



MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL  
Father Valdir José De Castro

VENERABLE MAGGIORINO VIGOLUNGO  
**A Proposal of Holiness for Today**

INGREDIRE UN TANTINO OGNI GIORNO

One hundred years ago, and precisely on 27 July 1918, the Pauline aspirant Maggiorino Vigolungo left for eternity, at only 14 years of age. Here is a passage from the authoritative testimony of Father James Alberione: *«The Lord brought many beautiful, generous and faithful souls to the Pauline Family. Among these, we remember the first flower that was soon transplanted into heaven: Vigolungo Maggiorino. [...] He can be considered, as humanly possible as we may know, the Dominic Savio of the Pauline Family. Above all: an interior light in knowing and loving the Lord, giving oneself generously in all his duties, a great delicacy of conscience, a clear vision of the apostolate of the good press»* (UPS III, 277).

We can truly say that the life of Maggiorino, in its simplicity, is full of the signs of God. It is not enough, however, to consider his person by situating it only in the past. We must also examine what his example of life tells us today, and not only to the members of the Pauline Family, but to the whole Church and especially to the young who try to embrace a horizon of life rooted in the Gospel. In this sense, we can highlight at least two aspects, trying to make an updated reading in a vocational perspective.

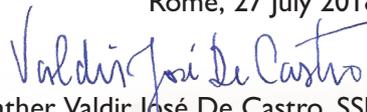
The first refers to the importance of finding an ideal of life. In fact, *«it seemed that he no longer heard the other things. His multiple energies were all channelled to his ideal; like the various waters that descend here and there from two sides, they gather in the valley to then all flow like a great river towards the sea»* (G. Alberione, MVi, 35).

The second aspect, closely connected to the previous one, is his desire to be holy. Maggiorino, despite his young age, had understood that it is possible to sanctify himself through a life united to Christ and dedicated entirely to evangelization with the press. As Father Alberione testifies, *«Maggiorino often repeated: 'I want to be a saint'»,* and then adds: *«But his program of sanctification was not strange at all: indeed well balanced, positive, clear, practical»* (MVi, 61).

Time has passed. The world has evolved and our apostolate, under the guidance of the Founder, has widened the scope of his action. The reality in which we live leads us to ask the Spirit what awaits us at this moment in our history, in the current culture of communication, marked by technical means and digital networks.

May the memory of Maggiorino Vigolungo, besides spreading his life and his ideal of holiness, help us to be true *«continuator of the mission of Jesus, the Master, according to the missionary dynamism of Saint Paul and the apostolic passion of Father Alberione»* (Linee editoriali - 2018, 7.3).

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