

NOVENA TO BLESSED JOSEPH ALLAMANO

**A Family man, founding a Missionary Family
to make the world One Family in God**



Day 1 - Allamano and his father, Joseph Allamano

Blessed Allamano was born at Castelnuovo D’Asti – today Castelnuovo Don Bosco – from Joseph Allamano and Marianna Cafasso. He was the fourth of five children. There is no much information about the father, but we know that he had a brother who was a priest (Fr. John Allamano) and he died due to carbuncle on 2nd December 1853, when blessed Allamano was not yet three years old. A niece would say that he was a good Christian and he died due to an infection. Both parents were living in the rural area; they were excellent Christians and very charitable. The father was a very faithful and pious companion of his wife. He seemed to have been illiterate.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you knew what it means to have charitable parents and how they influenced your open heart to the needs of the world. You also knew the pain of not having your father from your early age. Intercede for us and especially for those who have lost their fathers and still suffer the pain of it. May they move ahead in their lives with the support of the rest of the family members. Intercede for us to value our fathers for what they are and not for the intellectual knowledge they have or for any position they may occupy in the society. May all fathers take care of their families aware that they are called to be the image of God the Father and of Christ himself. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! St Joseph, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 2 - Allamano and his mother, Marianna Cafasso



The mother of Blessed Joseph Allamano was Marianna Cafasso, sister of St Joseph Cafasso. We read that she was a woman of high virtue and a model mother. She dedicated herself fully to the education of her children, charitable towards anybody suffering any kind of pain and sorrow, she was generous and always ready for the good of others. Very hospitable, in her home there was room for everybody. Blessed Allamano recognizes the moral and religious education he received from her. She used to educate the children not with severity but with accuracy. In the house there was a lot of order. Blessed Allamano is associated to the tender affection of his mother; he rarely left the house so to

keep companionship to her. “That holy woman... my mother” used to say. A niece writes: *“When they were small –the children- and they made some mistake which she came to know, they, instead of running away from fear of being punished, they used to go to kneel down in front of her, after recognizing their fault, they would listen with respect her observations and they would make reparation for it”*. She accompanied the decisions of Blessed Allamano regarding his studies. Allamano used to be a very serene person, very welcoming, without ups and downs, crisis or uncertainties. A serene and balanced life, but somehow with certain sadness, and this, because of his sick mother and other deaths in the family. He himself would say that very often he would spend his holidays sitting next to her sick mother, who used to be moved from bed to the armchair and from the armchair to bed. When she was still able to hear, the young Joseph would read books to her, something she would like very much... She had to tell him sometimes: “Go out to breath a bit of air...” Each time Blessed Allamano used to leave the house to go to the seminary, she would cry. Blessed Allamano would say: “It seems impossible: she had two eyes from paradise, and yet she was blind”. She died in 1870, when Blessed Allamano was 19 years old. He was in the seminary and whoever was supposed to give him the letter, he forgot it in his pocket. He suffered a lot, but his spiritual director advised him to offer that sacrifice and pain to the Lord, assuring him that the Lord was going to take the place of his parents. This was for him an opportunity to talk about the detachment from parents...

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you experienced the care and love of a mother. You loved her and experienced her love for you, for your family and for those in need. Intercede for us to thank God for our mothers. Bless them and enable us to take care of them for the rest of their lives. Intercede for all mothers so to be able to install in their children the values of Christian life. May Our Lady intercede for all mothers and for us all. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 3 - Allamano and his brothers

Blessed Joseph Allamano had other three brothers and one sister. A particular closeness is recorded with Ottavio, the youngest brother, from their early age. They would often keep in touch with one another. Blessed Allamano kept him updated of all what was happening, responsibilities entrusted to him, etc.

In 1868, his brother suffered an accident which resulted into the amputation of his arm. When ringing the bells in the Church, he broke his arm. The doctor tied it so tight that blood was not circulating. After many doctors saw him, they decided to amputate the arm. One hour operation and without anesthesia. Blessed Allamano will write: *“Imagine the pain for my mother, sister, brothers and on myself, which was very hard. The hand of God had seriously fallen upon us... It is God’s miracle that he resisted that operation. Imagine the most serious pain, and yet remained conscious throughout. But blessed be God, who assisted him after the operation and helped him to recover very soon”*.

There is a beautiful letter from Ottavio written to Blessed Allamano on the day of St Joseph in 1879:

Beloved brother, in this solemn occasion, your feast-day, I should express to you the feelings from my heart in order to ground the blood relationship and friendship which should always unite us. I should call upon the name of him who was the author of our existence and to whom we didn’t have much time to express to him our acknowledgment; the name of our affectionous mother who was sanctified by her deeds and especially by her long martyrdoms; and the name of my uncle whom we were very happy to greet during the inexperience of our youth – But I want to profit of this occasion not only to wish you good health and happiness in your soul, but to ask you to pray and to put your faith and pray for my benefit and the benefit of my family.

Taught by the experience of my normal life and aware of my high duties which are upon me, I feel the need to restore my weak strength with a power that has not worthy origin; but I desire that you intercede to the Head of the family of Nazareth for me to know the necessary virtues and to be able to direct properly the boat, of which I was called pilot. Please manage to get for me that the Great Saint inspire in me and in my family the consciousness of our duty and that he may sustain us during the storms of this sea. These are the wishes from your brother Ottavio on behalf of his wife and of the little angel.

Ottavio got married in 1877; he finished his studies in 1878 and died in 1879.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, we present to you our brothers and sisters. Intercede for us in order that we always acknowledge them and to be able help them in whichever way we can. Intercede for them and their families in their various needs, but above all so that, they can come to know God and serve him with a pure heart. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 4 - Allamano and his uncles, Fr. John Allamano and St. Joseph Cafasso



Fr. John Allamano was the brother of the very father of Blessed Joseph Allamano. He was parish priest in a small village (Passerano) and took really care of the little children after the death of their father. He will guide the later Blessed Allamano in leaving the school of Don Bosco so to find tune with his vocation.

Instead, St. Joseph Cafasso was the brother of Marianna Cafasso, mother of Blessed Joseph Allamano. They were very close even if he met just once and when he was only 6 years old, an image that remained in his mind forever. Yet he could hear a lot about him. That gives meaning to the efforts that Blessed Allamano put in working for the Beatification of his great uncle, which he managed to achieve and be present in Rome for that event. In fact, in 1825, that is 70 years later, when he went to Castelnuovo for the feast of his beatification, Blessed Allamano managed to point out where was the place where he met his uncle who put his hand on his head, adding “And it was here that I got his blessing”. An event which, even if not big, it had impressed his mind.

When Blessed Allamano writes in the process of Beatification of his uncle, he writes: *“Since I was small, and being around, I heard to speak so well at home and among people from the village about the servant of God as if they were talking about a model priest, full of charity that I came to admire him; admiration that grew while I was in the school of Don Bosco. And later on through the contact with the diocesan clergy, I came to admire him more and more...”*

Blessed Allamano knew that there was nothing of extraordinary in Cafasso: he was a priest “extraordinary in the ordinary”, who used to say “the good must be done well”. His concern for the cause of Beatification of Cafasso, is not due to affection or to the fact they were relatives but, as he himself said, talking once to the missionaries: *“for the good that the exaltation of this man could create, so that all those who would read about his virtues become good priests, good Christians and you... good missionaries”*.

Blessed Allamano and Joseph Cafasso were also very close physically. As a matter of fact, once when somebody wanted to make a paint of Joseph Cafasso, he asked Joseph Allamano to sit down and he captured his features.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you experienced the love of your paternal uncle when you missed your father. You also received the blessing of your uncle St Joseph Cafasso, from whom you recognized his virtues and holiness. Intercede for us in order to recognize the value of our relatives in our families and to learn from them. Intercede for our relatives so to be aware of how helpful they can be to us, especially in nurturing us in human and Christian values above all. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! St Joseph Cafasso, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 5 - Allamano and his teacher, Benedetta Savio

While at Castelnuovo, Joseph Allamano attended the nursery school and immediately, a new relationship was born between the directress, Benedetta Savio and her small student. Blessed Allamano, aware of all the good he received from her, he never forgot her. He had such a great esteem that when she died, he wanted somebody to write about her life. In addition, Benedetta Savio could not forget about him and they kept writing to one another, visiting one another, gathering material about Joseph Cafasso, etc. They also wrote to one another during the death of their relatives to console each other.



When she died in 1896, Joseph Allamano wrote to a priest, who was her nephew: “Our good Teacher fled to Paradise; the Lord purified her with the crosses of this year, by now she might have already met her dear Don Cafasso”.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you had high respect and love for those who taught you. You saw in them the work of God at hand. Intercede for us so to recognize the work of all those who thought us and all those in authority, so to be able to keep in touch with them and express to them our appreciation. Intercede for them so that whoever assumes the role of being teacher or leader, they may never forget that they are called to be God’s instruments. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 6 - Allamano and Fr James Camisassa

Most of the time, when Blessed Allamano was given a responsibility, he asked the privilege of choosing his cooperators. Straight away, when he was appointed rector of the Consolata Shrine in Turin, he called Fr James Camisassa to be administrator for the rest 42 years of his life. He was not just a collaborator, but also his right arm, a friend, a confident, a brother. From that moment onwards the life of Allamano was deeply marked by this figure, who still managed to remain in a second place.



He had not given only his talents and his skills, but above all he gave all of himself to Joseph Allamano to work for the Mission and the Missionaries, becoming the Vice-Rector of the Consolata Shrine and taking a very relevant role also in the foundation of the Consolata Missionary Sisters.

When Fr Domenico Ferrero went to visit Joseph Allamano at the Consolata Shrine in Turin and knowing how sick Fr Camisassa was, Fr Ferrero told Joseph Allamano: “*Father, you can offer to God the life of any of us as exchange of the life of the Vice-Rector!*” Blessed Allamano answered: “*I have already offered mine, but it seems that it is useless!*” and he remained in silence.

When Blessed Allamano left the room where the body of James Camisassa was, he seemed to be “the statue of pain”, he wanted to talk but he couldn’t and looking at heaven he only said... “The will of God”

It was a friendship based on a reciprocal appreciation, respecting the talents of one another. Joseph Allamano was always the superior; James Camisassa was always the second, the faithful and intellectual executor of all the projects.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you knew what means to have a good friend next to you. Full of respect for the other, you created the capacity to be respected and fused together in one project and one love: God and the Mission. Intercede for us so to create and cooperate to generate friendships who give glory to God and to His work instead of search for personal gains. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 7 - Allamano and the Consolata Missionaries

In 1901 after a long process of dreams, prayers, discernment and above all the miraculous healing by Our Lady Consolata, he founded the Consolata Missionaries, in order to complete the work started and stopped by Cardinal Massaia in Ethiopia. However, it was not just about starting a missionary society. It was about forming a Missionary Family where members could come together and help one another in dedicating their lives to the mission. He told the young missionaries in different occasions: I don’t want this to be a seminary but a **family**. Do not live here like those who come without knowing one another, they live as if they don’t love one another and died without crying for one another!

Once he wrote to his missionaries in Kenya: “*Another characteristic quality of the work in the missions is that of unity. Unity of mind and heart makes light the toil and labour, gives strength and obtains victory... Work together in harmony, and God will bless your common efforts and labours.*”

Blessed Allamano started the Consolata Missionaries so that even when missionaries due to their health or other problems could no longer live in the missions, they can get back to any of the communities and find still a family, a home.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, we thank you for having formed the Consolata Missionaries, Fathers and Brothers, who dedicate themselves to announce the Good News to the World. Intercede for them so to remain faithful to their vocation, but above all, intercede so that they may always be one in heart and mind, supporting and respecting one another, with their richness and their differences. Intercede for us all, including the laity, so we can form a large Missionary family, not only supporting ourselves but dedicated to the Evangelization of Peoples. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us!*

Day 8 - Allamano and the Consolata Missionary Sisters

After having had the Cottolengo Sisters assisting in the missions in Kenya, Blessed Joseph Allamano realized that the mission needed full missionary sisters. In other words, not just sisters who are available to go to help in the mission but sisters who have the full missionary vocation. After a period of prayer and discernment, Blessed Allamano founded on 29th January 2010 the Consolata Missionary Sisters. He talks to the first group that left for Kenya in these terms: *“Above all, remember that you have only one goal, to make yourselves saints and to save with you many other souls. Doing that, you would have corresponded to your great vocation, and you will receive a great prize in Paradise. You must have above all, the spirit of Faith, of obedience, of love and of mortification... I recommend especially mutual charity and union among yourselves; love one another as sister in Our Lord Jesus Christ, support one another in your defects, love and correct one another.... I greet you with fatherly love, assuring you of my daily morning and evening prayer for you at the altar of Our Lady Consolata.”*

Blessed Allamano used to go daily to the community of the Consolata Sisters to visit them and to share with them about the spiritual life and encouraging them in their lives consecrated for the mission. They would call him “father”. That was the trust and relationship created among themselves.

PRAYER: *Blessed Joseph Allamano, you knew how to be close to your family and to your new spiritual and missionary families. Everybody was not just a helper or a worker, but they were your mother, your brother and sister. Intercede for us so to create family relationships with those with whom we live, with those with whom we work and with those with whom we relate with. Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for us! Blessed Sister Irene Stefani, pray for us!*

Day 9 - Allamano and his intervention from Heaven

On 16th February 1926, 4.10am in Italy, Father Joseph Allamano went back to *his maker*.

“I have lived my many years for your sake; I have given my possessions, my health and my life for you; I hope that after my death, I will be your protector in heaven” wrote Fr Allamano in his Will to his missionaries. From Heaven he promised to do more than from earth.” From Heaven, he continues being... our father!

His intercession for his missionaries, his intercession for the missionary work at large, his intercession for the many people who throughout the whole world call upon him to receive special graces from God are testimony of a man who is fully alive in the communion of Saints.

As we pray for his canonization, we pray first and foremost for the missionary spirit to continue growing in us, in the Consolata Missionary family of Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Laity and in the whole world.

PRAYER: *We thank you, Lord, for having given your Church Blessed Joseph Allamano. You made him a witness to your love, an educator of priests and a father of missionaries for the evangelization of all peoples. Grant us, Lord, what we ask through the intercession of this your faithful servant, steward on earth of Mary’s Consolation. May his example challenge us to seek you above all else and to work for the good of all. Amen.*



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