

From the Book : Lettere a Sacerdoti (Letters to Priests) by Rev. Dolindo Ruotolo –  
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The present book is in the process of being translated from the original Italian by Giovanna Ellis. Ellis is part of a team group in the United States dedicated to translating the books of Don Dolindo Ruotolo, which now are in the care of the Franciscans of the Immaculate at Centro di Cultura e di Apostolato, at Frigento, Italy.

Sanctum Domino  
(Sacred to the Lord)

Es 28,36

[Letter to a Priest, Napoli, 14 August 1961]

Dear Father

Jesus to the soul.

You are a Priest and you must always keep in mind your dignity, because with your personality and for my ministry you are Myself, you are Jesus Christ, that is, the Savior of souls.

In the past, Priests had inscribed on their forehead the gold letters: Sanctum Domino (Sacred to the Lord). Now you carry written in your heart, in your aspirations, in your activities these two words: Jesus Christ.

You cannot be different from me and you cannot separate yourself into two persons: Priest in your functions and man in the world. I also had a double name, Jesus Christ, Man-God! I came from Heaven to save. I took on myself human flesh to immolate it to God and my flesh was entirely consecrated to God. I became man, but I was God in the unity of my Divine Person: God-Man.

I took on human nature, coming down from Heaven; you, in your priestly persona, ascend to Heaven, you are clothed with divine personality. I, Man-God, am truly man but truly God and you are truly man in your nature, but in your priestly persona, that entirely transforms you, you are truly divine.

You are not a man to run after the desires of the flesh or the aspirations of your involved fantasy. Like Myself, you are a man immolating yourself as victim of love in your flesh, you are Host in your soul, voice of truth in your words, apostle in your ministry, a man yes, but not a man-man; instead, like Me, with Me and in Me, you are man-God.

You can only live for God, you can only work for God, and you can only give yourself to God. Your knowledge can only be divine, your aspirations can only be for the glory of God, and your fertility can only be to generate children for God, in time and in eternity. This complete dedication to God will make a saint out of you, and you must be a saint in the strictest sense of the world: Sanctum Domino.

If you would live in the spirit of the world, you would be a monster just as a boy born with the head of a dog or who has fins instead of arms and legs is a monster. If you would give yourself to a creature, you would not be a savior but a cannibal, because you would plunder for yourself the one you were meant to free from the infernal beast. If you are not all of God, all for God, all with God, a most pure lily, you are a poor and wild log, able to give out poisonous thorns.

Hence, my son, live a saintly life and be fully devoted to Mary, because She generated you in spirit, as she generated me in the flesh. A Priest, who is not truest son of Mary, is an abortion; he is born dead, because he does not receive life from his Divine Mother. He is born dead to divine life. He has only a human appearance, human flesh, human beauty, but he is dead, and his flesh leads to decay.

Look at Mary, and mirror yourself in her purity. Look at Mary, and live her dedication to God: *Ecce ancilla Domini* (Here is the handmaid of the Lord). Look at Mary, alive for the glory of God: *Magnificat anima mea Dominum*. (My soul magnifies the Lord). Look at Mary, and your exultation shall not be in the triumph of the world, but in God, who, through you, saves and redeems: *Exultavit spiritus meus in Domino salutari meo*. (My spirit rejoices in God my Savior). Look at Mary, and live her humility, thus God may shed in you his grace, making you blessed in Him, and doing in you great things. Look at Mary, pray with Her, and be an instrument of God, to defeat the kingdom of Satan. Be holy, do not succumb to the lies of the world: be the salt of the earth.

(Signed) Don Dolindo