



ORDER OF THE CLERICS REGULAR MINOR
Adorno Fathers and Brothers | Padri Caracciolini

La Carta

NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Brothers,

As we enter now in the month of November of this year 2022, we once again, like other Novembers from previous years, commemorate our deceased loved ones, but above all the members of our religious family. I have requested to dedicate some historical facts on this matter that may help us as Caracciolinis, Adorno Fathers to appreciate this tradition and some customs from the past that we may also adopt in our present situation. The following points are the research and works of Fr. Michael Marotta the superior of the Theology House of Studies in Lipa, Philippines. Please take time to be informed and also be inspired in this holy way of life. I thank Fr. Michael for working with me in this November La Carta...

In the history of our religious family, there has always been a love for the sick and for those who are deceased, especially within the context of our own religious family. In fact, Chapter XIX of the CRM Constitutions of 1678 is entitled *De charitatis munere erga infirmos, & defuntos fratres*. (On the duty of charity towards the sick and deceased brothers.). In fact, the chapter begins with these words "Among the chief duties of charity, to which we are comforted by in one way or another, is that pre-eminent and meritorious commendation, which is to be offered to the sick and the dead, and this must be exercised among us with fervent devotion."

Further down, with regards to the deceased, these same Constitutions of 1678 emphasized that "true charity never fails; therefore we are commanded to be living brothers by our work and to love truth both in the mortal life of the common man, and we should never fail to show love to those who have served through their labors" and elsewhere we read, with regards to a confrère who died, that "In a timely matter, the funeral is to be carried out in the church; the office of the deceased in community is solemnly sung in the choir; and the solemn mass, and the burial service, as prescribed in the ritual, are to be celebrated. Also, the burial shall be made in the choir, or in the sanctuary, or in any other decent place. Masses shall be continually offered for the deceased confrere and the lay brothers of the community will recite three rosaries for the deceased. There are many other regulations listed like this in this section.



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The point I am trying to make is we need to care and pray for those of our religious family who have gone before us. Our Founders encouraged this and we should follow suit. Recently, Pope Francis stated that *“In our continuing catechesis on Saint Joseph, we now consider him as the patron of a happy death. This traditional devotion was born of the Church’s meditation on Joseph’s own death, comforted by the presence of the Blessed Mother and the Lord Jesus. Today we tend to avoid the thought of our own death, yet our faith in the Risen Jesus invites us not only to be unafraid of death, but to accept it with trust in Christ’s promises. In faith, we see death as a part of life and in turn see life itself in a different perspective. Since we will carry nothing with us to the grave, our concern should be to live lives of faith, hope and charity towards all.*

During this November, let us pray for our CRM brothers who have died.

May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Father Ted

