

Fr. Pio Gurisatti



The Fourth Superior General

1891 – 1911

[Chapters 14 – 17]

[I – IV]



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Schematic Outline of His Life¹



PIO GURISATTI (priest)

BORN: Gemona, UD – April 22, 1848

ORDAINED: 1873

DIED: Verona (Stimmate) – Dec. 5, 1921

AGE: 73

He was very dedicated and successful in the apostolic ministry, especially in the spiritual counselling. He was superior in S. Maria del Giglio and Stimmate.

In 1891 he succeeded Fr. P. Vignola as Superior General. He opened the cause of Beatification of our Founder and was instrumental for the increase in number of our confreres. He opened the communities of Udine, Gemona and Milan, and he sent the first Stigmatines to the United States of America and to Brazil.

In 1907 he shifted the General Curia to Rome, where he became successful and much esteemed by people. Pope Pius X, through him, entrusted to our congregation the direction of the seminary of Belluno (1910-1915).

After 10 years of leadership, he retired to the Stimmate.

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¹ Source: Confrades.com – by Fr. Silvano Zanella, CSS.

**A Compendium of Fr. Gurisatti's Life and the Early Times of the
Stigmatine Congregation:²**

1848

Mar. 23: The Dominicans at Santa Sabina in Rome ceded the Church of *S. Nicola dei Prefeti* in Rome to a Confraternity of the Crucified. The Church would be administered by our Congregation in 1891 – and the Confraternity caused no small difficulty to our Fathers.

Apr. 22: **Pio Gurisatti** was born in Gemona, UD.

1862

Nov. 04: The Novitiate was transferred from the Stimate to the *Trinità* for the second time. Fr. Marani, Superior General, blessed the House that had been renovated. Fr. Vincent Vignola celebrated the Mass. The *Trinità* had been vacant for the past three years, due to the work going on there. There were three Professed Students: Charles Zara, Francis Sogaro and Louis Morando [these last two would pass away as Consecrated Bishops]. There were four Novice Students: Andrew Sterza, Joseph DeVai, Joseph Sembianti and one other. There were also several Brothers there: Bro. Zanolì, Infirmary and laundry; Bro. Nicora, Porter and tailor; Bro. Reali, Cook. Among the Aspirants were Anthony Caucigh, **Pio Gurisatti** and James Marini.

1865

Jan. 06: Anthony Caucigh was vested as a Novice. He was at this time 14 and had been with the Congregation 2 years and 4 months. His Novice companions were Lawrence Pizzini, B. Perazzani, D. Vicentini, **Pio Gurisatti**, M. Lenaro, James Marini, A. Caresia, T. Vicentini, Richard Tabarelli, Br. J. Zadra, C. Nardelli, B. Carrara.

1873

Mar. 29: **Lawrence Pizzini, James Marini and Pio Gurisatti were ordained on this day, *Sitientes*³ Saturday.**

1883

Jan. 01: **Fr. Pio Gurisatti** became Superior of the Stimate, succeeding Fr. Zara.

² Source: The Stigmatine Calendar.

³ i.b.: Editor's note: the Saturday in the 4th week of Lent.

1891

- Mar. 23: Frs. Tabarelli, Julius Zambiasi and Scotton moved from Vicolo del Bologna, n. 40 in Rome – to a House near *S. Nicola dei Prefeti*. As these Priests were involved in school work, **Fr. Pio Gurisatti – the future 4th Superior General** – was sent to care for the Church.
- Jun. 15: About this time, **Fr. Pio Gurisatti**, who was sent to Rome to care for the Church of *S. Nicola dei Prefeti* on a temporary basis, returned to Verona, and his place in Rome was taken by Fr. Louis Morando.
- Jun. 30: At the end of June, Fr. John Baptist Tomasi joined the Community of the Congregation in Rome to prepare himself for the Doctorate in Theology.
- Sep. 24: Fr. Louis Morando convoked the 14th General Chapter, to elect a successor to Fr. Peter Vignola, recently deceased. **The Chapter chose Fr. Pio Gurisatti for a ten year term.** The Councilors elected were: Frs. Morando, Tabarelli, Marini and Zandonai. This Chapter decided that, once the General Chapter was announced, local Chapters should assemble, choose delegates for the General Chapter – those under 35 years of age should have Active but not Passive voice.

1896

- Apr. 11: **Fr. Gurisatti, Superior General**, wrote to the Bishop of Civitavecchia to see if some solution could be reached in the difficulties the Congregation met there. No solution was forthcoming, so **Fr. Gurisatti** withdrew the community at the end of the School Year – two priests had been sent there in 1895, and left less than one year later, due to some difficulties with a Canon Caraciale.

1898

- Apr. 28: **Fr. P. Gurisatti, Superior General**, Fr. Tabarelli and the Viscount of S. José de Pasqueira, met at the Hotel of Rome to discuss the Congregation taking over the direction of the Portuguese College in Rome, and agreement was reached.

1899

- Jul. 11: Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General, accepted the Church that was offered in Lisbon and decided to send Fr. Vivari and Fr. Pio Gabos, and Bro. Cesare Bonfanti there.

1902

- Feb. 20: On this date, Fr. Joseph Marchesini sold a part of his extensive holdings to Fr. Stephen Rosa and Fr. Victor Gurisatti, for 120,000 Lira!

1905

- Mar. 17: Fr. Joseph Antonioli purchased a piece of property in the 'Acquabella' section of Milan, with the intention of building there a Boarding House for students attending school in Milan. At first, the General Council, under **Fr. P. Gurisatti, Superior General**, was not interested, but in time it would become an important project of the Congregation.
- Mai 20: The newly constructed theater in Trent was inaugurated this day. Frequently plays would be put on in this theater as part of the activity of the Oratory.
- Jun. 21: Fr. Fantozzi supervised renovations at the *Stimmate* to house the endeavor of the Laborers' Patronage [*Patronato Operaio*] – consisting of a Boarding House, instructions and training established for Workers in Verona.
- Aug. 17: In a Session of the General Council, Fr. Gurisatti, Superior General, granted permission to Fr. Luchi and Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta to leave for the United States of America.**



Frs. Anthony Dalla Porta and Ludovico Luchi,
the first Stigmatines in North America.

- Aug. 18: Fr. Antonioilli was supervising the construction of the Students' Boarding House in the 'Acquabella' section of Milan.
- Sep. 26: Fr. Luchi and Fr. Anthony Della Porta left Trent for their journey through Switzerland to LeHavre, France, where they set sail for North America.**

Oct. 02: Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovicus Luchi set sail from Lehavre, France, to establish the Congregation in the New World, in North America.

Cross-Atlantic Journey – From Havre Harbor, France to Ellis Island Harbor, NY, USA
[6 days in the Atlantic Ocean [Oct. 2 to Oct. 8, 1905]



Verona [Veneto],
Italy



Trento [South
Tyrol], Italy



Basel,
Switzerland



Paris, France



Le Havre, France



Ellis Island
Harbor, NY, USA



Hazleton, PA
[first foundation]



Springfield,
MA

Oct. 08: Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovico Luchi arrived in Hazleton, PA, and were joyfully and enthusiastically welcomed by the Trentine colony.⁴

Oct. 13: On this date, Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovico Luchi were received by the Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania. They were the first Stigmatines in North America.

⁴ Source: *Breve Cronaca*.

1906

- Jan. 07: Cardinal Peter Respighi, Vicar of Pius X, **consecrated in Rome this day the first member of the Congregation raised to the Episcopacy – Fr. Louis Morando**, who had been named Arch-Bishop of Brindisi by the Pope the previous December.
- Jan. 23: The recently consecrated Archbishop Louis Morando – a Stigmatine - returned to the Stimate to celebrate this Feast of the Espousals with his Confreres, before leaving to take over his Diocese of Brindisi, in Italy. He was the first Stigmatine elevated to the Episcopacy.
- Feb. 26: Cardinal Tripepi, the Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, obtained an affirmative reply to the question of the **Founder's Cause being introduced in Rome.**
- Mar. 02: Pope Pius X signed a Decree for the Introduction of the **Cause of Fr. Bertoni.**
- Mar. 25: Arch-Bishop Louis Morando, the first member of the Congregation elevated to the Episcopacy, entered his See of Brindisi.
- Apr. 01: Arch-Bishop Morando, newly consecrated, entered Ostuni – he had been named Apostolic Administrator here.
- Jul. 26: Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta moved into St. Michael's Cathedral Rectory in Springfield MA and took over from a Fr. Kelley [a former student of Fr. Tabarelli in Rome] the care of the Italians of the city.
- Sep. 18: The 17th General Chapter convened at the Stimate – **Fr. Gurisatti**, already General for 15 years, withdrew his resignation, and so automatically **continued the last half of his second ten year term.** The Councilors elected were: Frs. Tabarelli, John Tomasi, Julius Zambiasi and Alfred Balestrazzi. The Chapter decided that, **at the end of Fr. Gurisatti's term, Superiors General would have six year terms.**

1907

- Apr. 26: Fr. Melchiade Vivari died this day at the Stimate. He was eulogized in the Parma Press as: *... a holy and learned Priest ... a valiant soldier of Jesus Christ ... one of the most illustrious members of the Congregation...* During his lifetime, he had translated two books from German: the Jesuit, Fr. Biederlak, SJ, *Social Questions*; and the other Jesuit, Fr. Von Dess; *Counsels for the Young*. He also translated a book on Lourdes from the French.

1908

Jun. 29: Pope Pius X issued an Apostolic Constitution which revamped the offices of the Holy See. The Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars was split, and became the Sacred Congregation of Religious.

The Capitular Commission elected by the 17th General Chapter [September 18, 1906] was working on the Constitutions to bring them into accord with the *Norms* issued by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars – issued in 1901]. The Commission suspended its activity for the time being, until the competency of the Sacred Congregation of Religious was more determined.

1910

Aug. 29: Charles Joseph Zanotti pronounced his First Vows.

Nov. 10: Fr. Alexander Grigoli, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi leave Trieste for Brazil. The first Foundation in South America for the Congregation was thus established.

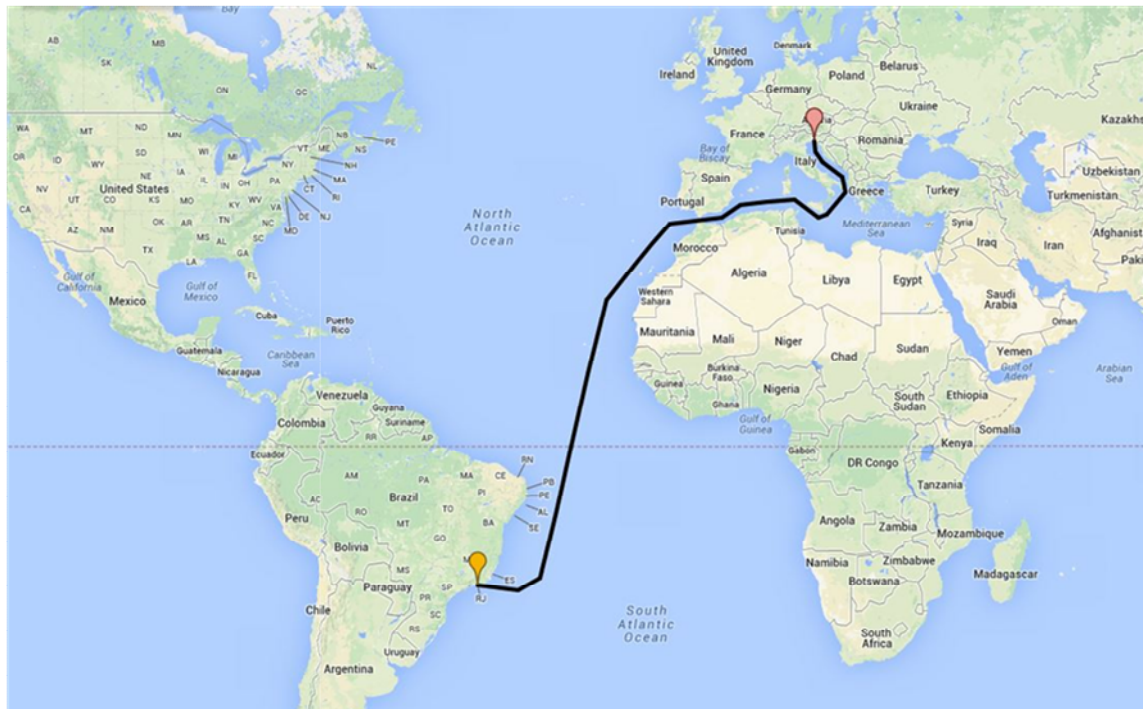
Dec. 05: Fr. Alexander Grigoli, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi are the first Stigmatines in South America.⁵



Fr. Henry Adami, Fr. Alexander Grigoli and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi:
the First Stigmatines in South America.

⁵ This is according to the *Breve Cronaca* and the Stigmatine Calendar. However, the arrival of the first Stigmatines in Brazil is commemorated there on Dec. 2nd.

Trans-Atlantic journey of the 1st Stigmatines to Brazil, from Trieste [that time in Austria] to Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil [22 days in the Atlantic Ocean]



Trieste, Austria



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dec. 06: Fr. Grigoli made arrangements to see Bishop Braga, in **Curitiba**⁶ for a possible foundation for the Congregation in his Diocese. The three Stigmatines stayed with the Missionaries of St. Charles – their Father General, **Fr. Dominic Vicentini**, was a former Stigmatine.

1911

Mar. 29: **The Stigmatines enter in our first foundation in Brazil, in Tibagy, state of Paraná.**⁷

Sep. 23: The 18th General Chapter elects Fr. John Baptist Tomasi the 5th General Chapter. He was the 1st Superior General elected in the 20th Century.

1921

Dec. 05: **Fr. Pio Gurisatti dies in Verona, Stimate.**

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⁶ On June 18, 2004 – another Stigmatine – Dom Moacyr Vitti, CSS [1940- +2014], was installed as the Archbishop of Curitiba, PR, Brazil.

⁷ According to the *Breve Cronaca*.

Synthesis:

Roster of the General Chapters and Important Dates of the Institute during the 4 four first Superior General Terms [1855 – 1911]:

Date	Event	Complementation	Elected Sup. General
Apr. 16, 1855	Decree of Praise		
Sep. 16, 1855			Fr. J. M. Marani
Sep. 30, 1855	Canonical Erection		
July 3-5, 1871	1 st Gen. Chapter		Fr. J. B. Lenotti
Sep. 11-13, 1871	2 nd Gen. Chapter		
Oct. 4-6, 1871	3 rd Gen. Chapter		
Sep. 9-10, 1872	4 th Gen. Chapter		
Feb. 25 – Mar. 2, 1874	5 th Gen. Chapter		
Aug. 5, 1874	6 th Gen. Chapter		
Oct. 26-30, 1875	7 th Gen. Chapter		Fr. P. Vignola
Sep. 26 – Oct. 4, 1876	8 th Gen. Chapter		
Feb. 17-24, 1880	9 th Gen. Chapter		
Feb. 18-28, 1881	10 th Gen. Chapter		Fr. P. Vignola
Sep. 12-25, 1889	11 th Gen. Chapter	Change Const.	
Sep. 15, 1890	Pontifical Approbation		
Sep. 24 – Oct. 3, 1890	12 th Gen. Chapter	Change Const.	
Apr. 23-24, 1891	13 th Gen. Chapter		
Sep. 24-28, 1891	14 th [I] Gen. Chapter		Fr. P. Gurisatti
Sep. 21-23, 1896	15 th [II] Gen. Chapter		
1897	Beginning of the Cause of Beatification of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni		
Sep. 23-25, 1901	16 th [III] Gen. Chapter		Fr. P. Gurisatti
Oct. 7, 1905	Foundation in USA	Frs. Anthony Dalla Porta and Louis Luchi	
Sep. 18-20, 1906	17 th [IV] Gen. Chapter		
Dec. 2, 1910	Foundation in Brazil	Fr. Henry Adami, Fr. Alexander Grigolli and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi	
Sep. 20-23, 1911	18 th [V] Gen. Chapter		Fr. J. B. Tomasi

 Date of St. Gaspar Bertoni

 Dates of the Institute

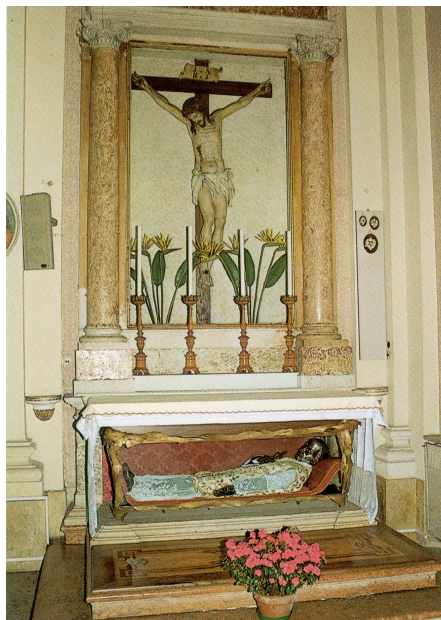
 Election of Sup. Gen.

Milestones of the Stigmatine Congregation during the First Four Superior General's Terms [1955 – 1911]:

On the Founder:

- In **1897**, there was initiated the **Cause of Beatification of St. Gaspar Bertoni**.
- On **January 26, 1899**, the Sessions of the Diocesan Process in Verona of interviewing the witnesses in the **Cause of Fr. Bertoni's Beatification** finished in Verona.
- On **March 13, 1899**, Fr. Bertoni's body was exhumed for examination and identification as a part of the Process for his Cause. The body was exposed on a room in an upper floor at the Stimate, which was sealed.
- On **April 20, 1899**, **Fr. Bertoni's body was viewed a third time** by the Diocesan Officials in the Diocesan Process of his Cause.
- On **May 18, 1899**: Fr. Bertoni's body was sealed in the Epistle side of the old Oratory in the Stimate with this inscription:

**The Remains of the Servant of God, Gaspar Bertoni, Priest, Founder,
Legislator of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Stigmata.**



- On **August 21, 1899**, the **Diocesan Process of Fr. Bertoni's Cause was concluded in Verona, and was sent to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome**. Fr. Tabarelli succeeded Fr. James Marini as Postulator.

- On **March 2, 1906**, Pope Pius X signed a Decree for the **Introduction of the Cause of Fr. Bertoni**.

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On the Institute:

[1] On the Approbation of the Institute:

- On **April 16, 1855**, by Fr. Marani's command, previously to his term as the 1st Superior General, the Institute received its **Decree of Praise**.
- The Institute received **Papal Approval on September 15, 1890** from Pope Leo XIII.

[2] On the Cross-Board Missions:

[2.1] To the United States of America:

- The first Stigmatines in America, Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovico Luchi, arrived in the USA on Oct. 8, 1905.
- After a few days in Hazleton, PA, where they were joyfully and enthusiastically welcomed by the Trentine colony, they went to Scranton, PA, where were received with great cordiality by the Bishop.
- **The Stigmatines were officially installed** in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, in **Hazleton, on Feb. 22, 1907. That was our first foundation in North America.**⁸

[2.2] To Brazil:

- The **first Stigmatines in South America**, Fr. Henry Adami, Fr. Alexander Grigolli and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi, arrived in Brazil on **Dec. 5, 1905.**⁹
- On **March 29, 1911**, the first Stigmatines in South America entered in **our first foundation in Brazil, in Tibagy, state of Paraná.**

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⁸ Source: the American Chronicle.

⁹ Note: however, the arrival of the first Stigmatines in Brazil is commemorated there on Dec. 2nd.

On the General Chapters' Decisions:

[1] On the Election of Superior Generals:

- On **Sep. 16, 1855**, during the pre-chapters time, **Fr. John Mary Marani** was elected the **1st Superior General**. He would govern the Institute until his death, on July 1, 1871, in exile, in the house of his niece, Mrs. Massalongo.
- On **July 4, 1871**, **Fr. John Baptist Lenotti** was chosen a **provisory Superior General**.
- On **Oct. 6, 1871**, **Fr. John Baptist Lenotti** was elected the **2nd Superior General** for a 5 years term by the 3rd General Chapter. However, his term would end with his premature death, on Sep. 5, 1875 (his 58th birthday).
- On **Oct. 28, 1875**, **Fr. Peter Vignola** was elected the **3rd Superior General** by the 7th General Chapter for a 5 years term.
- On **Feb. 20, 1981**, **Fr. Peter Vignola** was re-elected **Superior General** for life by the 10th General Chapter.
- With the death of Fr. Peter Vignola on Aug. 23, 1891, the 14th General Chapter was convened and elected **Fr. Pio Gurisatti** the **4th Superior General** on Sep. 27, 1891, for a 10 years term.
- On **Sep. 25, 1901**, **Fr. Pio Gurisatti** was re-elected the **4th Superior General** by the 16th General Chapter, for a 10 years term. He governed our Congregation for 20 years - the longest time ever.
- On **Sep. 22, 1911**, **Fr. John Baptist Tomasi** was elected the **5th Superior General** by the 18th General Chapter, for a 10 years term.

[2] On the interpretation of the Founder's Original Plan:

- The **11th General Chapter [Sep. 22-25, 1889]** proposes changes in the Founder's Original Constitutions;
- The discussions culminated in the **12th General Chapter [Sep. 24 – Oct. 3, 1890]** that **made changes in the Constitutions**. As a result, the **new Constitutions of the Sodality were printed**.
- The **12th General Chapter [1890]** declared that **'the "Schools" are equal to the "Parish Missions" in the Founder's Original Plan'**.

[3] On the Cross-Boarding Missions:

- The premature death of the **2nd Superior General, Fr. Lenotti**, in 1975, caused a delay of 30 years in the foreign missions;
- Finally, on **Aug. 17, 1905**, in a Session of the General Council, **Fr. Gurisatti**, the 4th Superior General, **granted permission to Fr. Luchi and Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta to leave for the United States of America. They were the First Stigmatines in North America.**
- And on **Nov. 10, 1910**, still during **Fr. Pio Gurisatti's** term as Superior General, **Fr. Alexander Grigolli, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi left Trieste for Brazil. They were the First Stigmatines in South America.**

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In General:

- On January 7, 1906, **Cardinal Peter Respighi, Vicar of Pius X, consecrated in Rome this day the first member of the Congregation raised to the Episcopacy – Fr. Louis Morando**, who had been named Arch-Bishop of Brindisi by the Pope the previous December.

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