humble Franciscan habit girded by the white cord, in a sleep of repose and of peace, while the daughters made there a crown in tears and prayers.

The sisters watched over the venerated mortal remains for two days, then they accompanied him to the cemetery in the midst of a numerous crowd of priests and of people.

To the daughters who seek him with piety and love, the Angel of the Resurrection says, as it was said to the holy women at the Sepulcher of Jesus:

“He is not here! Seek him in his heroism, because he was truly the heroic father.

Seek him in heaven, because from earth to heaven his flight was rapid and secure”.

### **Short Responory**

Christ died for our sins, that he might offer us to God.

– Christ died for our sins, that he might offer us to God.

In the body he was put to death; in the spirit he was raised to life.

– Christ died for our sins, that he might offer us to God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– Christ died for our sins, that he might offer us to God.

### **Antiphon to the Magnificat My**

**spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.**

### **SONG OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Lk 1, 46-55)**

Exultation of the soul in the Lord

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, † my spirit rejoices in God my Savior \* for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: † the Almighty has done great things for me, \* and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \* and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel \* for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, \* and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, \* and will be forever. Amen.

**Antiphon to the Magnificat My  
spirit rejoices in God, my Savior**

## Intercessions

God established his people on the foundation of hope. With a grateful heart for the life and testimony of Father Gregory, we acclaim:

**You are our hope, Lord.**

1. We thank you, Lord, for the gift of our Founder, your venerable servant, Fr. Gregory, who had so much at heart the spirit of brotherhood, the unity of the entire Franciscan family and of the Church;

*-give us the opportunity to follow his example, safeguarding and growing communion between us and with those you place on our path. **Let's pray.***

2. We praise you, Lord, because you allowed your venerable servant Father Gregory to contemplate and live heroically the mystery of your Son Jesus, Crucified for our love;

*- help us to increasingly embody the charism transmitted to us by our Founders, so as to make the ardent Love of your Son's Heart for every man shine through in our life and mission. **Let's pray***

3. We bless you, Lord, because you wanted your venerable servant Father Gregory to follow in the footsteps of the seraphic Father Saint Francis, instilling in our first sisters the spirit of minority and poverty

*- help us to revive the grace of the origins and to bear witness with clear joy to the beauty of the evangelical life in all our missionary realities. **Let's pray.***

4. We glorify you, Lord, for having guided our religious family in the steps of Divine Providence;

*- make the hearts of other young people open and attentive, so that by listening to your voice and sharing the charism transmitted by our Founders, Laura Leroux and P. Gregorio, they consecrate themselves to your*

*redemptive love and follow you generously on the path of the evangelical counsels. **Let's pray.***

5. Merciful Father, you wanted a large number of our sisters, in illness and in the extreme moments of life, to have our good Father Gregory next to them and to experience the reassuring strength of his faith;

*- be present with the tenderness of your love to the sick, to the elderly, to those who suffer in body and in spirit and give full happiness to the sisters who preceded us in your Kingdom in the contemplation of Your face. **Let's pray.***

6. We pray to you, Lord, for our venerable father Gregory, who guided our congregation on the path of peace. Through his intercession, grant peace to the world;

*- Help us to be instruments of peace wherever the mission sends us, especially in this world where peace is sought because of the many forms of physical, moral and social violence. May your true peace reign among us forever. We pray.*

7. We thank you, Lord, for the gift of our venerable father Gregory, for teaching us the values of unity in diversity;

*-Lord Jesus, help us to understand, respect and value our different cultures and to live their richness, especially on a spiritual and social level, so that our missions may continue to flourish for your greater glory. Let us pray.*

**Our father.**

Let us Prayer

O God, you who illuminate the Church with the example of your saints and have given the grace to your Venerable servant Fr. Gregorio Fioravanti to follow the poor and humble Christ to the end, grant us to revive fidelity to the vocation and to the congregational charism , to reach the perfect charity of your Son Jesus. He is God and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

May the Lord bless us, preserve us from all evil and lead us to eternal life. R. Amen.

Canto: GLORIFICA IL TUO SERVO, GREGORIO!

*Glorifica, glorifica, o Dio, il servo tuo, Gregorio, glorifica, glorifica la francescana vera santità!*

1. Nascere frammenti dell'amore, figli di una casa ricca solo di bontà, poveri, ma pieni di una fede, che ti dona vie di santità. Era lui un frammento dell'amore, figlio di una casa ricca solo di bontà, pieni della grazia e della fede, che propone vie di santità. Rit.

2. Vive nel battesimo di Cristo,  
e lo veglia lei, la Madre grande di Gesù. Sente che lo chiama il suo Signore, sacerdote lo consacrerà.

Figlio di Francesco e della strada,  
Cristo lo fa servo nella vera libertà.

Dal suo cuore nasce una famiglia: tante  
figlie Dio gli donerà. Rit.

3. Oggi lui cammina per il mondo, e il suo  
carisma missionario incontrerà, tanta  
gente immersa nel dolore: oh, con le figlie  
sue la salverà.

Noi, padre Gregorio, ti preghiamo,  
fondaci su Cristo, verità, donaci  
entusiasmo nel servire questa  
quotidiana umanità.