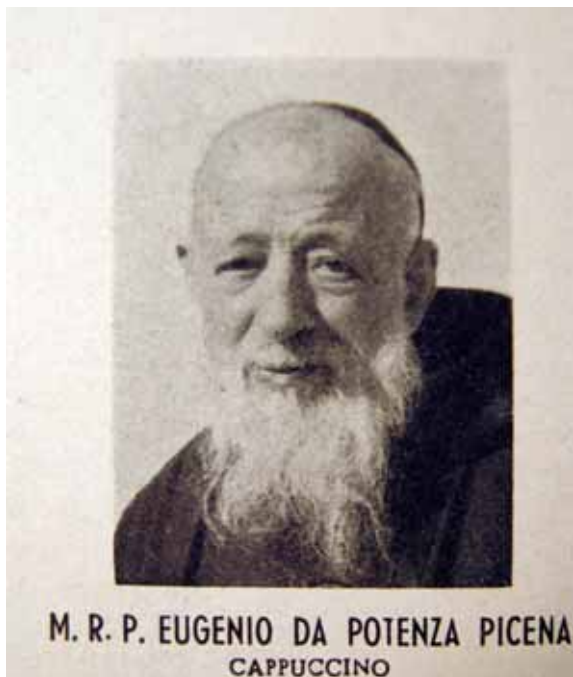


M.R.P. Eugenio Bompadre

Order of the Franciscan Capuchin Friars



Then known as Nazzareno Nicola, born in Potenza Picena on 25th June 1876 in S.Giovanni Street n°253, son of Giacomo and of Rosa Filipetti.

From information kindly handed down from father Renato Raffaele Lupi, Capuchin friar, provincial archivist, we learn that Nazzareno Nicola entered the seminary of Cingoli on the 6th September 1889 and dressed the Capuchin frock on 10th July 1891 while a Novitiate in Camerino acting as altar boy. On the 18th July 1892 in Camerino he asked for and received the profession of simple-priest's housekeeper when, the following day, he entered the convent in Pesaro for further studies. Here, on the 8th December 1895, being Provincial father Basilio Tamagnini da Frontale, the Solemn Profession was announced. Always in Pesaro he received the minor Orders from the diocesan bishop mons. Clemente Fares and the subdeacon-diaconate-priesthood from

his successor mons. Carlo Bonaiuti. He finished his studies in Pesaro in July 1898.

He was professor of Moral Theology for 25 years, Provincial Definitior, Gaurdian of Pesaro for 6 years, chaplain in Pesaro's Mental Hospital for 14 years, President of Fano (1937-38), General Custodian (1940), President of Corinaldo (1940), synodal Examiner and Justice Promoter in the diocese of Pesaro.

From 14th march 1942 he lived in Fano where he was also Vicar for that brotherhood.

Bio-bibliographic research in the volume "Potentini Illustri" (Celebrated Potentini) by Norberto Mancini, published in 1950, reveals that father Eugenio Bompadre also held the position of President of the Ecclesiastic Tribunal of Pesaro. Furthermore, being a learned scholar in Canon Law, he was author not only of various books concerning Ecclesiastical Law but also author of historical figures related to the Church and Religious Institutions.

In 1940 he published the small volume "Vita di S.Girio comprotettore di Potenza Picena" (The life of Saint Girio co-patron saint of Potenza Picena), which resumed, synthetically, the works of Alessandro Marinucci dated 1766, adding further details and useful facts to better understand the character of the Saint and cult rendered him throughout the centuries in our community.

He died in Fano on 25th September 1958.

Potenza Picena, 22nd March 2010

THE LIFE OF SAINT GIRIO

The home town of Saint Girio (Gerard), Lionello, is situated between the French cities of Montpellier and Nimes in the Languedoc area of France. From the marriage between Gerard Amici, belonging to one of the oldest and most noble families in Languedoc and Teresa Raimondo, two boys were born, Effrendo and Gerard, the latter more commonly known as Girio. Although no document is to be found, his year of birth is most likely between 1270 and 1274.

From his maternal grandfather, Raymond Guasselin, Baron of Lunel, Gerard (Girio) received half of the Barony of Lunel which consisted of 15 villages. When his uncle, Rosselino Guasselin died (1294) Girio received other assets that were administered by his father since the future saint was at the time underage (he was not yet 25 years of age).

In 1295, when Philip the Fair (King of France) wished to possess a Mediterranean port, he offered to assume control over the Barony of Lunel in exchange for the county of Roccaforte (Roquefort), land also situated in Languedoc, but in the diocese of Avignon. Gerard (Girio) therefore became a Count rather than a Baron.

The richness of life was not for Gerard (Girio) so he answered to a spiritual call leaving his family and, together with his brother Effrendo, wished to live in solitude as a hermit in two caves near a famous Roman bridge built on River Gardone. As legend has it, while meditating and praying, continuous rains swelled the river so much that the two brothers remained trapped in their caves and with nobody passing by, in danger of starving as they were unable to step out in search for food.

Suddenly the rains stopped and as they were about to abandon their caves in search of bread they were approached by two snakes bearing bread to be given to the two brothers. Rendering thanksgiving to God they accepted the bread and through this miracle their faith was strengthened. The rains finally stopped so the two brothers travelled to a nearby castle to receive Holy Communion asking for forgiveness.

The miracle became known and many people flocked to visit Girio and his brother in their caves pleading to be healed.

In the desire to escape the fame that they were earning as a result of their gained holiness and not wishing to accept honour bestowed upon them, they decided to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Before doing so they wished to venerate the tomb of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Rome. On their way the two brothers got lost in a thick forest near Viterbo (Italy) unable to find their way out.

Once again God, through prayers and imploring for help, came to their rescue when a friendly and docile bear led them out of the perilous forest.

While in Rome Girio learnt that in Ancona (Italy) there lived a holy man named Liberius who was about to embark for the Holy Land. Wishing to join him the two brothers headed for Ancona but passing through the town of Tolentino, Girio was taken ill when a headache became ever worse but not wishing to be late for the encounter with Liberius and strong in their faith they continued on their trek. It was not long before the illness got worse forcing the two to take respite near the river Potenza in an area which was then called "la volta di Marignano". Effrendo, realizing that his brother was getting worse all the time went in search for help approaching a nearby castle "Monte Orso", but to no avail. On his return his brother had already left this earth to fly to heaven.

It was at this point that the bells of the church of S. Stefano rang without any human hand causing the bells to toll.

The body was disputed between the nearby town of Recanati and Monte Santo (now Potenza Picena) until it was decided that a cart drawn by cows was left to freely roam with the body of Giro until it stopped at the place now called "San Giro" at the foot of Monte Santo. A church is now standing to commemorate and remember Giro, nominated Saint on July 28th 1742 after centuries of trials and protests by people's convictions together with encouraged votes on the part of James III, King of England.

Thus the beliefs of many was paid granting a new advocate to be seated alongside the Just on the Throne of Heaven for our country.