Brief Notes of My Life

I have been asked many times to write a few notes of my life but was always reluctant to do so. I have begun with a few remembrances of my solitary childhood in a little town in the Cilento. At age five, I was taken away from my parents and sent to live in a little village in Calabria with my uncle, an archdeacon whom I tolerated but never loved. My young adulthood was joyless as I wandered from city to city, seeking to make my own way. My free hours were spent in study.

Now, the mother of my young children has urged me to write a bit about my life and I don't know how to refuse to describe to them the odyssey of my long life.

I have never desired wealth, which is rarely accompanied by the brotherhood preached by our Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth.

I was born on November 20, 1860, in the little town in Salerno where my father had his medical practice. He was always serious and self-assured, so much so that my mother said that he didn't know how to cry. When I was two, my eldest sister accidently dropped me on some stairs. I received a serious head injury and fought between life and death for several months. As a result, I remained physically weak but mentally alert, with a great desire to learn. I began elementary school at 3 years old but quickly learned to read and write much faster than my classmates.

I had just turned five when my father decided to return to Calabria at the request of his brother, Francesco. He went to Martone, a small village of poor farmers. Not long after this move he was given the position of village doctor in the small town of St. John. He transferred there with my mother and his second oldest son, Fortunato. My sister and I were left with our uncle, the archdeacon who assumed the task of being my teacher and protector.

He was a good teacher but so gruff and strict that I trembled every time he called me to recite my lessons. In addition, the beatings and blows were so severe that I shook with fear during the long recitations, which previously I had remembered well. I had studied so seriously and willingly. I remember once he had given me the assignment of memorizing Tasso's "Jerusalem"

Delivered Canto 12". Badgered, I had studied so willingly that I could recite it all without missing a single word. When he called me to recite, perhaps not giving me time to collect myself, I failed and he said, "You will go hungry until you have learned all of it." I went on without meals, studying and repeating the work by myself, but called again by him, and overcome with fear, I failed a second time. "You will go hungry," he repeated, "until you are able to recite it entirely without error."

I returned to study with no lunch or dinner and went to bed hungry. The next morning, I repeated it perfectly to myself. My uncle, who had been listening to me without my knowing, came to me and gave me lunch and approval.

When I was barely eight, and sickly, my uncle gave me such a devastating blow that I fled Martone and went to St. John. I don't remember how I managed to cross the river which separated the two towns. My father was angry and reproved me for my flight. I went to bed and while I was sleeping my mother came to check on me. Seeing the bruises from my uncle, she told my father. I had decided never to return to my uncle but he came in person to give his excuses to my father.

I returned to his home and began to serve again as an altar boy. When I was nine my uncle decided that I should give a Christmastime sermon in the town's biggest church. People from neighboring towns had been invited to attend. A little pulpit had been built for me and my uncle served as my acolyte, perhaps prepared to act as my prompter, should I forget a word or phrase. I began giving the sermon in a loud, clear voice without worrying about the audience which had filled the nave to hear the young preacher. I returned home to the festive music of a band and was seated at the head of the table for dinner.

I had begun to rebel again against the mistreatment. I was a bit older and couldn't tolerate the abuse and the bullying. I spoke frankly, man to man with my father and he allowed me to return to his home permanently. I continued with my studies at the local public school and received my diploma with highest honors and the gold medal.

I went to schools in Reggio Calabria at age 16, then to Salerno to complete my two years at the Ginasio, and then on to the Liceo where I continued my classical studies. I had planned to go to Naples after graduation to search for work. However, in the midst of my studies, I was drafted into the Army. I stayed in the Army for ten years as I had quickly reached the rank of sergeant and eventually was promoted to second lieutenant.

After my discharge from the Army, I decided to enter the Customs Service. I was promoted soon to junior officer and interim teacher. I had to leave the Customs Service earlier than I had planned because I had gotten married in Naples and felt I should look for better opportunities. I found work at a political newspaper, "Don Marzio," which was later sold to new owners. At this time, I was offered work organizing a library for the prime minister's office. I remained with the prime minister, Francesco Crispi, serving as his secretary. After Crispi's death in 1901, I decided to go to America.

What was my life in America? I worked at first, in a factory for a short while, then found employment at an office at a salary of \$25 a month. Eventually, I became a social worker and head of that office.

After 22 years there I left for Chicago with my second wife. She has given me two children, who are now my pride and joy. Unfortunately, we moved to Chicago just as the Great Depression was about to engulf the country. Eventually, I was able to resume my social work with the W.P.A.

We returned to Boston in September 1934, rejoining old friends. Shortly afterwards I resumed my social work with the W.P.A.

What will my future be? That is in God's hands. My hope is to continue my work and to be productive. My little angels will give me the encouragement and guarantee of Divine help.

Breir canni sulla mia vita Benche molte volte vollecitate a sein vere degli appunti villa mia vita, ne tono stato sempre restie. In gindicato instillo a service mia primo lingo lo gindicato instillo a verrar pli existilla con verrar pli existilla per sollaria ed inonomiato, olella mia fanciallezza, solitoria ed inonomiato, in un priceolo villagio del Chilento prima e proi, a cinque amin, lantano dai muei por a cinque amin, lantano dai muei por a cinque amin, lantano dai muei por a cinque amin, lantano della cala, quentioni, in un volitario perevello della cala. genitori, in un volitaris perevello della cala. Voria, con un mo no areixete, malestica e quasi tellerate; ma mon amato, L'adoloscenza e la gioventa furons pet me detolate e senza gioia, avendola per varie città; lavorando per rivera e sta diando nelle pre in cui avrei dovuto re abtare. Ora la madre dei mie delle preces figli, mi vollecita a serivere qualcores villa må vita e non so rifintarmi a raccontar loro l'odine dei mici 78 Non he mai desiderate exchega, la que le raramente si accompia con le symite di un na fratellanza, predicato e pratticato dal nostre signère e delvatore gesie di Magaret: naigni il 20 Movembre 1860, nel proc sello ove mio padre esercitara la suo profin sione d'anedico Comunide. Frei sempre diearattere verio e posato, tanto elie la mani. Tin dull infourze, or due toli anni

de eta, da mia vorella maggiore pecerni ruggolare da una seala a sinnah provisione Le finite alla fronte a combattere tra morte e vita dilerri priesi Resauci, ma simbasi élébolucció mel fisico, ma meglio si mente. con grande ditiderio d'imparare. Parfatti a 3 anni andai alla venda elementare e pen presto imparar a legger e senvere, occellendo en gli altri alumni, molto avero appena anque anni quando minatori padra volle nitornares in Calabrio, richiamatori olal vivo protetto, Francesco, les eigente in Martano, piccolo villgio di contadicio poveri ma ana sono di Depir avoiti di me. ma onetti. Poco dopo mio podre otteme la carico di Medico Comunale nel vieno villagie che San Giovanni, Si Trasferi cole, con la namma ed il mio secondo fra tello, Fortanato, mentre ma de alla el is restormno eon to rie amprete il qual si assunser l'incaries di mis maestre arcigno e vevero, che io tremaso ogru volta ile mi chiamavo a recitare la ma Inoltre les battilure erans, riere ea lienghe recitojioni che prima ricordaio benissimo per averle studiota con la mani ma attensione à contenta volonta. Ricordo nin aneddoto vingolaro. Mi avera assegnato d'imparare a mesmoria un inte re Canto della Generalemente diberato de

Passo. La studiai con tanta alacrità elu: potevo recitarla intera venza stagliose uno who parola. Robbene chiamata a ripeterla in sua presenza, non poter racaperarmici "Mon mangerori", mi chisse, "finch non l'avrai imparata". Restoi serga colezione, studiandola e ripetendola da met sterro, ma, richia mate da lui, colmo di pariso, falli la seronda volta. "Mon mangerar", mi ripeté, "finché non vergnen ripeterla bene ed intera! Olipsesi a studiare, ma fue par vato del pranzo e della cena. andai a letto diginno. La mattino requente la declamara, da solo, a per fezione, grando la zie, che stowa, revya cho is to saper, verne ad abbraccion mi, regalandomi doleinen e caregge, Meorda encora che quando avevo e modethecis, mi diede und battitu new con forter che is fuggi da Martons a Van Gisvann, dimenties che eve notato enere travolto talla corrente del prime reparante i due villagis. Mio padre ando in collera e mi rimprevero per la mia o cappata.

Et reson a lette. Sa mamma, mente donnivo, venne a vederni, e, constatando les lividores dalle surbate aunte, chiami il papa Ful deciso ha non parei più torpato dallo rio; ma egli stetto venne a ripigliarmi, facendo le aux reuses ai mier genitori.

fore il chienchetto. Grando avevo appen garni, volle che promuniate un serm ne di Matale, rella Chieno Maggioro. Les ne invitata moltar gante don pari vicini fu costruito un piecolo pulpito pecondo le mia piecola statura e lo gio sterio fece l'accolito, pronto, porse, a ricordermi, a recessorio ció che dovevo dire.

Envere promision il resmone ten a intoppi, a voce alta e chiara, renja presecuparini della folla che gressiva la vasta mavata per sentire il priccolo predicatore. Fini riaecompagnato a cara el ruono pestoro della Handa e porto a capotavata pel prango di occitione.

Poi non di mene 'n'eominciarono contighi e maltrattamenti. Ero più grandicello e mal potevo subire abusi e verregioni. Parlai frame, come uno omino at papa, ed egli mi riporto a cono per sempre.

Continuar gli studii nella senola publica locate ed al recondo anni ot tame it diploma elementere ed massi mo dei punti a la medaglia d'onore. Congri il corso elementare a 10 anni. Lo no, ha sperava sempre far dime un pre mi mando al Ceminario chi Hova, passo lontano dalla retidenza porterna. Vera offerto di contribuire les speso, ma dopo i non so con queli pretesti. Con gli spossi di mio padre, a 16 am no, ove pri graduato dal Ginnasio e d'anno vuccerrivo, non disposero d ælenn megge ginangierre. ander a Mayoli, ottenni lavoro e prosegni an cora al spessodo amo liceale. Hel meglis der mier studir, for pero obbligato a lasciarli perche co. scritto nell'esercito. anche la dopo meno di chie ann ottenni il grado di vergente e voi quello di Lotto Penente d'Conystements. Mi congedon dopo due anni ch verisje ed entrai nelle porge Doganal ove presto fui promono Sotto Uffreiale, con l'interin come insegnante. Dovette lasciare il versque per aver preso mogre, a l'aproce es tosto occuracione

nel Giornæle Politieo: "Don Mergio" Poi il Giornale passo a movo gore pretorio ed is fui chiamato ad organiza re la Miblietera di V. E. Francesco Crisgi. Miman con lu fino al 1901 e de la ma morte, il 19 Marzo 1902, i um in america. ea! davorai in una feittoria; poi in un ufficio, con 25 dollari al mese; poi come copo della sters rifficio di Social Verscer, eon un salaris sempre an værte fino a dollari 175 mensili, Dojoo 22 anni-dovetti Casciase and quel posto ed ander a Elicego, con la mica recorda moglie. da nacque op i due grafenoletti che ora pormano la mia giora ed il mis engaglis. Soffrience colà a causa della de pressione economica, finche, negli ultimi mesi, in segusto ad esame, elli la nomina Frisegnante Dalla M. R. a. - dope Valla W. P. a. Kitorna a Boston, tra i mer brown e cari amici, d'8 Settembre 1834 es poco dopo otterni la posizione, quale organ i'zer, dalla locale W. M. C. Guale sarà il mis Guturo? Esso è nelle mani chi Dio e non chispero di poter

ancora lavorare e produrre. I mie due angioletti mi varanno di sprone e garanzia dell'ainto Divino! Trancis P. Malgery