



## **SAINT (BISHOP) LOUIS VERSIGLIA** (1873-1930)

**Beatified on 15-5-83,  
Canonized on 1-10-2000**

### *Vet or priest?*

Louis was born in Oliva Gessi (Pavia) on June 5, 1873. From his earliest years he used to serve mass, so much so that the people already thought he would be a priest, but Louis never wanted to hear talk of that, because he wanted to be a vet.

### *The Salesian*

As a twelve year old he was taken in by Don Bosco, who fascinated him to the extent that he wanted to change his mind. In 1888, soon after Don Bosco's death, Louis was much taken by the ceremony where seven missionaries received their mission cross and decided to become a Salesian, with the hope of going to the missions.

### *The priest*

He gained a degree in philosophy, and was soon ready for priestly ordination which took place in 1895. Don Rua appointed him as director of novices at just 23 years of age at Genzano in Rome, a task he carried out for ten years with kindness, firmness and patience.

### *Missionary to China*

After much insistence from the bishop of Macao, in 1906 six Salesians arrived in China, led by Fr. Versiglia. Thus a prophecy of Don Bosco's came true. In Macao he established the Salesian "mother house" and also opened a mission at Heungchow. Fr. Louis gave life to the area as Don Bosco would have done, setting up a music band which was much appreciated, and opening orphanages and oratories.

### *Exemplary bishop*

In 1918 the Salesians received the mission of Shiuchow from the Vicar Apostolic of Canton, and on January 9, 1921, Fr. Versiglia was consecrated as its bishop. Wise, tireless and poor, he constantly set out to visit and encourage the confreres and Christians in his diocese. Whenever he arrived, the villages held a feast especially the children.

He was a true pastor, completely dedicated to his flock. He gave the Vicariate a solid structure with its own seminary, house of formation, and planned residences and hospitals for the elderly and those in need.

He looked after the formation of catechists with much care. In his notes he wrote: "The missionary who is not united to God is a canal detached from its source". "The missionary who prays a lot achieves a lot". Like Don Bosco he was an example of work and temperance.

Meanwhile in China the political situation had become very tense, especially for Christians and foreign missionaries. Persecutions began.



## **SAINT CALLISTUS CARAVARIO** (1903-1930)

**Beatified on 15-5-83, Canonized on 1-10-2000**

### *Early years*

Callistus Caravario was born at Cuorné, in the province of Turin, on 18 June 1903. From his earliest years everyone thought of him as an excellent child for his meek and reflective nature. He seemed naturally inclined to prayer and loved his mother very much, as witnessed by the many letters he wrote. At five years of age he and his family

moved to Turin close to the Porta Nuova Oratory.

### *In Turin*

He was amongst the first in his class at school, and served Mass each morning Mass. On the advice of Fr. Garelli the Rector of the Oratory, he entered the Novitiate and became a Salesian. In 1922 Bishop Versiglia was in Turin who spoke of the missions to the Brothers. Callistus told him: "Bishop, you will see me in China".

### *China*

Fr. Garelli left for China and Callistus insisted so much that after a short time he followed him there. He kept his word. His mother told Fr. Garelli: "I am willing to leave my son in Don Bosco's hands". "With all the affection I am capable of", Callistus would write, "thank you Lord, for having given me such a good mother". "Mother, here is news that will make you happy: This morning I gave my first catechism lesson in Chinese".

### *Timor*

Callistus was sent to Macao, and then for two years to Timor where he edified everyone, including the rector, for his goodness and apostolic zeal. "My good mother", he wrote, "pray that your Callistus may not be just a half priest but completely the priest".

### *Back to China - Linchow mission*

On May 18, 1929, he returned to Shiuchow, where bishop Versiglia ordained him priest and entrusted him with the mission at Linchow. In a short time he had visited all the families and earned the sympathy of the school children. Meanwhile in China the political situation had become very tense, especially for Christians and foreign missionaries. Persecutions began.

### *Martyrdom*

On February 13, 1930, Fr. Caravario was with Bishop Versiglia at Shiuchow for the pastoral visit to the Linchow mission. Some young boys and girls went with them; they had been studying in Shiuchow. On February 25 a group of Bolshevik pirates stopped the bishop's boat, wanting to take the girls. The Bishop and Fr. Caravario obstructed them with all the force they could muster.

They were forcibly taken and eventually shot. Before they were killed they heard one another's confession. Their last breath was spent for their beloved China.

**Paul VI declared them martyrs in 1976, John Paul II declared them Blessed in 1983 and canonised them on 1st October 2000.**

[http://www.sdb.org/en/Salesian\\_Saints/Saints/Aloysius\\_Versiglia](http://www.sdb.org/en/Salesian_Saints/Saints/Aloysius_Versiglia)

[http://www.sdb.org/en/Salesian\\_Saints/Saints/C\\_Caravario](http://www.sdb.org/en/Salesian_Saints/Saints/C_Caravario)



## **SANTO LUÍS VERSIGLIA** (1873-1930)

**Beatificado el 15-5-83**  
**Canonizado el 1-10-2000**

### *Veterinario o sacerdote?*

Luis nació en Oliva Gessi (Pavia) el 5 de junio de 1873. Desde su más temprana edad, ayudaba en la Misa, tanto que la gente ya pensaba que sería sacerdote. Pero Luis no quería escuchar hablar de eso, porque él quería ser veterinario.

### *El Salesiano*

A los 12 años quedó encantado con Don Bosco, quien lo fascinó tanto que cambió de idea. En 1888, poco después de la muerte de Don Bosco, Luis quedó muy impresionado con la ceremonia donde siete misioneros recibieron su cruz para la misión y decidió convertirse en un Salesiano, con la esperanza de ir a las misiones.

### *El sacerdote*

Logró un título en filosofía, y pronto estuvo preparado para la ordenación sacerdotal, la que tuvo lugar en 1895. A los 23 años, Don Rua lo designó como director de novicios en Genzano, Roma, una labor que llevó a cabo durante 10 años con bondad, firmeza y paciencia.

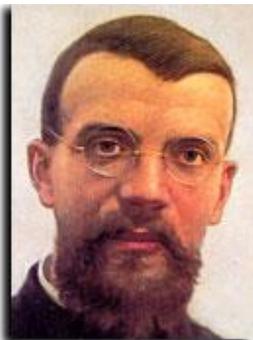
### *Misionero en China*

Después de mucha insistencia por parte del obispo de Macao, en 1906 llegaron a China seis Salesianos, liderados por Padre Versiglia. De esa forma, se cumplía una profecía de Don Bosco. En Macao, él instaló la “casa madre” salesiana y también abrió una misión en Heungchow. El Padre Luis le dio vida a la zona, tal como Don Bosco lo hubiera hecho, creando una banda de música, que fue muy apreciada, y abriendo orfanatorios y oratorios.

### *Obispo ejemplar*

En 1918, los Salesianos recibieron la misión de Shiuchow de parte del Vicario Apostólico de Canton, y el 9 de enero de 1921, el Padre Versiglia fue consagrado su obispo. Sabio, infatigable y pobre, constantemente visitaba y daba ánimo a los cofrades y cristianos de su diócesis. Cuando llegaba a las aldeas, especialmente los niños, organizaban una fiesta. Era un verdadero pastor, totalmente dedicado a su rebaño. Le dio al Vicariato una estructura sólida, con su propio seminario y casa de formación. Planificó residencias y hospitales para los adultos mayores y los necesitados.

Se ocupó muy cuidadosamente de la formación de catequistas. En sus notas escribió: “El misionero que no está unido a Dios es un canal separado de su fuente”. “El misionero que ora mucho logra mucho”. Como Don Bosco, fue un ejemplo de trabajo y moderación. Entre tanto, la situación política en China se había vuelto muy tensa, especialmente para los Cristianos y los misioneros extranjeros. Empezaron las persecuciones.



## **SANTO CALLISTO CARAVARIO** (1903-1930)

**Beatificado el 15-5-83,**  
**Canonizado el 1-10-2000**

### *"Lo alcanzaré en China"*

Nace en Cuornè (Turín) el 18 de junio de 1803. Al encontrarse con Monseñor Versiglia en Turín en 1921 le dijo: "Lo alcanzaré en China". Mantuvo la palabra, partiendo dos años después.

Ordenado sacerdote, siempre muy fiel a su consagración religiosa y animado por una caridad cada vez más ardiente.

### ***Martirio***

El 13 de febrero de 1930, el Padre Caravario y el Obispo Versiglia fueron a Shiuchow en una visita pastoral a la misión de Linchow. Algunos jóvenes y muchachas fueron con ellos; habían estado estudiando en Shiuchow. El 25 de febrero, un grupo de piratas bolcheviques detuvo el bote del obispo, con la intención de llevarse a las muchachas. El Obispo y Padre Caravario los obstruyeron con todas las fuerzas que pudieron con intención de proteger a los jóvenes - que pudieron escapar - los dos misioneros fueron golpeados brutalmente y después fusilados, en odio a la fe cristiana que exalta la virginidad. Antes de que fueran asesinados, cada uno se confesó con el otro. El último suspiro fue por su querida China.

**En 1976, Pablo VI los declaró mártires, en 1983 Juan Pablo II los declaró Beatos y el 1º de octubre de 2000 los canonizó.**

[http://www.sdb.org/es/Santidad\\_Salesiana/Santos/Luis\\_Versiglia](http://www.sdb.org/es/Santidad_Salesiana/Santos/Luis_Versiglia)

[http://www.sdb.org/es/Santidad\\_Salesiana/Santos/Callisto\\_Caravario](http://www.sdb.org/es/Santidad_Salesiana/Santos/Callisto_Caravario)