

## FATHER FRANCESCO SPINELLI'S LIFE

(brief)

Father Francesco Spinelli was born in Milan on April, 1853.

In 1875, his first year of priesthood, he came to Rome for the Jubilee.

At the basilica of St. Mary Major, he knelt before the crib of the Child Jesus:

“I knelt, wept, prayed, and dreamt of a band of young women who would adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament”.

Dream, vision, intuition? For Father Francesco the incarnation of Jesus in history continues through the daily incarnation of the Eucharistic Bread, as loving presence for everyone, to be adored and to be served in the poor.

Bergamo (Italy), December 15, 1882: the dream becomes reality.

Father Francesco began a new religious family with the first three sisters, who adored the Eucharist and drew love from It for the service of other brothers and sisters.

The work of God, however, are always sealed by the cross, marked by suffering: after a promising start, on March 4, 1889, calumnies and plots forced Father Francesco to leave the diocese of Bergamo and his Institute. Like a grain of wheat, he willingly gave his life to be planted in the will of God.

On March 4, 1889, Father Francesco appeared at the community of Rivolta d'Adda, penniless and betrayed by his own.

He urged the sisters to remain united, and asked if they were ready to face fatigue and difficulty to give continuity to the Institute. The response was unanimous.

In everyday life, sacrifices and joys are multiplied: before the Eucharist, the Founder and his sisters found unity, strength, comfort and peace.

The joy of the Resurrection springs forth from the cross and bears fruit in mission.

Ever since that time, the Eucharistic Jesus has been adored day and night in the Motherhouse at Rivolta d'Adda, in Italy, in Congo, in Senegal, in Colombia, in Cameroon, in Argentina and the joy of the Church is the fruit of this contemplation.