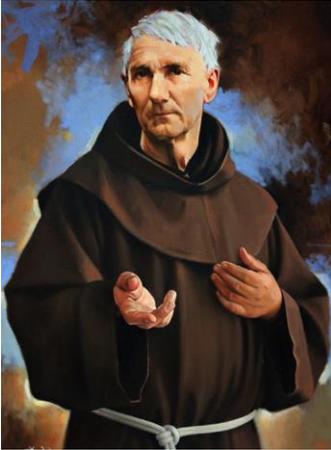


Organization Standing Committee



My chosen blessed has since become Saint....Saint **Ludovico of Casoria, O.F.M.** Our prayers for his canonization have been answered.

Saint Ludovico was born in Casoria, near Naples in 1814, he apprenticed as a cabinet maker in his youth. In 1832, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Friars Minor at which time he took the name Ludovico. Shortly after his ordination, he was appointed to teach philosophy and mathematics to the young members of the Order at the Franciscan priory of Saint Peter in Naples.

Ludovico quickly embarked on a lifetime of establishing works to care for the poor and needy of the time, founding dispensaries and orphanages and opening a school for the education of African boys and girls redeemed from slavery. He also founded institutions for the deaf and the mute and worked to provide care for the elderly members of his own Order.

Following the advice of his superiors to find others to whom he could entrust this work, he instituted a community of men as a religious congregation of the Franciscan Third Order Regular at St Peter. They became known as the Gray Friars of Charity. Three years later, he instituted a similar congregation of religious women, known as the Franciscan Sisters of Saint Elizabeth.

Ludovico died in 1885, within months the cause for his canonization was introduced in Rome. Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1993. On Sunday November 23, 2014 in the bicentennial year of his birth, Pope Francis proclaimed Blessed Ludovico da Casoria, priest of the Order of Friars Minor, founder of the Elisabetine Franciscan Sisters, a saint.

My chosen Beatitude is: **"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

This applies to Saint Ludovico da Casoria, a unique figure among the friars minor, he made the charism of St. Francis his own and lived it in the social circumstances of his day, taking on an active responsibility in the face of the harshest forms of poverty, inserting himself with Christian compassion in the concrete reality of his people and their daily struggles.

The strength of the League is in its membership. The organization committee is responsible for recruiting members and maintaining membership. We can

look to St Ludovico as an example of bringing women together in the service of Christ.

Since arriving in Stratford, I have been informed that there are 278 memberships to be added to our total for 2016 (47,034). However, they are actually 2015 memberships. I encourage all members to strive to pay your memberships in the year they are due to assist in keeping records accurate. Great League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained and supported. Leadership development falls under this committee. We have a responsibility to promote and encourage the attendance of members at League functions, development days, workshops, training days and conventions.

To ensure our councils operate efficiently and effectively, it is essential to have a good working knowledge of the League, as organization chairpersons we must ensure that councils have a copy of all League publications.

I believe that St Ludovico would be proud of all that we do for the poor and needy in our communities and how we live out our faith through our actions. The key to understanding St Ludovico's life is found completely in his Testament: "The Lord called me to Himself with a truly sweet love and with infinite charity, he gazed upon me and led me in the path of my life, and he gave me, a sinner, so much faith, that day by day I became rich in both body and soul. Oh, how many miracles faith has worked in me."
In praise of Jesus Christ and the poor Francis. Amen.

Anne Madden,
Organization Chairperson