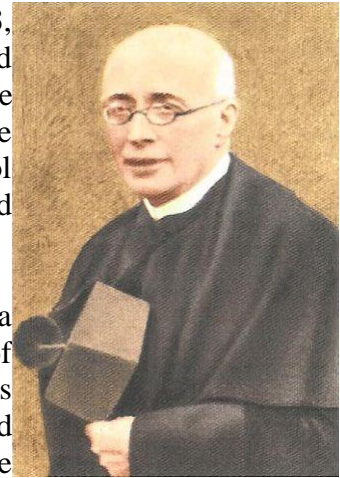


## **DON CARLO AMIRANTE** **(1852 – 1934)**

Carlo Amirante was born in Soverato (Catanzaro) on November 3, 1852. His parents were Saverio Amirante (Prefect of Catanzaro) and Rosalia Gliamas. His upbringing was of the most traditional kind. He planned to pursue a career in the army and sought admission to the Nunziatella Military School in Naples; later he went to the military school in Turin. He was awarded a degree in *Belles Lettres* and Engineering and became an officer (lieutenant) in the Artillery.



In 1870 at the age of eighteen he took part in the attack on Porta Pia in Rome. (The Kingdom of Italy took possession of the remnants of the Papal States). He sustained a serious injury when shrapnel pierced his throat but fortunately did not hit the carotid artery. He was taken to a field hospital set up at Villa Torlonia. He was concerned about the excommunication he had incurred by taking part in the assault on Rome and once out of the hospital sought an audience with Pope Pius IX. He asked to be absolved from the excommunication he had incurred but the Pope told him that wasn't really necessary: he was only obeying orders.

He was about to be promoted to captain when he decided to terminate his military career and return to his family in Salerno. He hoped to marry. He had three meetings with a young lady but at the third meeting he bade the young woman farewell and announced his intention to become a priest. He urged her to enter a convent and she did.

Carlo's parents were dead so his uncle, a colonel in the army, accompanied him to Naples to see the Archbishop. Sisto Cardinal Riario Sforza. The Cardinal was pleased that the young man wanted to be a priest but urged him to think it over for another fortnight.

Given his age and the studies he had already completed the Cardinal recommended an accelerated two-year course. On December 22, 1877, Msgr. Matarozzi, the Bishop of Ruvo and Bitonto, (the See of Naples was vacant at the time) ordained Don Carlo Amirante to the priesthood.

Twenty years after his ordination Don Carlo entered the Servite Third Order. His name is found in the Third Order Register for 1897.

During these twenty years he showed signs of apostolic zeal, priestly and Christian virtue. Especially noteworthy were his astounding gentleness and endless patience. He was engaged in a wide range of activities and given the times lived an especially long life: 82 years!

He had a wide circle of acquaintance that included everyone of note in Neapolitan church life at the end of the nineteenth century: Blessed Bartolo Longo (1841-1926); Blessed Maria Maddalena Starace (1845-1921); Rosa Gattorno (1831-1900); and the Servant of God, Anna Maria Landi (1861-1931).

He was a journalist, teacher, musician, chaplain at the University clinic, parish priest, exorcist and spiritual counselor to those condemned to death. For forty-six years he was the spiritual assistant to the religious institute founded by the Servant of God, Anna Maria Landi. He displayed genuine Christian love and heroism helping the sick during the cholera epidemic of 1884.

He prepared for his death with great care and left this life on January 20, 1934. He was buried in the Poggioreale cemetery but twenty years later his body was exhumed and translated to the Servite church of San Pietro a Maiella where it now reposes.

On December 20, 1954, the Diocesan Informational Process began; on July 19, 1980 the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints approved the proceedings. The most recent legislation required a supplementary hearing at the Neapolitan Ecclesiastical Tribunal which concluded on February 13, 1987. To continue the cause for his beatification further archival research must be completed.